

Building Sentences // Year 10+

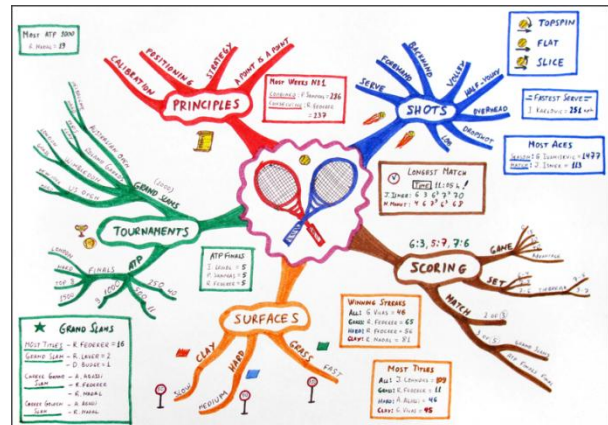
Classroom Strategies

- Modify questions - whilst open questions encourage fuller answers, they require more organisation of language. Use forced alternatives to enable students with expressive language difficulties to take part e.g. Does an acid turn universal indicator red or blue?
- Scaffold questions to elicit more information e.g. *What can be done to prevent coastal erosion? – What happens when coasts are eroded? How does that happen? So what could be done to prevent that?*
- 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

Writing frames, Mind Maps, and Other Diagrams

Lots of students struggle when presented with a blank page but can record their ideas if they are prompted with a writing frame. Divide the page into sections for each paragraph e.g. arguments for, arguments against, my view. Give sentence starters and keywords for students who need more support.

Use mind maps to help students brainstorm all the information they want to include and decide on the order they present it in for a talk or essay.



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

Group story

One student starts a story or recount of an event. At the end of their sentence they use a connective e.g. *and, because, so*. The next student must continue the story with a sentence that follows on from the connective and so on.

e.g. *“Last Christmas, I really wanted a BMX bike but....”*
 “...my Dad couldn’t afford one so....”

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.