

Building Sentences // Year 5-6

Retelling stories

Without reading the words! Children can be encouraged to retell familiar stories (e.g. common fairy tales, their reading book, or even what happened in a favourite film). Encourage them to use interesting grammatical structures in their stories by giving them 'buzz words' (e.g. time connectives such as 'as soon as...', 'meanwhile', or prompt for a particular part of speech e.g. adverbs). Whenever they use a buzz word in their story they get a point/token/house point. Talk afterwards how using these buzz words made their story interesting.



Using language for reasoning

You can ask children questions that will encourage them to use language to reason and persuade, and whilst they are doing so they are likely to be using complex sentence structures. Some examples are provided to start you off...

What if...

- People were born old and got younger
- It rained sausages
- All cars were yellow
- All pupils grew a metre taller over night
- All fruit looked like apples

How do you do it if you haven't got it...

- Brush your hair without a brush or a comb
- Write a story without pencil or paper
- Make a cup of tea without a kettle
- Get dressed without using clothes

How could you...

- Travel to school tomorrow
- Make people laugh
- Use a comic (other than reading it)

What could you do with...

- A trampoline that's lost its bounce
- Felt tip pens that don't work
- Cereal that's gone stale

Jumbled sentences

Print out sentences so that words can be cut up and separated. Give the children jumbled parts of sentences and ask them to re-organise the sentence. Encourage children to work in pairs, and link sentences to illustrations to support children who struggle with this.

the woman	in the garden	hanging out	the washing	was	on Saturday
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Target sentences (be clear at the start that there is more than one correct answer!):

- 'The woman was hanging out the washing in the garden on Saturday.'
- 'On Saturday the woman was in the garden hanging out the washing.'
- 'The woman was in the garden hanging out the washing on Saturday.'