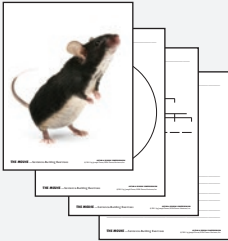


# THE MOUSE

## Sentence-Building Exercise I



### Materials:

photograph of mouse, 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 mouse. 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, "mouse," write "mouse" 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. If no one spontaneously offers any observations, ask: "What can the mouse do?" If no one answers, prompt the students. Ask: "Can the mouse fly?" If no one answers, ask an aide to answer, or answer the question yourself. Possible answers include run, jump, chew. Students may come up with different answers. Ask the question several

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times, and allow different children to answer. Write the answers in the large circle. Leave space between the words.

- 4.** Ask: “What does the mouse have? If no one answers, prompt the students. Ask: “Does a mouse have feathers?” This question should be repeated every time the animal in question has either fur or feathers. Other good questions: “Does the mouse have four eyes?” “Does the mouse have wings?” If no one answers, ask an aide to answer, or answer the question yourself. Possible answers include a long tail, two ears, 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 mouse like? If no one answers, prompt the students with a guessing game. Say: “The mouse likes to eat this yellow food. We like to put it on sandwiches or crackers. Different types of this food are cheddar and Swiss. I like to eat a sandwich made of ham and ... .” Do this for the other two answers. If no one answers, ask an aide to answer, or answer the question yourself. Possible answers include cheese, fruit, 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: 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. (Always emphasize a left-to-right progression when teaching reading and writing.)
- 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 “Mouse” on the top line and “Can,” “Has,” and “Likes” on the three spaces under the top line. Say: “Copy the words onto your charts.”

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- 11.** Ask: “What can the mouse 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., “cheese,” say the whole sentence. Say: “The mouse can cheese? Does that make sense? Let’s look back in the circle and find something the mouse 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.”

As you use words from the circle-in-circle chart, you may choose to cover up the words with a sticky note or leave them all showing.

- 13.** For each word that students write, say the whole sentence, e.g., “The mouse can jump.” As you say each word of the sentence, point to the corresponding word on the branch chart.

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

- 17.** Ask: “What does the mouse 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:

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“The mouse likes teeth? Does that make sense? Let’s look back in the circle and find something the mouse 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 mouse likes cheese.” 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.
- 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 mouse can jump.) 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 mouse has teeth.) 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 mouse likes cheese.) 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.”

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

The illustration must reflect the information in the sentence. If you see an illustration of a mouse missing teeth or not eating cheese, ask the student to read the corresponding sentence again. Then show the student what’s missing. (“Your sentence says, ‘The mouse has teeth.’ Your picture of the mouse does not have teeth. Draw teeth on the mouse.”)

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