

Sentence Combining

This approach builds up ability in written composition work. A group of short sentences are given to the student. These are then combined to create a longer, more complex and more stylistically mature sentence. Students work through exercises in order to build up their ability to manipulate language at a sentence level. Through careful practise this builds fluency in written work as well as improving the style and quality of written work. Additionally comprehension skills can be built as students read the sentences and discuss their meaning.

This is particularly useful exercise for pairs and groups as students can discuss the best way to formulate sentences and compare the ways in which they are choosing to express their new sentences.

Worked example:

- 1.1 Jack was a poor boy.
- 1.2 Jack lived with his mother.

- 2.1 They had a cow.
- 2.2 It was their only possession.
- 2.3 Jack had to sell the cow.
- 2.4 They needed the money for food.

1. Jack was a poor boy who lived with his mother.
2. They had a cow, their only possession. Jack had to sell the cow as they needed the money for food.

For further information see

<http://www.interventioncentral.org/academic-interventions/writing/sentence-combining-teaching-rules-sentence-structure-doing> (accessed 21.03.15)

P.Wade (2013) *Sentence Craft: A Sentence Combining Handbook*