

4 years+

⚠ WARNING

CHOKING HAZARD - small parts
Not suitable for children under 3 years

sentence making

key word

tiles

Word and Sentence Activities

Sentence Race

This is for older children. The tiles are all placed face-down and jumbled. Each player draws seven boxes on a sheet of paper and picks seven tiles, (without looking first). Taking turns, the players may do one of the following:

- place one of their seven tiles in one of their boxes;
- change one or more of their tiles by putting them back face-down and taking new ones;
- move one of the tiles from the box it is in to another blank box.

The idea is to make a sentence which fills all seven boxes. If you want, start with sentences shorter than seven words. Later try longer ones.

Word Tiles

Words are the bricks from which we build sentences. By sorting WORD TILES into strings that make sense, children are experimenting with language in a way that is fun as well as instructive. Games played with WORD TILES will assist with reading, understanding and verbal expression.

First Letter Snap!

A game for young children beginning to read. Pick out a dozen or so pairs of tiles that have the same initial letter: (when went - come could - look little etc.) Place them all face-down and mix them up. Turn over pairs of tiles together. If the first letters match, call SNAP!

Substitutes

Start with all the tiles face-up on the table. Make a sentence of five or more words. Try removing just one or two of the words and putting different tiles in their places. Of course, the sentence must still make sense, even though it will mean something different. Older children could be introduced to parts of speech: ask them to substitute the verb in the sentence of another verb, or swap a noun for a pronoun, or change an adjective.

Connecting Sentences

Pick out the connecting words - and, but, if..... Get the children to form pairs of sentences around some of these.

I-Spy

Also for early-stage readers: Take a selection of words with different initial letters and say to the child: I spy with my little eye a word beginning with p or th-or bir- etc.

Opposites

Select pairs of words which are opposites of each other: (day night - in out - came went - little big etc.) Place them all face down and take turns to lift pairs of tiles. If they are a pair of opposites, keep them and have another turn. If not, put them back face-down and let the next player go. (Variations of this game can be played with any selected pairs: brother - sister, for example, or words with the same number of letters or words which rhyme.)

Alphabetical Order

Take a set of five words and sort them into alphabetical order. Or try to collect sets of words in consecutive alphabetical order. Even try making sentences in which the words are in alphabetical order.

No Limit

These are just a few suggestions for games and activities. But with WORD TILES, as with language itself, there is no limit to the variety of uses children can find, or the inventiveness that they can show in their play.

Making Sentences

Give children scrambled sentences to rearrange. Begin with short, simple sentences and progress to longer more complex ones. More advanced children can be given two jumbled sentences to sort out. You could also add in blank tiles with full-stops marked on them to give early experience of punctuation.

Filling Blanks

Make a sentence out of several of the tiles but leave one or more blank spaces. Give the child a selection of words to try in the spaces, some which fit the sentence and some which do not. This activity is good for pairs or small groups, so the children can discuss with each other whether a word makes sense in a space - or nonsense.

Inventing Games

Often the best games are the ones children make up for themselves, and the most imaginative sentences are ones they construct without any prompting.



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Word List

a

a
about
all
an
and
are
as
at

b

back
be
been
bed
before
big
birthday
bike
boy
book
brother
but
by

c

call
came
can
car
cat
children
come
could

d

daddy
day
did
do
dog
down

f

first
friend
for
from

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game
girl
get
go

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here
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home
house

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more
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school
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sister
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sweets

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teacher
television
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walk
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well
went
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you
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