

## Building Sentences // Age 11-14

### Barrier Games

These are ideal for encouraging young people to express themselves clearly and to practise repair strategies when they have not communicated their message effectively i.e. repeating or rephrasing an instruction. This is a game for two players, playing back-to-back or with a screen in between them. One person draws a picture or collection of shapes. They must explain how to draw this to their partner. At the end compare pictures to see how successful they were.

Variations:

Use identical pictures. Each person draws 5 crosses on their picture. They have to explain exactly where the cross is e.g. "Draw a cross on the right eye of the boy wearing a baseball cap."

One person makes a simple Lego model and explains to their partner how to replicate it.

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### Discussions and Debates

Informal discussion on views or opinions about topics of interest can be used to model a range or complex sentence structures. Use words such as:

- But
- So
- If .... then,
- When
- After
- While
- As well as
- Although
- However
- Also
- Besides
- Even though



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### Make a plan

Discuss situations in which the student does not feel comfortable talking to others and support them in identifying what they need to say, when they need to say it, possible responses they receive. Practise in a role play and then encourage the student to try it out when they feel confident. E.g. ordering food in a café, telling a teacher they have not completed their homework, asking friends to meet up.