

Learning together

Enriching Simple Sentences

ACTIVITY #10

SEQUENCE: SPELLING AND SENTENCE
STRUCTURE 3RD CYCLE — PRIMARY

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Purpose of the activity

The goal of this activity is to help your child write clearer sentences.



Relevance of the activity

Starting in the third cycle of elementary school, children are asked to write longer sentences, embellish them or expand on them. Children must therefore carefully choose the word or group of words that would be relevant to add in order to clarify an idea. For some children, this is not an easy choice: How do you ensure that the information added is relevant and that the sentence is worded correctly?



Supplies

- your child's vocabulary words to construct sentences
- simple sentences from texts or books
- charts (in appendix, if needed)



LET'S GO!

Explain the activity:



Today, we will learn how to clarify our ideas in a sentence.

Explain why:



In the activity What is a Sentence?, I showed you several statements, including the following: My family and I like doing outdoor activities. We have said that this sentence is well worded, because it is marked by a capital letter and a period, it makes sense and it is complete. However, if I asked you to enrich this sentence, what would you do? Why? How would you know that the information you've added is relevant?

Explain when:



When writing, it's important to be clear and interesting. When you want to expand on your ideas, you must ask yourself how this new information will allow the reader to better understand your message.

Essayez ensemble :



Let's take the following example: My family and I like doing outdoor activities. This sentence is well constructed, it makes sense and it is marked by a capital letter and a period. So, how and why do we need to improve it since it is well formulated? To find out, let's check where we could add information by looking at the parts of the sentence.

In this sentence, it is my family and I that we are talking about.¹ We also say that we like doing outdoor activities.² On the other hand, we don't know where and when this is happening.³

This sentence could therefore be completed by adding a group of words that acts as a complement to the sentence. On the other hand, the sentence complement indicates the time and place. That might look something like this:

Who or what are we talking about?	What are we saying about it?	And this is happening? (where, when, why, how...)
My family and I	like doing outdoor activities	in winter. ¹
My family and I	like doing outdoor activities	several times a week. ²

We could also specify the type of outdoor activities based on the type of information we have just added. For example:

Who or what are we talking about?	What are we saying about it?	And this is happening? (where, when, why, how...)
My family and I	like doing outdoor activities like skiing, snowshoeing and skating.	in winter.
My family and I	like doing outdoor activities like walking, hiking and biking.	several times a week.

As you can see, there are different ways to enrich your sentences. All of these examples meet the three criteria for confirming that it is a sentence:

- They are punctuated correctly
- They make sense
- They have the required parts

By asking yourself the right questions, you will be able to formulate more complex sentences that are well constructed.



Quick tips!

Encourage your child to ask themselves three questions: Where? When? How? These clues will help them enrich their sentences naturally and better organize their ideas!



Table that you can use at home

Who or what are we talking about?	What are we saying about it?	And this is happening? (where, when, why, how...)	Full sentence or not

Examples of how to use the table

Who or what are we talking about?	What are we saying about it?	And this is happening? (where, when, why, how...)	Full sentence or not?
My family and I	like doing outdoor activities.	X	Yes
My family and I	like doing outdoor activities.	in winter.	Yes
My family and I	like doing outdoor activities like skiing, snowshoeing and skating	several times a week.	Yes
My family and I	like doing outdoor activities like walking, hiking and biking	several times a week.	Yes