

THE DOG

Sentence-Building Exercise I



Materials:

photograph of dog, 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 dog. 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, "dog," write "dog" in the smaller, inner circle of the circle-in-circle chart.
3. Ask: "Who can tell me something about the dog?" If no one answers, ask: "What can the dog do?" If no one answers, prompt the students. Ask: "Can the dog ride a bike?" If no one answers, ask an aide to answer, or answer the question yourself. Possible answers include bark, wag his tail, dig. 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 dog have? If no one answers, prompt the students. Ask: “Does the dog have fur or feathers?” Other good questions: “Does the dog have four eyes?” “Does the dog have wings?” If no one answers, ask an aide to answer, or answer the question yourself. Possible answers include four legs, a tail, teeth. 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 dog like? If no one answers, prompt the students with a guessing game. Say: “The dog likes to eat something hard and white. It sometimes has meat on it. The dog chews it. Sometimes the dog buries it. ” Do this for the other two answers. If no one answers, ask an aide to answer, or answer the question yourself. Possible answers include dog food, bones, hamburger. 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 “Dog” 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 dog 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., “bones,” say the whole sentence. Say: “The dog can bones? Does that make sense? Let’s look back in the circle and find something the dog can do.”

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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 dog can bark." As you say each word of the sentence, point to the corresponding word on the branch chart.
- 14.** Ask: "What does the dog 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., "bark," say the whole sentence. Say: "The dog has bark? Does that make sense? Let's look back in the circle and find something the dog 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 dog has a tail." As you say each word of the sentence, point to the corresponding word on the branch chart.
- 17.** Ask: "What does the dog 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., "teeth," say the whole sentence. Say: "The dog likes teeth? Does that make sense? Let's look back in the circle and find something the dog 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 dog likes bones." 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: “Today we are going to try making a longer sentence. We are going to use two words from the ‘Can’ 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 dog can bark and wag his tail.)

Use only one compound phrase per exercise.

- 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 dog has a tail.) 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.” Make sure they write on the lines and not in the blank space above.
- 28.** Say: “Let’s make a sentence from the third column of the branch organizer, using the word ‘Likes.’” (Example sentence: The dog likes bones.) Point to the words on the branch chart on the board as you slowly say them, forming the sentence.
- 29.** Write the sentence on your “lined paper” on the board.
- 30.** Say: “Copy the sentence on the third line of your paper.”

When students become familiar with this process, they may choose any of the three words to make a sentence.

- 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 first sentence and then draw a picture of it. Do this for each sentence, one

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sentence at a time at first. Monitor the drawings and try to limit them to drawing only one dog. If a higher-functioning child is drawing three dogs, clearly intending one dog for each sentence, without exhibiting difficulties, then that is okay. Later in the program, they may be able to remember two or three details at once and incorporate them all into one dog picture. Remember, the illustration must reflect the information in the sentence.

- 34.** Collect papers and pencils, praise students, and pass out reinforcers.

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Worksheet 12, Variation 1



Materials:

Worksheet 12 (Variation 1), pencils, and boxes of crayons for each child

Color

Variation 1:

Brown Dog
Yellow Doghouse
Blue Ball



Before the Lesson:

At <http://fhautism.com/arc.html>, find Worksheet 12 (Variation 1). Print one for each student, plus a few extras. Write the date on the board.

Teaching the Lesson

1. Distribute the worksheets and pencils to your students. 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. Take the pencils from them.
2. Say: “(student’s name), please read the sentences at the top of the paper.” Ask several students to read. If no one can read the passage, read it yourself, or have an aide read it.
3. Say: “We want to color the picture. What three crayons do we need?” Ask the question several times, and allow different children to answer. Then help them find the brown, yellow, and blue crayons. Take the crayon boxes from them.
4. Say: “We will color the dog brown, the doghouse yellow, and the ball blue. What color do we color the dog?” Ask the question several times, and allow different children to answer.
5. Say: “Color the dog.” Make sure they color only the dog. Repeat the words “brown dog” as often as possible.
6. Say: “What color do we color the doghouse? Let’s look back at our story if we need a reminder.” Ask the question several times, and allow different children to answer.