

What to do...



Cut it out!

This game helps your child to understand what makes a sentence and which parts of a sentence are essential for it to make sense. 'The boy sat' is a sentence because it can make sense all by itself, but 'The boy in front of the telly' does not because there is no action word or verb.

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1. Choose a long sentence from a book you are reading at the moment.
2. Write that sentence down on a piece of paper.
3. Now play a game with your helper where you cross out one or two words from the sentence so that it still makes sense.
4. Now it is your helper's turn. Can they cross out one or two words so that it still makes sense?
5. Keep going until one of you can't cross out any words without the sentence no longer making any sense. The other person is the winner.
6. How many words did you manage to cross out?
7. Try again - can you end up with an even shorter sentence this time?



While sitting by the river, Jack saw a mysterious-looking stranger walking slowly towards him.
While sitting by the river, Jack saw a mysterious-looking stranger walking towards him.
While sitting by the river, Jack saw a stranger walking towards him.
Sitting by the river, Jack saw a stranger walking towards him.
By the river, Jack saw a stranger walking towards him.
By the river, Jack saw a stranger walking.
By the river, Jack saw a stranger.
Jack saw a stranger.