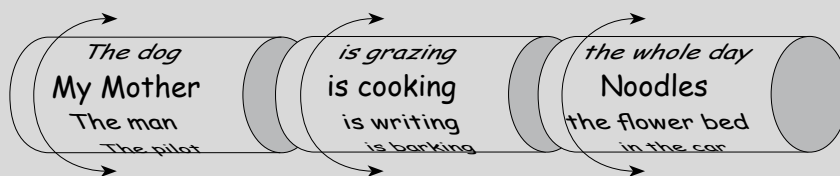


The students move the three lists around to align the words and write down all the sentences which make sense. Variant: the lists are wrapped around a core (a round peg, or cardboard roll) to line up the words. The students then write down all the sentences which make sense. In moving the strips around the core to create different word combinations, students can generate meaningful and meaningless sentences with this "sentence computer".



- The above exercises can be expanded for older students by adding additional sentence elements (indirect object, adverbs of place and time, etc.).

2. Morphology (correct forms)

3rd – 9th grade

25 minutes



Materials:
Text as an outline or template
(see right).

The alternative word exercises described in #15.2 are also very well suited for grammar work with 3rd-6th grade students, when appropriately adjusted.

Examples:

- The students receive a text for working in pairs. Their task is to rewrite the text and change all nouns into plural form. The questions for discussion include: What grammatical changes does it cause? (Answer: the verbs and adjectives must agree in number!).
- Variants: Change all plural forms to singular; change all verbs from the present tense to the preterite or perfect forms (or vice versa); change all adjectives from the normal form to the comparative or superlative.
- A special and interesting function of gap-fill exercises is that they are useful for assessing language competence (see #15.1 gap-fill exercises for specific grammar points). Common mistakes would suggest the need for remediation and additional practice in the areas of weakness.
- Specific grammatical issues can often be remediated and practiced in the area of writing with appropriately formulated, targeted writing assignments. Examples:
 - Subject area of training: past tenses. Task: write a story about when you were younger (Topic suggestion: What I did as a 3-year old; a fairy tale; something from history...)
 - Goal of training: adjectives. Task: describe your favorite meal (an appetizing description with as many details as possible; or a very detailed description of a picture, etc.
 - Goal of training: subjunctive. Describe contrary-to fact conditions with topics like "if I were a wizard/a witch", "if there were no more schools", "if my (grand) parents had not emigrated".