

Universal Strategies for supporting your child with Grammar and Writing at home

Building up a sentence

Write a simple clause (e.g. The sun shone) for your child then ask them to build it into a complex sentence by adding any of the following (depending on their age and ability)

- an adjective (e.g. **burning**)
- a conjunction (e.g. **because** it was summer)
- a preposition (e.g. **in** the picturesque sky)
- improve the verb (e.g. **glimmered**)
- add a fronted adverbial (e.g. **As evening drew closer**) remembering the comma!

Eventually they should have build up a complex sentence such as 'As evening drew closer, the burning sun glimmered in the picturesque sky'

Other clauses may include: the boy laughed, the clown fell, the snow glistened etc

Common noun post its

If you can put a post it note on it, it is a common noun. Get your child to go around the house and put post it notes on objects and make a list of nouns. They can add to these by adding adjectives. If they write the adjectives on a separate piece of paper, they can then mix them with the nouns and play a sorting game.

Grammar Apps for an Ipad or phone

There are a number of free Apps available to download for students to play grammar games and quizzes on. Please ensure that parental locks are in place when using these.



Creating humorous sentences

Say a simple sentence to your child e.g. The clown fell over, and get them to add in a humorous relative clause e.g. The clown, whose nose was running, fell over.

Play grammar games

1. Play 'eye spy' – explain that all the words that they choose will be nouns
2. Play charades using verbs e.g. listening, sneaking, whispering etc
3. Past tense/ present tense – say a sentence in the present tense e.g. I go to the shop and get them to say it back to you in the past tense e.g. I went to the shop (and vice versa)
4. Word tennis – choose what words you want to use e.g. nouns, verbs, past tense verbs, abstract nouns etc and take it in turns to say them until you run out of words or you pause for too long. You could use a points system to play the game or just, every now and then, just shout 'Word tennis!' and see who wins!

Splat games

These are games where you have different stations in your room e.g. left hand wall and right hand wall. You decide what you are focusing on e.g. past or present tense then allocate a side for each e.g. left wall if it's a present tense verb and right hand wall for a past tense verb. You then say a word and your child has to run to the appropriate wall. These games can be adapted for anything e.g. noun or not? Adverb or adjective? It can even be used for maths e.g. odd or even etc

It can be adapted to your child sitting or standing e.g. stand up if it is a a passive sentence and sit down if it is an active sentence etc