

Fidelity Checklist Sentence Anagrams

The Sentence Anagrams strategy allow students to practice and apply knowledge about grammatical syntax in an interactive and hands-on activity. This activity or strategy allows students to take separate words that are out of order and use their knowledge about parts of speech and word order to create sentences. This method of teaching sentence structure to students has been shown to be highly related to their success in writing (Benton et al., 1998). Being able to reconstruct a sentence from disparate parts is a highly accurate way to assess whether a student understands what they need to understand in order to write well. Furthermore, students who have practice with sentence organization instruction, through sentence anagramming and reconstruction tests, seem to develop better writing skills and language comprehension (Weaver, 1979). The last area in which the strategy of working with Sentence Anagrams is beneficial is that it enhances, specifically, students’ reading ability in the focus on teaching syntax. This is important because there is strong evidence that complex syntax and vocabulary knowledge are strongly connected with higher levels of reading comprehension. Interestingly, even compared to decoding and grammaticality, complex syntax knowledge is more highly correlated to reading comprehension success (Columa et al., 2020).

Science of Reading connection: Scarborough’s Reading Rope has two major components: Language Comprehension and Word Recognition (Scarborough, 2001). Sentence Anagramming specifically targets the Language Comprehension portion of Scarborough’s Reading Rope in that it helps to solidify the students’ understanding of Language Structures. It does this by targeting syntax understanding and sentence structure (International Dyslexia Foundation, 2018). Students who are able to complete Sentence Anagramming activities correctly will show that they have a solid grasp of simple or more complex sentence structure. This strategy of working with Sentence Anagrams can be used for earlier or later grades based on need, and so can help to enhance Reading Comprehension at all levels.

Date:

Activity/Class:

SENTENCE ANAGRAMS	YES	NO	COMMENTS
1. Create word cards: Make small word cards with words the student knows and understands (from texts relevant to class) and with punctuation symbols and words with capital letters.			
2. Review parts of speech: Ask student to identify parts of speech from memory, as well as identify the parts of speech of specific word cards. Do this for all the parts of speech that are targeted.			
3. Demonstrate the “how”: Present activity as a game and show the students how to play. <u>Take</u> words from card pile and lay them down <u>out of order</u> . Slowly <u>make sentence</u> and explain reasoning, beginning with noun and verb. <u>Read</u> your completed sentence out loud. Then help students imitate “play.”			
4. Start small, get bigger: Begin with a) <u>short sentences</u> with b) <u>simple sentence structure</u> . Make sure to scaffold students from simple to more complex sentences, including use of punctuation.			
5. Keep track of goals achieved: Establish specific goal(s) for the lesson before implementing strategy.			

Take notes on where student succeeds or struggles. Review and scaffold from what they do know with simpler sentences before moving forward with the Sentence Anagram strategy.			
Total steps completed accurately:			
Percentage of steps completed accurately:			

Additional notes or comments: