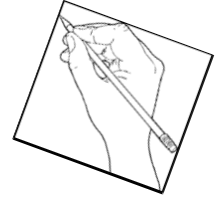


## Writing Better Sentences



### About this activity

<b>Aim:</b>	to add information to sentences
<b>Level:</b>	Beginner Elementary
<b>Language:</b>	Any - The activity can be applied to any language.
<b>Skills/Language</b>	Writing Grammar Speaking Listening
<b>Interaction</b>	Pair Work
<b>Materials:</b>	paper to write the sentence for display (optional)

It is important to get beginning students to think about adding meaning to their sentences, rather than thinking of them as simple grammar exercises.

For this activity, let's imagine students are working on the present simple for free time activities.

### Activity:

1.

Tell your students something you do in your free time and write it on the board.

Example: I watch television.

2.

Next, assign each student a WH question. Give them time to come up with a question to ask you.

Examples: **Who** do you watch television with?

**What** do you watch on television?

**When** do you watch television?

**Where** do you watch television?

**Why** do you watch television?

**How often** do you watch television?

**How long** do you watch television for?

*2 or 3 students will have  
the same question.  
That's okay as they all  
should be listening for  
the information.*

3.

When they are ready, have them ask you their question. Make sure they write down your answers.

4.

When students have the information, ask them to rewrite your sentence with the new information.

Example: **Where** do you watch television? – in the living room

*Mr Smith watches television in the living room.*

**Mixed Ability**

Some students will finish this very quickly. Ask these students to include information from someone else's question.

Example: **Who** do you watch television with? - with my family  
**What** do you watch on television? - comedies  
**Where** do you watch television? - in the living room  
*Mr Smith watches comedies in the living room with his family.*

*Students can choose 2 or 3 pieces of new information. The sentence should sound natural.*

**Pair Work**

1. Have each student write a sentence about what they do in their free time.
2. Put students in pairs.
3. Have each student say their sentence to their pair. Then, each student should write the questions they want to ask.
4. When students have their questions, they should ask them and write down the answers.
5. Using the answers, students should rewrite the original sentence with the new information.

Example: *Isabel watches television in her room after school.*

*Stronger students may not need to write the questions. That is fine, but they should write the answers.*

*Students can write 2 or 3 sentences with the new information or just one. The sentence should sound natural.*

**Extension**

You can have students display their sentences on a bulletin board in the classroom. This makes their writing communicative, as it is about them. It also encourages students to make the information interesting.

**Notice**

- Students are repeating language they already know. The aim is to organise the information into natural sentences.
- By starting with the teacher, students understand what they are supposed to do in the pair work.
- In writing the sentences, students have a clear aim for their pair work.