

Sentence Start and Finish - Teacher's Script

Skill/Objective: The child will identify where a sentence begins and ends by locating its first capital letter and ending punctuation mark.

Materials Needed:

- "Sentence Start and Finish" worksheet
- Prepared sentence strips.
- One children's picture book
- Pencil or crayon
- Small pointer or craft stick

TEACHER SCRIPT

Today we are going to look for clues that show where a sentence begins and ends. A sentence is a group of words that shares a complete idea.

Look at this sentence: The dog runs. I will read it aloud while I point to the words.

A sentence begins with a capital letter. The first letter in this sentence is the capital letter T. That capital letter is a clue that tells us, "The sentence starts here."

Now look at the end. Do you see the small dot after the word runs? That dot is called a period. It tells us the sentence has ended.

A sentence can also end with a question mark when it asks something. It may end with an exclamation point when it shows excitement or a strong feeling. A period, question mark, or exclamation point is an ending punctuation mark.

Let's find the boundaries of another sentence. First, point to the capital letter at the beginning. Next, slide your finger across the sentence. Stop when you reach the punctuation mark.

Remember: the capital letter helps us find the beginning, and the punctuation mark helps us find the end.

Can you point to where this sentence begins and where it ends?

PRACTICE

The child will listen as an adult reads each printed sentence, circle its first capital letter, and draw a box around its ending punctuation mark.

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GUIDED PRACTICE

Display the sentence strip:

The dog runs.

1. Read the complete sentence aloud.
2. Point to the capital T.
3. Explain that it is the first letter of the first word.
4. Circle the T.
5. Slide a pointer beneath the sentence from left to right.
6. Stop at the period.
7. Draw a box around the period.
8. Ask, "Where does the sentence begin?"
9. Ask, "Where does the sentence end?"
10. Repeat with a sentence from a picture book or use the other examples from the examples page.

Introduce the three possible ending marks:

- Period: .
- Question mark: ?
- Exclamation point: !

The child only needs to recognize these as marks that can end a sentence. Mastery of their individual purposes is not required yet.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

The child will complete the "Sentence Start and Finish" worksheet by marking the beginning and end of five teacher-read sentences.

An adult must read every sentence aloud. Independent decoding is not expected.

REVIEW

Ask:

- What kind of letter begins a sentence?
- Where do we find the first letter?
- What do we find at the end of a sentence?
- What are the three punctuation marks we saw today?
- How can we show where a sentence begins and ends?

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ASSESSMENT

Show the child four new printed sentences, one at a time. Read each sentence aloud and ask the child to:

- Point to or circle its first capital letter.
- Point to or box its ending punctuation mark.

Record each sentence as:

- Independent
- With a prompt
- Not yet

The objective is met when the child independently identifies the beginning and ending boundary in at least three of the four sentences.

Sentence Start and Finish - Examples

The dog runs.

Can the hen run?

Birds can fly.

Look at the moon!

The ball is red.

Do you see the star?

We see a kite.

Watch the frog jump!