# It All Begins With the Sentence

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## Objectives

Today, we will . . .

- describe the relationship between syntax and various literacy skills,
- utilize knowledge of syntactical elements to analyze challenging text, and
- apply sentence structure to reading fluency instruction.

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All of my students have the language and literacy skills necessary to comprehend my subject area textbook.



**WHY?**

Share your thoughts with a neighbor.

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **"Algebra focuses on interactions among real or imagined objects, and it translates those interactions into simple short-hand language that permits descrip-tion of how any given 'A' relates to a 'B' or a 'C'."** | **"Historians choose to zero in on events rich in human significance, and instead of condensing those events into a formal shorthand, they prefer to elaborate on them by means of description, narrative, and logical exposition, so as to flesh out an overarching thesis."** | **"Chemists tend to prize an extremely precise sort of description and narrative, meant not to elaborate a thesis but to compose an accurate record of a procedure and its results."** |

## Simple View of Reading

X =

- Print Concepts
- Phonological Awareness
- Sound-Symbol
- Phonics
- Orthography
- Syllabication
- Morphology

- Vocabulary
- Syntax
- Grammar
- Text Structure
- Background Knowledge
- Inference Skills
- Comprehension Monitoring

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## The Simple View of Writing

Based on Berniger & Amtmann, 2003

conscious attention, motivation, goal setting, planning, reviewing, strategies for self-regulation

Executive Functions

Working Memory

long term - composing
short term - revising

Text Generation

language production, background knowledge, ideation, words, sentences, text structure, genre

Translation of Sound

orthography, mechanics, handwriting/keyboarding

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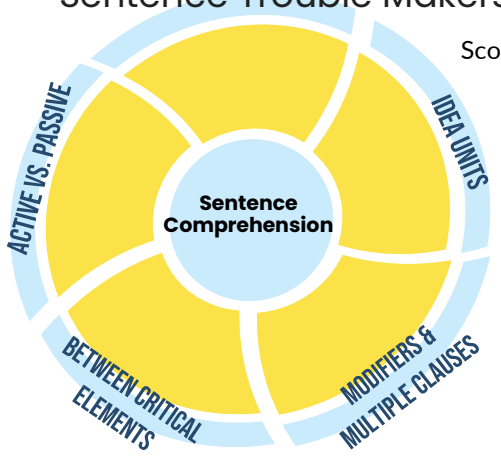
## Sentence Trouble Makers

Scott & Balthazar, 2013

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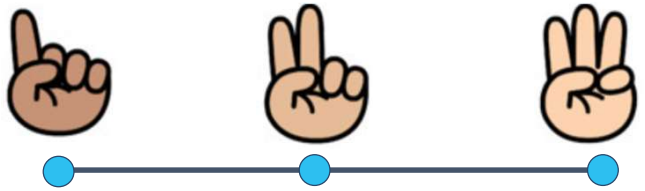
## What is your comfort level with various syntactic forms in English?



I understand them and use them when I I read and write.

I can identify and teach them in a comprehensible way.

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## Consider Teaching . . . Functionally

- Sentence Combining: FANBOYS and Signal Words
- Cohesive Ties: Story Grammar Marker
- Main Clause with Direct Object: Framing Your Thoughts
- Prepositions & Adverbs: Airplane Analogy (Judy Love)
- Phrases & Clauses that answer where, when, why, how
- Fluency Phrase Cues
- Noun Phrases and Nominalization
- Modifiers & Embedded Features

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## Sentence Combining and Cohesive Ties




Story Grammar Marker

The wolf threatened the first little pig.

The wolf blew down the straw house.

**F**or
**A**nd
**N**or
**B**ut
**O**r
**Y**et
**S**o

The pig locked the door.

The pig ran to his brother's stick house.

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## Identify the Challenges

Many volcanoes are located along *subduction zones*, where one tectonic plate moves under another. When a plate that consists of oceanic lithosphere meets one that consists of continental lithosphere, the denser oceanic lithosphere moves beneath the continental lithosphere. A deep *trench* forms on the ocean floor along the edge of the continent where the plate is subducted. The plate that consists of continental lithosphere buckles and folds to form a line of mountains along the edge of the continent.

Holt, p. 322 (1250L, G11) 4 sentenes, 79 words, Tier 2-3 vocab, polysyllabic

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## Which is the only feature not represented?

1. ***Who or what is the sentence about?***
2. ***What does the subject do?***

A deep *trench* forms
on the ocean floor
along the edge of the continent
where the plate is subducted.
The plate
that consists of continental lithosphere
buckles and folds
to form a line of mountains
along the edge of the continent.

