

# Learning together

## Words Before and After

### ACTIVITY #2

SEQUENCE: PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS —  
PRIMARY

**By the Learning Disabilities Institute**  
(Institut TA)



### Purpose of the activity

The goal of this activity is to determine what word comes before and what word comes after another word in a spoken sentence.



### Relevance of the activity

When you learn a language, you need to know how to understand the various sounds that we hear in words. This is what we call word boundaries. This activity will help your child recognize and understand the words in a sentence. These words come one after another in a precise order. Your child should create a mental image of a sentence to remember all the information held in it.



### Supplies



- Image bank (attached) or illustrations from a children's book or a board game
- Optional: tokens or cubes to represent the words

## IT'S YOUR TURN TO PLAY WITH YOUR CHILD!

### Explain the activity:



Today, we will identify which word comes before or after another word in a spoken sentence.

### Explain why:



As you know, sentences are made up of several words that are placed one after the other in a specific order. You need to be able to create a mental image of a sentence to know if a word is placed before or after another word. This will help you to make links between words that you hear and help you get ready to write as you need to remember your idea and use the appropriate words in a specific order.

### Explain when:



When you speak to your parents or friends, you naturally want to be understood. So, you need to take the time to think about the words that you are using and their order in a sentence.

### Try it together:



I'm going to select an image and create a sentence about it: **The dog is eating a treat.**

#### What word comes after "a"?

- Repeat the sentence slowly: The dog is eating a treat.
- Yes, the word "treat" is placed after the word "a."
- If needed, count the words on your fingers or illustrate each word with cubes or tokens.

#### In the same sentence (The dog is eating a treat), what word comes before "a"?

- If needed, count the words on your fingers or illustrate each word with cubes or tokens.
- Yes, the word "eating" comes before the word "a."

When it's your turn, select an image.

Let's invent a sentence about this subject: **The blue flower is growing in the garden.**

#### What word comes after "flower"?

- Repeat the sentence slowly: The blue flower is growing in the garden.
- Yes, the word "blue" comes before the word "flower."
- If needed, count the words on your fingers or illustrate each word with cubes or tokens.



#### In the same sentence (The blue flower is growing in the garden.), what small word comes before the second "the"?

- If needed, count the words on your fingers or illustrate each word with cubes or tokens.
- Yes, the small word "in" goes before the second "the."



### Quick tip

Ask your child to identify some of the little words like "the" and "a" as these modifiers are less tangible or concrete and children do not always see them as words.

Do your best to create short sentences to not mentally overwhelm the child as they are trying to remember the words.

You can use your fingers, cubes or tokens to illustrate the words.



Image bank



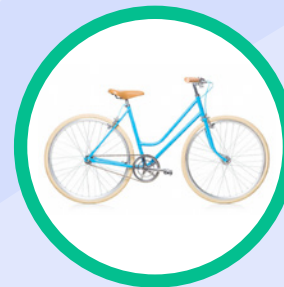
Dog



Flower



Tree



Bicycle



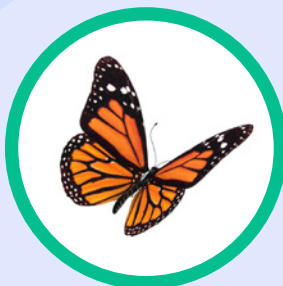
Sun



Snow-covered mountain



Chair



Butterfly



A stack of books



A child