

Stage 3 Writing Tips for Parents



Sentence Structure



Syllabus Links

EN3-6B: A student uses knowledge of sentence structure, grammar, punctuation and vocabulary to respond to and compose clear and cohesive texts in different media and technologies.

Content: - understand the difference between main and subordinate clauses and that a complex sentence involves at least one subordinate clause.
- experiment with different types of sentences, e.g. short sentences to build tension and complex sentences to add detail.

Advice for Parents

A sentence is a set of words that is complete in itself. It typically contains a subject, conveys a statement, question, exclamation or command, and consists of a main clause. The different sentence types are simple, compound and complex sentences. High level writing includes the sophisticated use of a range of sentence types for effect. Students are able to enhance their writing by understanding how sentences are structured and using different types of sentences. Another way to improve the use of sentences in writing is by providing your child with appropriate books to read. Authors such as Suzanne Collins, Veronica Roth and Judy Blume use a range of sentence types in their stories which greatly benefit their writing.

Activities at Home

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

Sick Sentences

Using a novel of their choice, students identify examples of simple 'sick' sentences that could be improved by adding an adverb or extra descriptive language. Students can discuss what type of emotion they want the reader to have after reading their sentences.

In the sentence '*The boy rowed the boat*', you can add an adverb to describe how the boy rowed the boat.

The boy rowed the boat as quickly as a duck paddles its feet – added a simile as well.

Curious Conjunctions

Students recount one thing they have done in a day and write it as a simple sentence. They then use a subordinating conjunction and dependent clause to create a complex sentence.

E.g. *I went to school today* – simple sentence, one independent clause

I went to school today after sleeping in – complex sentence, one independent and dependent clause linked by the subordinating conjunction after

Opulent Openers

Using sections from a book of their choice, students are to try using a subordinating conjunction to begin a sentence and see how it changes the sound and meaning of the sentence.

Picture Perfect

Using images found in a magazine, newspaper or from an online source, students write a simple, compound and complex sentence to describe what is in the image.