

SENTENCE STRIP ACTIVITY

In this activity, students will write their own independent clauses and then play with punctuation, coordination, and subordination. There is a lot of preparation involved, but once you have completed these cards, you can keep them and reuse them for a long time.

Students write these independent clauses without punctuation and without capitals to start each sentence. Decide what topic these independent clauses will cover so that all sentences can be used together.

This activity works best when you start with an even number of groups because, ultimately, we will ask the groups to double up, bring their independent clauses with them and combine them into really long, compound-complex sentences.

PREPARATION:

Make PUNCTUATION cards:

. ! ? ; : ,

Make one of each except the period and comma. You might need as many as three of each of those.

Make COORDINATOR cards:

But Or Yet So For And Nor

Make one of each.

Make SUBORDINATOR cards:

until if although before
since though as where
whenever though when so that
because after unless while
because even though

Make one of each.

Make RELATIVE PRONOUN cards:

who which that

Make one of each. With these you'll want to show your students that the relative pronoun sometimes becomes the subject of its clause. Even when it doesn't do that, these can create big changes in the independent clauses that students have already written. They don't fit as neatly into the exercise, and from this, students can learn a little about how to deal with them.