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What is a sentence?

A sentence is a group of words that makes sense.

1 Learn



Words can join up like a train to make a **sentence**. When you read a sentence, it makes sense.



a capital letter at the start | a space between words | a full stop at the end

Make a sentence from these words:

sit | The | . | can | cat

1. Find the word with a capital letter. **The** goes first.
2. Say the words in order until it makes sense: **The cat can sit.**
3. Leave a space between the words.
4. Put the full stop at the end.

Flip's tip: when you write, put a finger down after each word. Start the next word after your finger. That **finger space** makes every word easy to read.

Warm up: point to each word and count. How many words?





Grown-ups: read the words aloud and point to each one as you say it. Ask, "Does it make sense?" A sentence tells us a whole idea. The full stop is not a word, so it is not counted.

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



Paper train

You need: 4 small pieces of paper, a pencil, and a button or a dried pea to be the full stop.

1. Grown-up: write one word on each paper: **The**, **frog**, **is**, **green**.
2. Mix them up. Your child lays them in a line like a train, so the words make sense.
3. Put a finger between the words for the spaces, and the button at the end for the full stop.
4. Read it together. Now swap one word (green, big, wet) and read the new sentence.

Write two sentences you made:

1 _____

2 _____

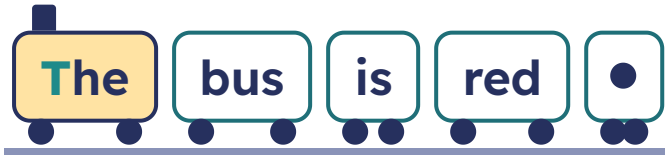
Grown-ups: let your child try orders that don't work ("frog The green is") and read them aloud together. Hearing the muddle helps them hear when it makes sense.

3 Practise

A. Count the words in each sentence. Write how many.

1 

☐

2 

☐

3 

☐

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B. Oh no, the words are squashed! Draw a line between each word. Then write one of them again with finger spaces.

Thecatisbig. Ilikejam. Weplayout.

C. Put the words in order. Write the sentence.

1 dog sat The ●

2 run We ● can

3 a Ben hat ● has

Challenge

Leo wrote this: **Isawabigdog.** What did he forget? Write it the right way.

_____

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ say what a sentence is
- ☐ count the words in a sentence
- ☐ leave finger spaces between words