

# Year 2 Writing Tips for Parents



## Sentence Structure



### Syllabus Links

**EN1-9B:** A student uses basic grammatical features, punctuation conventions and vocabulary appropriate to the type of text when responding to and composing texts.

### Content:

- understands that ideas in texts can be organised to enhance meaning using sentences and paragraphs.
- uses compound sentences with two or more clauses usually linked by a coordinating conjunction.
- explores nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs and adjectives to assist in sentence structure .

### Advice for Parents

Children learn to write by writing. It is difficult (sometimes impossible) to write about unfamiliar topics or topics that are irrelevant to our life experiences. Before writing, talking about a topic is a good place to collect thoughts and ideas. Encourage children to write, write, write! Provide many opportunities such as writing the shopping list, sending letters and cards to friends, writing emails, keeping a diary, publishing personal stories and leaving notes. When writing is meaningful, it is much easier to then look at and improve sentence structure when speaking and writing. Books also provide a powerful model of what quality sentence structure looks like. Books convey the understanding that squiggles on a page convey a message. Reading and writing with your child helps them to make sense of how written language works.

## Activities at Home

Here are some activities that you may want to try at home to help your child improve their sentence structure.

### Cut it up

Using a text of their choice, children or parents find interesting sentences and write them on strips of paper. Cut up each word in the sentence, including punctuation and jumble up. Children then un-jumble the sentence and glue on a page or in a special book and read aloud.

### Conjunction Detective

**Definition:** A word used to connect clauses or sentences or to coordinate words in the same clauses. **E.g. and, but, if**

Using a text of their choice, have your child search for different conjunctions in the story and talk about how this made the sentence longer and more interesting.

### FANBOYS

Say or read your child a simple sentence then have them use **FANBOYS** (**F**or, **A**nd, **N**or, **B**ut, **O**r, **Y**et, **S**o) coordinating conjunctions to extend the sentences.

### Silly Sentences

Creating silly sentences is a fun way for children to learn about sentence structure. You can play it anywhere, with any number of people. First, one person starts a sentence. Next, they add a connecting word, such as 'and', 'then', 'when' or 'because'. After that, the second person continues the story, or starts a completely new sentence. Encourage your child to use adjectives and adverbs to make their sentence more 'silly'.