

Build a Better Sentence: Who Did What?

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Use this easy-to-follow graphic organizer to teach your students how to develop quality, descriptive sentences. A sample has been provided to illustrate a completed form. This format may be used for a variety of purposes: retelling or summarizing a story (*Little Red Riding Hood walked*), thematic, integrated instruction in science (*The frog croaked*) or social studies (*The pioneers traveled*), biographies (*Michael Jordan practiced*), or for personal narratives (*My mom shopped*).

Make a transparency of the graphic organizer and brainstorm with your students to generate a list of possible answers for each question about a given topic or prompt. Have them combine one response from each list to develop several different sentences that make sense. To complete the demonstration activity, each student selects one sentence to copy, illustrate and share. Ask students to guess which sentence their classmates illustrated to reinforce comprehension and listening skills.

What Kind?

How? (ly)

Which?
(To Whom?)

Who? Did What?

Why?
(so that, because)

When?

Where?

Build a sentence: Start with the questions in the center. (Who? Did What?) Make a list of possible answers for each question and then select from each to make a fabulous sentence.

Finished sentence:

What Kind?

scrawny
ugly
orange, yellow, or black
hungry

How? (ly)

loudly
sadly
angrily

Which?
(To Whom?)

at the dog
to the boy
at the lady
at me

Who? Did What?

The cat yowled.

Why?

(so that, because)

he was scared
he was hungry
because he was wet
he wanted in

When?

last night
after dinner
at nine o'clock

Where?

on the porch
on the fence
by the gate

Build a sentence: Start with the questions in the center. (Who? Did What?) Make a list of possible answers for each question and then select from each to make a fabulous sentence.

Finished sentence: *The scrawny yellow cat yowled sadly at me last night on the porch after dinner because he was hungry.*