Backyard Bugs

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, it's Margaret.

I was in my garden today, and I saw more than just my vegetables—I saw bugs! Lots of them. Colorful ones, fuzzy ones, ones that could fly—even ones that glow.

I wrote a sentence about each bug I saw, like this one: "The ladybug crawls." It has a noun (an animal, a person, place, or thing) and a verb (an action word.) Both of these make my group of words sound like a complete sentence.

Now I need to make sure they look like a complete sentence, too. To do that, every sentence needs three writing helpers.

The first is a capital letter. A capital letter goes at the beginning. It says, "Hey, you. This is where my sentence starts."

The second helper is spaces. Spaces between the words say, "Don't squish the words together."

The last helper is a period. A period goes at the end, and it says, "Thank you, thank you. This sentence is finished."

When a sentence has a capital letter, spaces, and a period, it looks like a sentence. That makes it easier to read.

Uh-oh. I think a few of my bug sentences are missing some of those writing helpers.

Today, you're going to help me make my bug sentences easier to read by deciding if they're missing a capital letter at the beginning, spaces, or a period at the end.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Take a look at my first sentence. It says, "A firefly glows." Right now, this sentence starts with a lowercase "a." That means it's missing a capital letter at the beginning. A capital letter at the beginning says, "Hey, you. This is where my sentence starts." Without it, my reader won't know to start reading right here.

I like to remember a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence by doing this: a capital letter means a sentence begins.

Try it with me: a capital letter means a sentence begins.

One more time: a capital letter means a sentence begins.

This sentence starts here, so I can turn this lowercase "a" into a capital "A."

Let's look at another one.

Here's my next sentence: "Thebeebuzzes." That was hard to read. That's because it's missing spaces. Spaces between the words say, "Don't squish the words together." Without spaces, my reader won't be able to tell where each word begins and ends.

I like to remember spaces between my words by doing this: spaces keep words apart.

Try it with me: spaces keep words apart.

One more time: spaces keep words apart.

A space needs to go between each word, like this.

Nice! Let's keep going.

This is my next sentence—it says, "The ant crawls"—but this sentence is missing a period. A period at the end says, "Thank you, thank you. This sentence is finished." If it's missing a period, my reader might think there's more to read.

I like to remember a period by doing this: a period means a sentence ends.

Try it with me: a period means a sentence ends.

One more time: a period means a sentence ends.

This sentence ends right here, so I can fill in a period like this.

Awesome job! You got to know each of the three helpers that help a group of words look like a complete sentence.

Now it's time to play a game. Each of my sentences is missing a helper. We'll read the sentence together, and you'll decide which helper is missing. Then we'll correct it together.

When you're ready to play, move on to the next step.

STEP 2

Here's what I saw in the garden.

Let's look at my first sentence that I wrote: "The grasshopper jumps." Think about the three helpers. What does this sentence need?

If you think it needs a capital at the beginning, do this.

If you think it needs spaces, do this.

If you think it needs a period, do this.

Ready? Go.

Teacher: When everyone has an idea for what the sentence needs, go to the next step.

STEP 3

This sentence is missing a period. It goes right here at the end. This sentence says, "The grasshopper jumps."

Read it with me: "The grasshopper jumps."

Let's read that again: "The grasshopper jumps."

Nicely done. When you're ready to see the next sentence, move on to the next step.

STEP 4

Here's what I saw next. And here's the sentence I wrote: "a beetle swims." Think about the three helpers. What does this sentence need?

If you think it needs a capital, do this.

If you think it needs spaces, do this.

If you think it needs a period, do this.

Ready? Go.

Teacher: When everyone has an idea for what the sentence needs, go to the next step.

STEP 5

This sentence is missing a capital letter. Let's make this lowercase "a" a capital letter.

This sentence says, "A beetle swims."

Read it with me: "A beetle swims." Let's read that again: "A beetle swims."

Way to go! When you're ready to see the next sentence, move on to the next step.

STEP 6

Here's the last bug I saw. It's a stick bug. And here's my last sentence: "Astickbughides." Think about the three helpers. What does this sentence need?

If you think it needs a capital, do this.

If you think it needs spaces, do this.

If you think it needs a period, do this.

Ready? Go.

Teacher: When everyone has an idea for what the sentence needs, go to the next step.

STEP 7

This sentence is missing spaces. Let's add a space after every word, like this.

This sentence says, "A stick bug hides."

Read it with me: "A stick bug hides."

Let's read that again: "A stick bug hides."

Amazing job! When you're ready, move on to the next step.

STEP 8

Woah, you just helped make all of my sentences so much easier to read. Well done!

To celebrate, wiggle your antenna like a grasshopper with your fingers.

Now swim like a beetle.

Now stay seated, but make your body nice and long and hide like a stick bug.

Awesome job! Click the arrow when you're ready to move on.

WRAP UP

Nice job. You figured out what each of my sentences needed to look like a complete sentence—a capital letter at the beginning, a period at the end, and spaces between words. Way to go!

Now, every time you read or write a sentence, see if you can spot these three sentence helpers that make your group of words look like a complete sentence.

Thanks for all your help today. I'll see you next time.