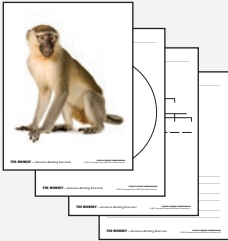


THE MONKEY

Sentence-Building Exercise I



Materials:

photograph of monkey, 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 monkey. 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, "monkey," write "monkey" in the smaller, inner circle of the circle-in-circle chart.

If you wish, you can allow the students to start the conversation. They've had plenty of practice now, and they might give creative responses if given time to think.

3. Ask: "Who can tell me something about the monkey?" If no one answers, ask: "What can the monkey do?" If no one answers, prompt the students. Ask: "Can the monkey fly?" If no one answers, ask an aide to answer, or answer the question yourself. Possible answers include climb, swing, jump. Students may come up with

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different answers. Ask the question several times, and allow different children to answer. Write the answers in the large circle.

- 4.** Ask: “What does the monkey have? If no one answers, prompt the students. Ask: “Does a monkey have feathers?” This question should be repeated every time the animal in question has either fur or feathers. Other good questions: “Does the monkey have four eyes?” “Does the monkey have wings?” If no one answers, ask an aide to answer, or answer the question yourself. Possible answers include a tail, fur, two ears. 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 monkey like? If no one answers, prompt the students with a guessing game. Say: “The monkey likes to eat this yellow fruit. This fruit grows on trees. You peel the skin off this fruit and take a bite.” Do this for the other two answers. If no one answers, ask an aide to answer, or answer the question yourself. Possible answers include bananas, apples, coconuts. 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: Guessing games may be stressful for some children. If students appear to be getting agitated or panicky, just tell them the answer. The lesson is more important than the game.
- 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 “Monkey” 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 monkey 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.

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

- 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 monkey can swing.” As you say each word of the sentence, point to the corresponding word on the branch chart.

- 14.** Ask: “What does the monkey 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., “swing,” say the whole sentence. Say: “The monkey has swing? Does that make sense? Let’s look back in the circle and find something the monkey 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 monkey has fur.” As you say each word of the sentence, point to the corresponding word on the branch chart.

- 17.** Ask: “What does the monkey 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., “fur,” say the whole sentence. Say: “The monkey likes fur? Does that make sense? Let’s look back in the circle and find something the monkey 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 monkey likes bananas.” As you say each word of the sentence, point to the corresponding word on the branch chart.

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- 20.** Praise students, pass out reinforcers, and take a short break.
- 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 monkey can swing and jump.) Show the students the relationship between the words on the chart and a spoken sentence. This will help them read the chart and form the sentences themselves.

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 monkey has fur.) 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. This is for the illustration.
- 28.** Say: “Let’s make a sentence from the third column of the branch organizer, using the word ‘Likes.’” (Example sentence: The monkey likes bananas.) 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.

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- 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 sentence at a time at first. Monitor the drawings and try to limit them to drawing only one monkey. If a higher-functioning child is drawing three monkeys, clearly intending one monkey 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 monkey picture.

If you see an illustration of a monkey missing fur or not eating bananas, ask the student to read the corresponding sentence again. Then show the student what’s missing. (“Your sentence says, ‘The monkey likes bananas.’ Your picture of the monkey does not have a banana. Draw the monkey eating a banana.”)

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