Mean 21.5 words

Length
Density
Embeddings
Distance
Order

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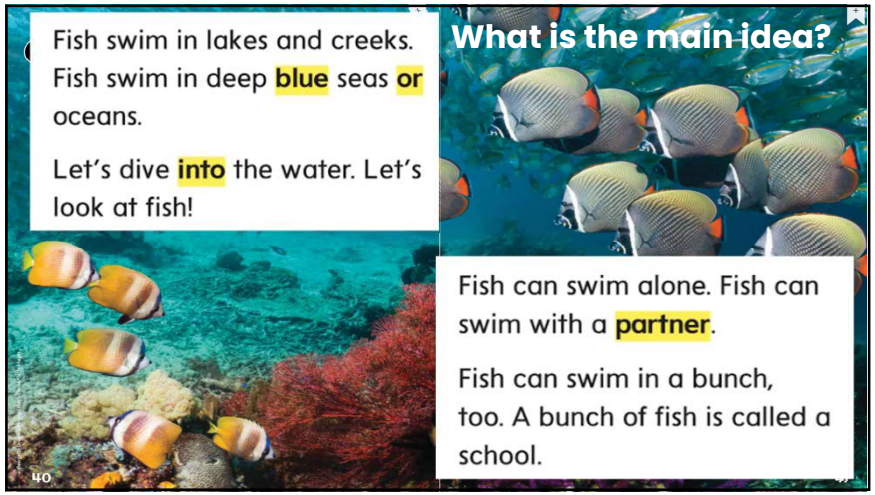


## Prepositions/Adverbs

above

from



towards

beneath

Where does the action happen?

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In the loveliest town of all, where the houses were white and high and the elms trees were green and higher than the houses, where the front yards were wide and pleasant and the back yards were bushy and worth finding out about, where the streets sloped down to the stream and the stream flowed quietly under the bridge, where the lawns ended in orchards and the orchards ended in fields and the fields ended in pastures and the pastures climbed the hill and disappeared over the top toward the wonderful wide sky, in this loveliest of all towns, Stuart stopped to get a drink of sarsaparilla.

E.B. White, Stuart Little

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## Phrase Cues for Reading Fluency & Meaning Making

Many volcanoes are located along *subduction zones*, where one tectonic plate moves under another. When a plate that consists of oceanic lithosphere meets one that consists of continental lithosphere, the denser oceanic lithosphere moves beneath the continental lithosphere. A deep *trench* forms on the ocean floor along the edge of the continent where the plate is subducted. The plate that consists of continental lithosphere buckles and folds to form a line of mountains along the edge of the continent.

Holt, p. 322 (Lexile 1250, 11th grade level)

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## Main Clause with Direct Object: Project Read Framing Your Thoughts Symbols

During the 1850s, the movement
lost momentum when the Civil War began.
After the war ended, the 14th and 15th Amendments
raised familiar questions of suffrage.

28 words
Approx 950L

https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/the-fight-for-womens-suffrage

## Compare the former sentences to these more elaborated sentences.

During the 1850s, the women's rights movement
gathered steam (what) but lost momentum (what)
when the Civil War began. Almost immediately
after the war ended, the 14th Amendment and
the 15th Amendment to the Constitution
raised familiar questions of suffrage and citizenship. (what)

41 words
Approx 1105L

https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/the-fight-for-womens-suffrage

## Nominalization

| Nominalization | Base Word |
|---|---|
| interference | |
| argument | |
| idealist | |
| | happy |
| | flexible |

## Classifying Phrases and Clauses

A deep *trench* forms
on the ocean floor
along the edge of the continent
where the plate is subducted.
The plate
that consists of continental lithosphere
buckles and folds
to form a line of mountains

Fish swim in lakes and creeks.
Fish swim in deep **blue** seas **or** oceans.

Let's dive **into** the water. Let's look at fish!



In the loveliest town of all, where the houses were white and high and the elms trees were green and higher than the houses, where the front yards were wide and pleasant and the back yards were bushy and worth finding out about, where the streets sloped down to the stream and the stream flowed quietly under the bridge, where the lawns ended in orchards and the orchards ended in fields and the fields ended in pastures and the pastures climbed the hill and disappeared over the top toward the wonderful wide sky, in this loveliest of all towns Stuart stopped to get a drink of sarsaparilla.

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## What's Left? Modifiers & Embedded Elements

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## It All Begins With the Sentence




**1) Main clause: subject + verb + object**

**2) Sentence combining with conjunctions & cohesive ties**

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