Say it, then write it: answers and notes

What your child practised: saying an idea out loud and counting its words (the talking job), then starting each letter in the right place (the pencil job).

Page 1 · Warm up

"The dog can run." has **4 words**: 4 dots coloured.

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers vary. Check there is **one line for each word**.

Page 2 · A. Talking job or pencil job?

Talking job: thinking of an idea; saying the sentence.
Pencil job: starting at the dot; forming each letter.

Page 3 · B. Count the words

"A red bus." **3** · "The fish can swim." **4** · "The sun is hot today." **5**

Page 3 · C. Every word?

Tick **"My cup is hot."** (the other one leaves out *is*).
Tick **"Dad has a hat."** (the other one leaves out *a*).

Page 3 · D. Trace "I see a dog."

Check each letter starts at its dot. Capital I goes down first, then across. **e** starts in the middle. **a, d** and **g** start like c.

Challenge: Leo should do the **talking job first**: say his sentence out loud and count the words, then say it again before each word. Any answer about saying it first is right.

Watch out for

- **Writing before saying.** Pause and ask, "What are you going to write?" Then say it together.
- **Missing words when saying it again**, often small ones like *a*, *is* and *the*. Say it slowly together, one finger for each word.
- **Counting beats instead of words** ("to-day" as two). Hold up one finger for each whole word, not each clap.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Sentence of the day:** at breakfast, your child says one sentence. Count its words on your fingers.
- **List helper:** before you write a shopping list, your child says each item out loud, and you write it as they watch.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2 starts the pencil job: long ladder letters l, i, t, u, j and y.