



# THE BIRDS

## Sentence-Building Exercise I



### Materials:

photograph of bird, students' circle-in-circle charts and branch organizers, lined paper, tape, three pieces of chart paper, dry-erase marker, watercolor marker



### Before the Lesson:

1. At <http://fhautism.com/arc.html>, find the circle-in-circle chart, branch organizer, and lined paper. Print one of each for each student, plus a few extras.
2. On the chart paper, draw a blank circle-in-circle chart, branch organizer, and lined paper.
3. On the board, hang a blank circle-in-circle chart on the left and a branch organizer on the right. Make them large enough to write all the words you will need.
4. Write the date on the board.

### Teaching the Lesson

1. Gather the children in a circle. Hold up the photograph of the bird. Ask: "What animal is this?" If no one can identify the animal, ask an aide to answer, or answer the question yourself.
2. When a student says, "bird," write "bird" in the smaller, inner circle of the circle-in-circle chart.
3. Ask: "Who can tell me something about the bird?" If no one answers, ask: "What can the bird do?" If no one answers, prompt the students. Ask: "Can the bird ride a bike?" If no one answers, ask an aide to answer, or answer the question yourself. Possible answers include fly, chirp, lay an egg. Students may come up with different answers. Ask the question several times, and allow different children to answer. Write the answers in the large circle.

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- 4.** Ask: “What does the bird have? If no one answers, prompt the students. Ask: “Does the bird have fur or feathers?” or “Does the bird have four eyes?” If no one answers, ask an aide to answer, or answer the question yourself. Possible answers include wings, a beak, feathers. Students may come up with different answers. Ask the question several times, and allow different children to answer. Write the answers in the large circle.
- 5.** Ask: “What does the bird like? If no one answers, prompt the students with a guessing game. Say: “The bird likes to eat a long, skinny animal. It digs in the dirt. It lives underground. Sometimes we put it on our hook when we go fishing.” Do this for the other two answers. If no one answers, ask an aide to answer, or answer the question yourself. Possible answers include worms, bugs, seeds. Students may come up with different answers. Ask the question several times, and allow different children to answer. Write the answers in the large circle. NOTE: If students appear to be getting agitated or panicky, just tell them the answer.
- 6.** Praise students and pass out reinforcers.
- 7.** The children return to their desks. Pass out pencils and blank graphic organizers. On each desk, tape the circle-in-circle chart on the left and the branch organizer on the right.
- 8.** Say: “Write your name on your paper.” Make sure everyone writes his or her name. Then say: “Write the date. It is on the board.” Make sure everyone writes the date.
- 9.** Say: “Copy the words from the circle-in-circle chart on the board onto your circle-in-circle chart.” They do not have to copy all of the words at first.
- 10.** Say: “Now we will do the branch organizer.” On the branch organizer on the board, write “Bird” on the top line and “Can,” “Has,” and “Likes” on the three spaces under the top line. Say: “Copy the words onto your charts.”
- 11.** Ask: “What can the bird do?” Point to the words on the circle-in-circle chart. Encourage students to look at their own chart. If no one answers, ask an aide to answer, or answer the question yourself. Ask the question several times, and allow different children to answer.

If someone uses a nonsensical word, e.g., “worms,” say the whole sentence. Say: “The bird can worms? Does that make sense? Let’s look back in the circle and find something the bird can do.”

## LEVEL 8: THE BIRDS

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**12.** Write students' answers on the branch organizer on the board. For each answer, say: "Write (the answer) under the word 'Can' on your branch organizer."

**13.** For each word that students write, say the whole sentence, e.g., "The bird can fly." As you say each word of the sentence, point to the corresponding word on the branch chart.

**14.** Ask: "What does the bird have?" Point to the words on the circle-in-circle chart. If no one answers, ask an aide to answer, or answer the question yourself. Ask the question several times, and allow different children to answer.

If someone uses a nonsensical word, e.g., "fly," say the whole sentence. Say: "The bird has fly? Does that make sense? Let's look back in the circle and find something the bird has."

**15.** Write students' answers on the branch organizer on the board. For each answer, say: "Write (the answer) under the word 'Has' on your branch organizer."

**16.** For each word that students write, say the whole sentence, e.g., "The bird has feathers." As you say each word of the sentence, point to the corresponding word on the branch chart.

**17.** Ask: "What does the bird like?" Point to the words on the circle-in-circle chart. If no one answers, ask an aide to answer, or answer the question yourself. Ask the question several times, and allow different children to answer.

If someone uses a nonsensical word, e.g., "feathers," say the whole sentence. Say: "The bird likes feathers? Does that make sense? Let's look back in the circle and find something the bird likes."

**18.** Write students' answers on the branch organizer on the board. For each answer, say: "Write (the answer) under the word 'Likes' on your branch organizer."

**19.** For each word that students write, say the whole sentence, e.g., "The bird likes worms." As you say each word of the sentence, point to the corresponding word on the branch chart.

**20.** Praise students, pass out reinforcers, and take a short break.

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- 21.** Draw a large version of the lined paper on your chart paper, using the watercolor marker. Tape the chart paper to the board. Pass out the lined paper. Tape one to each desk, next to the branch organizer.
- 22.** Say: “It’s time to make a sentence. Let’s make a sentence from the first column of the branch organizer, using the word ‘Can.’” (Example sentence: The bird can fly.) Point to the words on the branch chart on the board as you slowly say them, forming the sentence.
- 23.** Write the sentence on your “lined paper” on the board.
- 24.** Say: “Copy the sentence on the first line of your paper.”
- 25.** Say: “Let’s make a sentence from the second column of the branch organizer, using the word ‘Has.’” (Example sentence: The bird has feathers.) Point to the words on the branch chart on the board as you slowly say them, forming the sentence.
- 26.** Write the sentence on your “lined paper” on the board.
- 27.** Say: “Copy the sentence on the second line of your paper.”
- 28.** Say: “Today we are going to try making a longer sentence. We are going to use two words from the ‘Likes’ column of the branch organizer. Let me show you how.” Point to the words on the branch chart on the board as you slowly say them, forming the sentence. (Example sentence: The bird likes worms and bugs.)  
  
Use only one compound phrase per exercise.
- 29.** Write the sentence on your “lined paper” on the board.
- 30.** Say: “Copy the sentence on the third line of your paper.”
- 31.** Say: “Now we will read our sentences aloud.” Group students in pairs to read to each other, or let each child read aloud to you, an aide, or the whole class.
- 32.** Praise students and pass out reinforcers.
- 33.** Say: “Now we will draw a picture to go with our sentences.” Lead students to read the sentences. Then encourage them to remember and draw two or three details at once and incorporate them all into one bird picture.
- 34.** Collect papers and pencils, praise students, and pass out reinforcers.