

Sentence Unscrambling

Killgallon's sentence composing strategies: 2

HIAS English Team
Summer 2022
Final version

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Overview

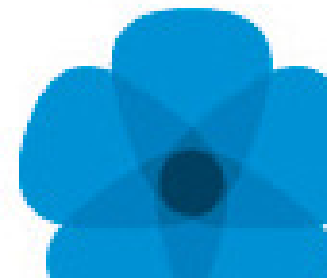
This document contains...

An explanation and exemplification of the sentence unscrambling approach adapted from the sentence composing strategies shared by Don and Jenny Killgallon.

Points to consider when using this resource

This approach can be used for imitation of any sentence structure. Some of the examples in this resource are deliberately chosen for their ambition, but teachers should judge the complexity of the sentences chosen for their students to work with.

Students often cope well with sentence unscrambling but may need support through modelling and shared examples before working independently, in particular around the addition of appropriate punctuation.



Killgallon's sentence composing strategies

1. Sentence imitation
2. Sentence unscrambling
3. Sentence combining
4. Sentence expanding

Sentence unscrambling

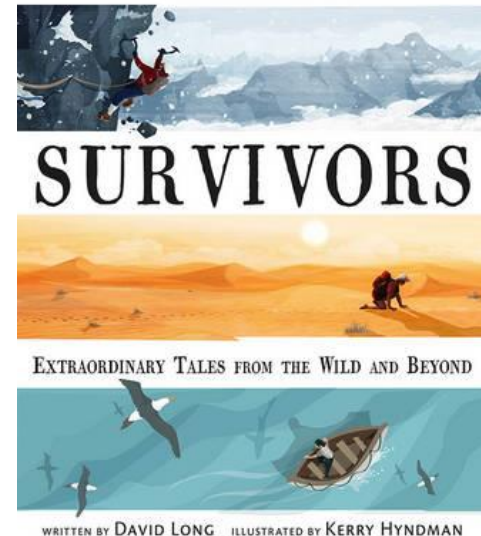
- Choose interesting, multi-clause sentences
- Break these into chunks of meaning – this works best at phrase level
- Remove the punctuation
- Students sort the chunks into sentences that make sense and work grammatically, adding punctuation as necessary



Scrambled sentence

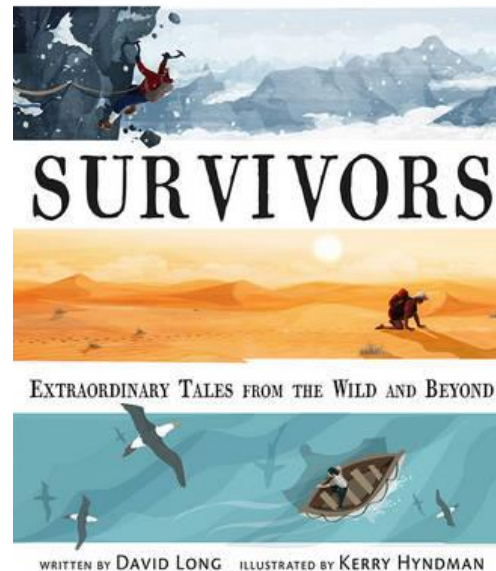
seventeen-year-old Juliane Koepcke
was hit by
the airliner carrying her
a violent storm
when
on Christmas Eve
high above
the South American rainforest
was flying and her mother

Put these phrases into an order, adding punctuation, that allows them to form a single interesting sentence.



Original sentence

On Christmas Eve, seventeen-year-old Juliane Koepcke was flying high above the South American rainforest when the airliner carrying her and her mother was hit by a violent storm.



Sentence unscrambling

- just enough
- swam slowly
- in thirty-five feet
- the great fish
- to maintain motion
- its tail
- of water
- waving



In thirty-five feet of water, the great fish swam slowly, its tail waving just enough to maintain motion.

Create your own scrambled sentence – break into phrases...

Just a few years ago, experts decided that petrol was fundamentally evil, and that using it to fuel the engine in your car was about the same as running round a town centre in a polar bear suit, stamping on baby bats and shooting passers-by.

Jeremy Clarkson: *On diesel*

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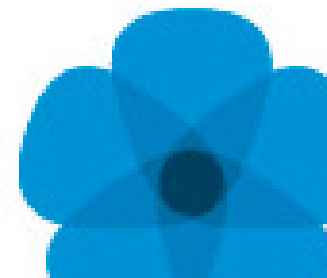
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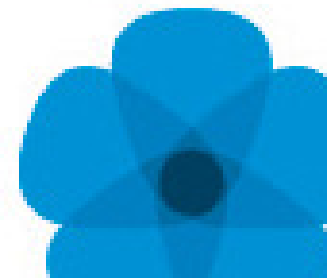
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