

At Home Activities

The "Mad Libs" Sabotage

Read a sentence out loud to your child, but replace a key noun, verb, or adjective with a totally absurd word. Your child has to yell "Sabotage!" and tell you why that word couldn't possibly belong there. For example, you read: "The astronaut climbed into his refrigerator and blasted into space." Child's fix: "Sabotage! He needs a vehicle, like a rocket ship, not a fridge!"

The Part-of-Speech Guessing Game

Read a sentence but stop right before a word and say its part of speech instead (e.g., noun, verb, adjective). Your child has to guess a word that fits the slot perfectly before you reveal it.

Adult: "The giant dragon flew over the... NOUN."

Child guesses: "Mountain! Castle!"

The Predictor

Turn on the radio or a movie. Suddenly hit the mute button right in the middle of a sentence. Based strictly on the context of what the speaker was just saying, your child has to predict the exact word that was cut off.

The Missing Word

Deliver a sentence where the massive clue to the missing word is at the very end of the sentence. Your child has to guess the missing word, but they aren't allowed to answer until they've heard the entire sentence layout. For example, "We had to buy a brand new [blank] because our old one leaked all over the kitchen floor."

The Red Light "Fill-in-the-Blank"

While driving, start telling a story. When you approach a red light or stop sign, stop talking mid-sentence on a crucial word. Your child must instantly yell out a word that fits.

Adult: "The police car turned on its loud..."

Child: "Siren!"

The Part-of-Speech Switch Out

Give your child a simple sentence, like "The puppy chased the ball." Then, call out a substitution to swap out a word while keeping the grammar identical.

Adult: "Swap the verb!"

Child: "The puppy carried the ball."

Adult: "Swap the noun!"

Child: "The kitten carried the ball."

Did You Know?

Unlike traditional reading tests that ask questions at the end, the Maze assessment measures "real-time" comprehension, proving whether a student is actually understanding the meaning of a sentence while they are reading it.



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The Part-of-Speech Passenger

Say a simple sentence, like "The tire popped." Now, give your child a target part of speech (e.g., adjective or adverb). They have to mentally scan the sentence and insert that specific type of word into the correct spot.
 Adult: "Insert an Adjective!"
 Child says: "The flat tire popped."
 Adult: "Insert an Adverb!"
 Child: "The tire popped loudly."

The Word Alarm

Say a sentence out loud, but intentionally drop a word into it that breaks the rules of English grammar. Your child has to clap their hands to sound the "alarm" when they hear the incorrect word.
 Adult: "We walked down the street and beautifully into the store."
 Child claps: "Alarm! Beautifully can't be there."
 Discuss how the sentence could be reworded to include the alarm word.

Mad Libs

Play Mad Libs together. These can be found online for free or Mad Libs activity books can often be checked out from the library.

Word Train

Start a sentence, and your child must finish it. Then, they start the next sentence using the last word of your sentence as their clue.
 Adult: "I forgot my lunch box."
 Child: "Boxes are heavy to carry."
 Adult: "Carrying the groceries was hard."
 Maze requires a reader to constantly link the meaning of the word they just chose to the text coming up next. This game forces their brain to build tight, logical bridges between consecutive words.

Split-Second Synonym Snatch

Say a simple sentence. Immediately after, call out one of the words from that sentence. Your child has exactly two seconds to shout back a synonym for that word.
 Adult: "The giant bear roared. Giant!"
 Child: "Huge!"
 Adult: "The plane flew fast. Fast!"
 Child: "Quickly!"

Backward Builder

Create a sentence completely backward, phrase by phrase, and have your child guess the missing word based on the clues that build up.
 Adult: "...for dinner." (Child guesses: pizza, fish)
 Adult: "...he cooked over the campfire..." (Child narrows it down: hot dogs, marshmallows)
 Adult: "...the hamburgers..."

Did You Know?

The Maze assessment specifically measures a child's "working memory"—their ability to hold the beginning of a paragraph in their mind while simultaneously trying to solve a puzzle at the end of it.

