

Sentences and punctuation

A long sentence

Objective To vary sentence length and structure (AF 5/6)

Context Constructing a sentence out of its components

Prior learning

Some familiarity with basic punctuation marks and clauses.

Activity

Give student pairs the three clauses below to put into a sensible order:

even though they can be noisy places

because they are convenient

many people like burger restaurants

The learning point is that the main clause does not have to come first.

Print the table on the next page onto card and cut it into individual cell cards. Give a set of the cards to each student pair and get them to build one sentence, using **as many of the cells as possible**.

Key questions/prompts

If we put it in that order what effect does it have? What does it draw attention to?

Can you find a use for this card? Where could it go?

Are you sure that makes sense? Would it be better to leave something out?

Variation/extension

Put each cell on its own sheet of A4 and give each sheet to a different student.

Now get the students to hold up their sheets in front of them and move them around until they are in an order that makes sense. This involves the whole class.

Success criteria

Level 3

Vary sentence openings in simple ways. Begin to use complex sentences.

Level 4

Sometimes vary length, structure or subject of sentences. Use commas in lists and sometimes to mark clauses.

Level 5

Vary sentence length, structure and subject for clarity and emphasis. Use a full range of sentence punctuation accurately. Use commas accurately to mark clauses in straightforward complex sentences.

Resources

'Burger sentence' on next page

Note: The 'burger sentence' components can be re-constructed into:

Although they are full of fat and salt – or perhaps because of that – most people seem to like burgers enough to buy them regularly, and this makes burger restaurant chains – such as McDonalds, Burger King and Wimpy – extremely rich.

Vocabulary/ concepts

Comma
Dash
Structure
Order
Clause

Sentences and punctuation

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The burger sentence

Wimpy

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and

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and

Burger King

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