Essential Skill: Using And

Racoon Day Poster

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hey, writers. It's Traci.

Today, we're going to meet my friends, Kayla and Taylor, and help them with an exciting project. You're also going to learn something that will help you with your own writing.

Kayla and Taylor are best friends. They think that everything's better when they are working together. I sometimes call them "the Friends of *and*," because it seems like "and" is their favorite word. Taylor says, "I love watching videos of cute animals." Then Kayla says, "*And* showing them to other people."

Right now, "the Friends of *and*" are excited about Raccoon Day, a holiday created by a girl who thought people should show raccoons more respect. Some people think raccoons are just pests. They look like furry bandits with their black face mask, and they're always getting into trouble—and into trash cans. But Kayla and Taylor think raccoons are curious and clever, and silly. So they are writing a poster to hang in the hall at their school to convince everyone to celebrate Raccoon Day.

They need your help with their project. While you are helping "the Friends of *and*," you're going to learn something that will help you with your own writing—you're going to learn about the power of "and." This tiny word is a connector that can join words or

phrases or sentences together. You'll learn to take sentences apart, then put them back together in new ways to make powerful sentences that are packed with information.

Alright. I'll show you how to get started, step by step.

STEP 1

Find a partner. Click the arrow on the right to go to the next step.

STEP 2

To get warmed up, think of two things that you think go together, like salt and pepper or shoes and socks.

Discuss with your partner: Can you and your partner think of three examples of words that go together?

STEP 3

Now that you're warmed up, it's time to get your supplies.

STEP 4

To get warmed up, think of two things that you think go together, like salt and pepper or shoes and socks.

Discuss with your partner: Can you and your partner think of three examples of words that go together?

STEP 5

Look at these sentences. They both fit the rules for a sentence. They have a subject and a verb. Each one also has an adjective to make the sentence a complete thought.

But Kayla and Taylor wish they could make the two sentences into one sentence. Go to the next step to help them do that.

STEP 6

The two sentences both have the words *raccoons are*. Maybe we could put the sentences together and get rid of that repetition. Underline the words that are the same, then cut each sentence into two parts, like this, with all the underlying words on one part.

STEP 7

Now you have four pieces—two pieces have the exact same words on them. Trade one of the pieces that says, "Raccoons are" for an "and."

Discuss with your partner: Can you find a way to use these pieces to make a new sentence that makes sense? Try rearranging the pieces of paper until you find an arrangement that you like.

STEP 8

You probably made one of these sentences—both are correct.

Instead of having one adjective that tells you about raccoons, we have two in the same sentence, joined together with the word and.

Use your glue stick to glue your sentence onto the Happy Raccoon Day poster, piece by piece, right here where it says, "Sentence # 1." You may need to cut your pieces of paper shorter to fit there.

We put a scrap piece of paper down on our table, like this, so that we wouldn't get our table sticky with glue.

STEP 9

Kayla and Taylor need to show examples of raccoons doing things that show they are smart. In a minute, you and your partner will each write a sentence about a smart thing that raccoons can do.

But to get ready, you need your Sentence Cut-Up page. Cut on dotted lines number 4 and number 5. When you're done cutting, there'll be two strips of paper that say they can.

STEP 10

In a minute, we'll show you three videos of raccoons being smart. You and your partner will each write about one of the videos.

Pick which video you want to write about. Talk with your partner and make sure you choose different videos. One of the videos you won't write about at all. Take about a minute to pick, then go to the next step to write about it.

STEP 11

Your paper strip says, "They can." That's the start of a sentence. Finish the sentence by writing about the video you chose in the last step of a raccoon being smart.

STEP 12

Now let's put your sentence and your partner's sentence together. Find the words that are the same in both sentences and underline them. Cut each sentence into two with all the underlined words on one part. Trade one of the pieces that says, "They can" for an "and", then use "and" to make a new sentence.

STEP 13

Glue your sentence onto the Happy Raccoon Day poster where it says, "Sentence #2." If your sentence doesn't fit on one line, go ahead and cut it so it fits on two lines.

STEP 14

You've helped Kayla and Taylor improve their poster by adding reasons to think that raccoons are smart. Now you need to write about the raccoons being funny.

To get ready, you need your Sentence Cut-Up page. You'll need to cut on dotted lines number 6 and number 7, like this. When you're done cutting, you'll have two strips of blank paper. These are for your last two sentences.

STEP 15

In a minute, we'll show you three videos of raccoons being funny. You and your partner will each write about one of the videos. Remember, talk with your partner and make sure you choose different videos.

Take a minute to pick a video, then go to the next step to write about it.

STEP 16

You and your partner are each going to write a sentence about a funny thing that raccoons do. Talk with your partner about how you'll begin your sentence. It's easiest to put sentences together when both sentences start the same way.

So, you could both start your sentence with the word "They," or you could agree on a different sentence starter.

STEP 17

Write your sentence about raccoons being funny. Then work with your partner to put your two sentences together to make one sentence using the word "and."

STEP 18

Use your glue stick to glue your sentence onto the Happy Raccoon Day poster here, where it says, "Sentence #3". Don't forget to combine your sentence with your partner's sentence with the word "and" if you haven't already.

STEP 19

You helped Kayla and Taylor finish their poster. What you wrote may convince people to agree with their opinion. You did it by working together with the power of "and."

Compare what a poster looks like *without* the use of "and" and *with* the use of "and" to connect the sentences. Think about which one is easier to read.

Have fun, writers, and see you next time!