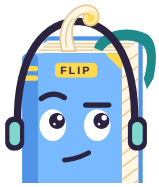
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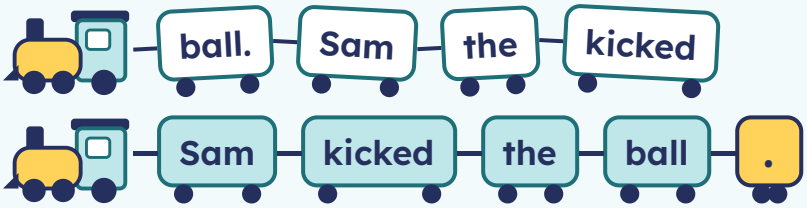
Word order trains

Put words in the right order so a sentence makes sense.

1 Learn



Words in a sentence are like carriages on a train. In the right order, the sentence makes sense. Swap two words, and it can mean something new!



In a muddle: it doesn't make sense.

In order: Sam kicked the ball.

Sort: in · garden. · Mia · played · the

1. Who?
Mia

2. Doing word?
played

3. The rest
in the garden.

4. Read it aloud
Does it make sense?

Same words, new meaning

The **dog** chased the **cat**.
The dog does the chasing.

The **cat** chased the **dog**.
Now the cat does the chasing!

Who does it usually comes **before** the doing word.

Flip's tip: the word with the full stop goes last. Watch out: names like Mia have a capital anywhere.

Warm up: tick the one in each column that is in the right order.

- ☐ Fish swim in the pond.
- ☐ Swim pond the fish in.
- ☐ The bird a song sang.
- ☐ The bird sang a song.

Grown-ups: ask your child to read both trains aloud. The muddled one sounds odd: that is the clue.

Name _____ Date _____

2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Mix-up sentences

You need: a sheet of scrap paper, a pencil and a table to work on.

1. The grown-up writes a sentence with big gaps between the words, like **The big dog chased the cat.**
2. Fold and tear the paper so each word is on its own piece. **Mix them up.**
3. The child puts the words back in order and **reads the sentence aloud**.
4. Now **swap** "dog" and "cat". Read it again. What has changed?
5. Swap jobs: the child makes a mix-up sentence for the grown-up to sort.

Our sentence	After the swap, it means…

Grown-ups: if your child gets stuck, ask "Who is this about?" and "What did they do?" and find those words first.

3 Practise

A. Put the words in order. Write the sentence on the line.

1. lunch. | ate | Leo | his _____
2. park. | We | to | walked | the _____
3. bright | is | The | sun | today. _____
4. garden. | grow | the | Flowers | in _____

Name _____ Date _____

B. Swap who does what and write the new sentence. Does it make sense?

Sentence	With the swap	Makes sense?
Sam pushed Ava on the swing.		yes no
The boy ate the apple.		yes no
The girl fed the horse.		yes no

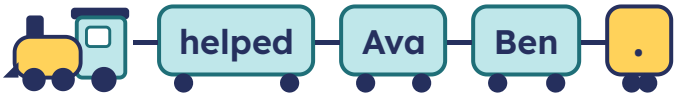
C. One word is in the wrong place. Ring it, then write the sentence correctly.

We to went the beach.

My is name Ava.

I my brushed teeth.

D. Make **two** different sentences from these words. Who helps in each?



Challenge

Mia sorted these words: **cheese · mouse · the · ate · The**. She wrote **The cheese ate the mouse.** Is she right? Write it correctly and say how you knew.

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ put muddled words in order so a sentence makes sense
- ☐ find who does the action in a sentence
- ☐ explain how swapping two words can change the meaning