

## Comprehension Begins with the Sentence

### Literacy How-To: Explicitly Teach Syntax

1. Define and explain the function or role of each part of speech.

Adjective/*what kind, how many, which one*

Noun/*who or what*

Verb/*doing what*

Preposition/*what's the relationship*

Adverb/*how, when, where*

2. Identify examples in text.

two

beagles

were frolicking

in the snow

this morning

3. Reorder the sentence, as shown in the example below.

this morning

two

beagles

were frolicking

in the snow

4. Expand the sentence and have students rewrite the new sentence.

This *frigid* morning, two *chubby young* beagles were frolicking in the *gentle* snow.

Visit [www.literacyhow.com](http://www.literacyhow.com) to learn more about Syntax.

### Syntax—Linking Words to Meaning

Syntax, the grammatically acceptable way words are arranged to create meaningful phrases and sentences, is a feature of Literacy How's new Reading Wheel. This component—the sentence level of language—is an important link between individual words/word forms (vocabulary/morphology) and meaning (comprehension). Sentence structure is key to understanding how ideas connect yet many teachers don't focus at the sentence level when addressing students' reading comprehension difficulties. In addition, sentence construction skills enhance the reading fluency of students in first through seventh grade (Graham and Hebert, 2011).

Learn more about the importance of syntax and how to teach sentence-level skills.

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**Our Mission is to EMPOWER TEACHERS to ensure that every child learns to read by third grade.**

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