

## Building Sentences // Age 14+

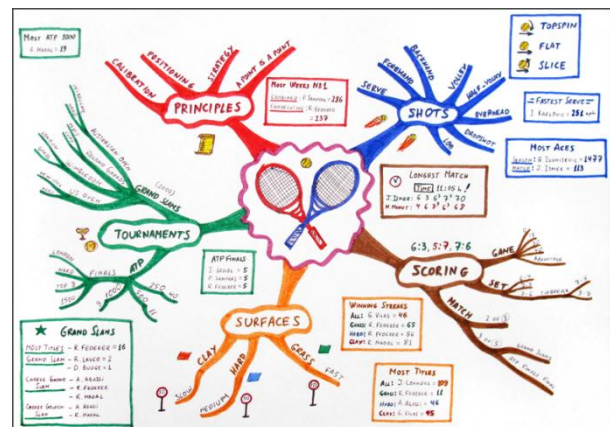
### Conversation Tips

To support young people who have difficulty producing spoken sentence structures...

- Pause for at least 3 seconds after you have asked a question, before asking students for their responses to give them time to process and organise their answer
- Modify your questions- open questions encourage fuller answers, but require more organisation of language. If the young person finds it hard to structure an answer, you can then give some options, for example ‘What did you think of the film?’ (open question), ‘Did you find it scary or exciting?’ (two choices to choose from).
- Encourage the young person to use the ‘self-help’ strategies for ‘building sentences’

### Writing frames, Mind Maps, and Other Diagrams

Encourage your son/daughter to use mind maps for planning. This provides him/her with a written outline from which to create their written or oral work. The topic can be produced using key vocabulary and will show the links and hierarchy of the topic. The student can then tick off when a branch/section of the map has been used. Besides helping with organisation, the maps keep the student focused.



Other diagrams such as flowcharts, story boards, task plans, and word webs will also be helpful.

### Discussions and Debates

Encourage discussions at home where the young person can express the opinions of themselves or others. You can join in, and use complex sentence structures to show your son/daughter ways of using different sentence structures. Use connecting words such as:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• But</li> <li>• So</li> <li>• If .... then,</li> <li>• When</li> <li>• After</li> <li>• While</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As well as</li> <li>• Although</li> <li>• However</li> <li>• Also</li> <li>• Besides</li> <li>• Even though</li> </ul> |
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