

Sentence Completion

Syntax

Sentence Completion activities help improve syntax because they help students formulate complete thoughts.

Procedure for Introducing the Skill:

1. Create a list of short phrases that can be expanded to make stronger sentences.
2. Explain that sentences must contain a subject and a verb. Students should be able to tell the who (subject) or the what (verb) in every sentence.
3. Model using a guiding phrase containing only a subject or only a verb.
Examples: “the duck” or “climbed up the tree”
4. Demonstrate how to complete a sentence by adding either the subject or the verb.
5. Allow students to complete the sentence in their own way.

Extension: Have students count the words in the sentences.

We do:

Practice the procedure. Have students identify if the subject or verb was provided in the phrase and determine what is missing.

You do:

Let students complete phrases to make their own sentences.

Notes:

This can be done verbally or in writing, depending on the age of the student and their proficiency in sentence completion.

Tiles, chips, or felt squares can be used to count the words in the sentence for older students.

Sample list of possible phrases for completion

- was behind the classroom door
- my best friend
- are my family members
- the fire

Extension: Provide students with a phrase, and they provide the subject and the verb.

- at the end of a long day
- near my sister
- along the way
- in case of fire

