

Additional Resources

Sentence Combining Ideas

Sentence combining ideas for improving students writing from Literacy

Lines: A Blog by Keys to Literacy

<http://blog.keystoliteracy.com/sentence-combining/>



A Musical Prompt: Postcards From the Concert

In this lesson, music is an inspirational prompt for writing. After listening to a song, students write simple sentences describing the music and their thoughts about the music. Then they use sentence combining to write more interesting and complex sentences. [http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/musical-](http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/musical-prompt-postcards-from-1095.html)

[prompt-postcards-from-1095.html](http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/musical-prompt-postcards-from-1095.html)

readwritethink

Sentence Combining Kindergarten—5th Grade



References

Graham, S. (1997). Executive control in the revising of students with learning and writing difficulties. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 89, 223-234.

Saddler, B. (2005). Sentence combining: A sentence-level writing intervention. *Reading Teacher*, 58, 468-471.

Strong, W. (1986). *Creative approaches to sentence combining*. Urbana, IL: ERIC Clearinghouse on Reading and Communication Skills & National Council of Teachers of English.

A Proven Strategy for Language Standards #1 - #3

Sentence Combining

Adapted from www.readingrockets.com

Combining sentences encourages a writer to take two or more short, choppy sentences and combine them into one effective sentence. By learning this skill, students enhance their writing style. The Sentence Combining strategy assists students in developing more complex sentence structures over several short practice sessions and should be considered as one component of an overall writing program.

Why use sentence combining?

- It teaches students to use a variety of sentences in their writing.
- It helps improve the overall quality of the writing by increasing the amount and quality of the revision
- The process encourages interesting word choices and transition words.

How to use sentence combining

Teachers should guide students through the sentence combining process. When introducing the skill, begin by asking students to combine two sentences. Move to using three or more sentences once students have more experience. As students develop skill working with sentences provided by the teacher, they can learn to combine sentences within their own writing.

Sadler (2005) provides a possible sequence of sentence-combining exercises. A few of the steps are listed here.

Inserting adjectives and adverbs

Example:

The girl drank lemonade.

The girl was thirsty.

The thirsty girl drank lemonade.

After several modeled and shared lessons, encourage students to combine sentences from their own writing. Take a minute or two at the end of your writer's workshop to ask students to share any sentences they combined. Discuss ways the revision improved the quality of the writing.

Differentiated instruction

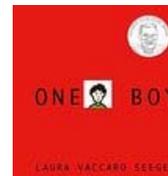
For English Learners, students of varying reading skill, and for younger learners

- Begin sentence combining lessons with oral practice.
- Begin by asking students to combine two short sentences. As skill increases, ask students to combine three or more.
- Use sentences from familiar books and stories that the students have read.
- Provide cued examples of critical information by underlining specific words within the sentences. For example, "The cake was delicious. The cake was chocolate."



The Red Book by Barbara Lehman

This book is about a book; a magical red book without any words. When you turn the pages you'll experience a new kind of adventure through the power of story. Winning a Caldecott Honor for its illustrations of rare detail and surprise, *The Red Book* crosses oceans and continents to deliver one girl into a new world of possibility, where a friend she's never met is waiting. And as with the best of books, at the conclusion of the story, the journey is not over.



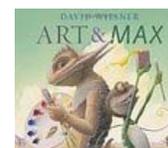
One Boy by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

This concept book uses die-cuts to highlight words within words that are actually short sentences (e.g., turn the page and "one boy" becomes "all alone"). Try to combine sentences to create a series of sentences or build them into one story. (The last illustration pulls the apparently disparate vignettes into one.)



Say Hello by Rachel Isadora

Mama, Carmelita, and their dog, Manny, greet people in their diverse neighborhood as they walk to see Abuela Rosa. Everyone says "hello" but in their own language — ranging from Italian and French to Hebrew and Arabic to slang American greetings. It is Manny's "woof," however, that is universal. Textured illustrations make Carmelita's community familiar and accessible.



Art and Max by David Wiesner

The unexpected occurs when two lizards — one an accomplished artist, the other a beginner — begin painting. Fast-paced and often funny, the two voices of the characters are as distinct as their individual creative process. This ingenious book works on several levels.