Essential Skill: Connecting Words

Pet Contest

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Anne.

My neighborhood does a monthly newsletter. This month, they're taking entries for the neighborhood's funniest pet. Each pet owner can enter by writing a few sentences about their pet. The winner will get their picture on the front page of the newsletter and an entire month's worth of treats.

My neighbor, May, knows that her golden retriever, Charlie, would love all of those treats, so she wants to write something extra special about him. Plus, May thinks Charlie is the funniest dog ever! Take a look.

May wants to make sure she is telling her neighbors just how funny Charlie really is through her writing. Here's what she's written so far:

> "My dog Charlie is my best friend. Charlie is very funny. Sometimes he gets really excited. He loves to swim. Charlie plays with lots of toys. I wish everyone could have a dog like Charlie."

May isn't happy with what she's written so far. Charlie is very funny, but her writing really doesn't let her neighbors know about how or why her dog is funny. She wants each sentence to show how funny Charlie is.

Let's look at one of her sentences: "Charlie is very funny." She wonders, "How could she stretch this sentence to add an example of why her dog is funny?"

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: How would you stretch this sentence to add more information? Try using the word "because" and add one reason that Charlie is funny: "Charlie is very funny because..."

HOOK 2

Here's what May wrote: "Charlie is very funny because he is always trying to bring home sticks that are too big to fit through the door."

You may have thought of something different like, "Charlie is very funny because he can balance toilet paper on his head," or "Charlie is very funny because he can ride a skateboard." There are plenty of great answers.

May was able to stretch her sentence and add more information when she used the word *because*. Adding because lets you say why Charlie is funny. Because is also called a *connecting word*.

May started with two sentences: “Charlie is very funny” and “He can ride a skateboard.” She can connect these sentences using the word *because*. "Charlie is very funny *because* he can ride a skateboard."

Because is just one connecting word. There are lots of others. Today, you're going to use three different connecting words: because, but, and so. You'll experiment with using these words to stretch May's sentences—adding more fun information to her writing.

May wants Charlie to win that mountain of treats, so she needs to make sure that her writing tells her neighbors plenty of information about why Charlie is the funniest dog ever.

Now it's your turn. You're going to help me practice by using connecting words to stretch your sentences. We'll even show you some fun videos of Charlie to give you ideas on what information you could add to your sentences.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

In today's lesson, you'll need someone to share ideas with. This could be a partner or someone you sit near. When everyone knows who their talk partner is, move on to the next step.

STEP 3

Watch this video. Charlie is excited about something outside. Imagine what it might be.

Discuss with your partner: Why do you think Charlie is excited? Use your imagination to come up with lots of ideas.

STEP 4

Get your Pet Contest worksheet. Find number 1.

Write your favorite idea in the blank to finish the sentence: "Charlie is excited because..." Be creative with your answer. If you need ideas, look at your Word Bank.

STEP 5

The words that come after “*because”* give you a reason why something is happening. A fun sentence could be, "Charlie is excited because he wants to drink from the sprinkler," or "Charlie is excited because he gets to ride the school bus."

Let's watch and see why Charlie was excited in this video.

Charlie is excited because the ice cream truck is here.

When you're ready, click the arrow on the right to move on to the next step.

STEP 6

Look at number 2 on your Pet Contest worksheet. Write another sentence with a new idea about why Charlie is excited. You can use an example that you saw, or come up with something new.

STEP 7

Maybe Charlie was excited because the ice cream truck was coming, but they were all out of ice cream.

The word *but* is another connecting word that tells us things did not go as expected. Let's try it: "Charlie thinks he's going swimming, *but* that didn't happen."

Discuss: What do you think happened instead? Why do you think Charlie didn't get to go swimming?

STEP 8

Look at number 3. Write the rest of the sentence telling what you think is going to happen. Be creative with your answer.

STEP 9

When you see the word *but* expect something unexpected. Maybe you said, "Charlie wanted to go for a swim, but he rolled in the mud instead," or, "Charlie wanted to go for a swim, but he needed to take a bath first." There are lots of great ways to finish this sentence.

Let's watch what happened this time.

"Charlie wanted to go for a swim, but the pool was too crowded."

When you're ready click the arrow on the right to move on to the next step.

STEP 10

Look at number 4 on your worksheet. Write a different sentence about why Charlie wasn't able to go for a swim. You can use an example that you saw or come up with a new idea. If you need help, you can use your Word Bank.

STEP 11

So is another connecting word we can use. This one's a little tricky—it tells us what happens *because* of something else. Like this, "Charlie was hungry, so he ate some food." Charlie ate some food because of the first part of the sentence: "Charlie was hungry."

Here's another example: "Charlie was muddy, so he took a bath." Charlie took a bath because of the first part of the sentence.

What if we only had the first part of the sentence? Like this, "Charlie was bored." So, we know Charlie is bored—so what do you think he did because of this?

Discuss: How would you finish this sentence: "Charlie was bored so..." For ideas on how to finish this sentence, think back to what Charlie likes to do for fun, or something new he could try.

STEP 12

Maybe you thought of, "Charlie was bored, so he played with a giant soccer ball," or "Charlie was bored, so he invited his friends over."

Look at number 5. Write how you would finish the sentence: "Charlie was bored, so..."

STEP 13

Let's see one of the things Charlie did to stop being bored. "Charlie was bored so he went to the park and found the biggest stick ever!"

Look at number 6. See if you can write another idea for what Charlie did when he was bored. You can use an example that you saw or come up with a new idea.

STEP 14

Look at everything you have written. Choose your favorite sentence. Then share it with your partner.

WRAP UP

You came up with some great ideas. Now, May is much more comfortable using connecting words in her sentences to give more information about Charlie.

Let's look at a few of her new and improved sentences:

"Charlie is very funny because he is always trying to bring home sticks that are too big. One day, Charlie was bored, so he put toilet paper on his head! Charlie is my best friend because he always makes me laugh."

May loves what she has written about Charlie. Now her neighbors will know all about Charlie and how funny he is. Great job!

May is confident that Charlie is going to be on the front page of that neighborhood newsletter—and imagine how happy he'll be to see that mountain of treats. Maybe he'll even share some with his friends!