

The Letters No One Was Allowed to Read

An Adjectives & Adverbs Writing Adventure

Set the Scene

Picture Number Four, Privet Drive. Strange letters addressed to Harry have started arriving — one under the door, one through a window, more and more each day. Uncle Vernon is furious and determined that Harry will never read a single one. He nails the mail slot shut, and still the letters keep coming, tucked into eggs, smuggled in with the milk. Soon the family is packed into the car, driving nowhere in particular, trying to outrun the mail. This exercise happens right before they arrive at a lonely little shack on a rock in the middle of the sea, hoping no letter could ever find them there.

Five Adjectives for This Scene

Adjective	What It Describes
mysterious	the letters themselves — nobody knows who is sending them
furious	Uncle Vernon's mood as the letters keep arriving
cramped	the car, packed with the whole family fleeing the house
stormy	the weather on the drive to the sea
curious	Harry, who desperately wants to know what the letters say

Five Adverbs for This Scene

Adverb	What It Describes
frantically	how Uncle Vernon boards up the mail slot
secretly	how Harry hopes to grab a letter before it's destroyed
suddenly	how the letters begin arriving in unexpected places
nervously	how Harry watches his uncle's temper rise
desperately	how the family tries to escape the flood of letters

Your Turn: Writing Prompts

Use at least one adjective and one adverb from the lists above in each answer. Underline the adjective once and the adverb twice.

Prompt 1

Describe the moment a new letter arrives. Where does it appear, and how does Uncle Vernon react?

Prompt 2

Write three sentences from Harry's point of view about wanting to read a letter, even just once.

Prompt 3

Describe the car ride to the coast. Use adjectives for how it looks and adverbs for how the family behaves.

Prompt 4

Imagine you are the owl trying to deliver the letter. Write about your journey using at least two adverbs.

Prompt 5

Write your own short scene of what might happen once the family reaches the shack. Use two new adjectives and two new adverbs that are not on the lists above.

Challenge: Build Your Own List

Find two more adjectives and two more adverbs hiding in your own imagination of this scene. Write them below, then use each one in a full sentence.

New Adjective / Adverb	My Sentence