

Talk a Lot

Learning English

Sentence Blocks

1. (*Present Simple*) Ala is an English student at the smallest language school in Toruń.

Where

2. (*Present Continuous*) We're studying past perfect verbs after break.

When

3. (*Past Simple*) Leroy passed his exam last month because he did a lot of revision.

Why

4. (*Past Continuous*) Kenneth and Maria were writing the vowels and consonants of the English alphabet in their notebooks.

Who

5. (*Present Perfect*) I've finished both of my assignments.

How many

6. (*Modal Verbs*) Hayley has to do her homework before she goes to work tonight.

What

7. (*Future Forms*) Next week we're going to start Unit Three.

When

8. (*First Conditional*) If Ali passes his speaking exam, he will move up to level five.

Which

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*Note: the last two lines of each sentence block will vary. Below there are examples given for each sentence block, but students should think of their own way to get the negative forms in the last line. See the **Talk a Lot Elementary Handbook** for full instructions (available free from www.englishbanana.com).*

Answers

1. (Present Simple) Ala is an English student at the smallest language school in Toruń. / Where is Ala an English student? / At the smallest language school in Toruń. / Is Ala an English student at the smallest language school in Toruń? / Yes, she is. / Is Ala an English student at the largest language school in Gdańsk? / No, she isn't. Ala isn't an English student at the largest language school in Gdańsk.
2. (Present Continuous) We're studying past perfect verbs after break. / When are we studying past perfect verbs? / After break. / Are we studying past perfect verbs after break? / Yes, we are. / Are we studying past perfect verbs tomorrow morning? / No, we aren't. We aren't studying past perfect verbs tomorrow morning.
3. (Past Simple) Leroy passed his exam last month because he did a lot of revision. / Why did Leroy pass his exam last month? / Because he did a lot of revision. / Did Leroy pass his exam last month because he did a lot of revision? / Yes, he did. / Did Leroy pass his exam last month because he was lucky? / No, he didn't. Leroy didn't pass his exam last month because he was lucky.
4. (Past Continuous) Kenneth and Maria were writing the vowels and consonants of the English alphabet in their notebooks. / Who was writing the vowels and consonants of the English alphabet in their notebooks? / Kenneth and Maria were. / Were Kenneth and Maria writing the vowels and consonants of the English alphabet in their notebooks? / Yes, they were. / Were Daria and Jacob writing the vowels and consonants of the English alphabet in their notebooks? / No, they weren't. Daria and Jacob weren't writing the vowels and consonants of the English alphabet in their notebooks.
5. (Present Perfect) I've finished both of my assignments. / How many of your assignments have you finished? / Both of them. / Have you finished both of your assignments? / Yes, I have. / Have you finished only one of your assignments? / No, I haven't. I haven't finished only one of my assignments.
6. (Modal Verbs) Hayley has to do her homework before she goes to work tonight. / What does Hayley have to do before she goes to work tonight? / Her homework. / Does Hayley have to do her homework before she goes to work tonight? / Yes, she does. / Does Hayley have to make a birthday cake before she goes to work tonight? / No, she doesn't. Hayley doesn't have to make a birthday cake before she goes to work tonight.
7. (Future Forms) Next week we're going to start Unit Three. / When are we going to start Unit Three? / Next week. / Are we going to start Unit Three next week? / Yes, we are. / Are we going to start Unit Three in a fortnight? / No, we aren't. We aren't going to start Unit Three in a fortnight.
8. (First Conditional) If Ali passes his speaking exam, he will move up to level five. / Which level will Ali move up to, if he passes his speaking exam? / Level five. / Will Ali move up to level five, if he passes his speaking exam? / Yes, he will. / Will Ali move up to level six, if he passes his speaking exam? / No, he won't. Ali won't move up to level six, if he passes his speaking exam.

Sentence Block Extensions

For all of the sentence block starting sentences there are at least two different wh- question words that can be used to make sentence blocks. In one case up to four different sentence blocks can be made from the same starting sentence when using different wh- question words. There isn't room here to print in full all of the sentence block extensions from this unit. Hopefully, the answers given above will give you the teacher (or you the student) enough guidance to be able to make the sentence block extensions for this unit with confidence.

For example, let's look at the first starting sentence from this unit:

Ala is an English student at the smallest language school in Toruń.

On the handout the wh- question word that is given is "Where", but this starting sentence also works equally well with three other wh- question words: "What kind", "Who", and "Which":

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What kind of student is Ala at the smallest language school in Toruń? / An English student.

Who is an English student at the smallest language school in Toruń? / Ala is.

At **which** language school in Toruń is Ala an English student? / At the smallest language school (in Toruń).

The idea is easy. Change the wh- question word each time and you can make several completely different sentence blocks from the original starting sentence, simply by finding the relevant information for the answer in the starting sentence. As you can see, sometimes the same wh- question word can be used more than once to make different sentence blocks.

You could cut out and give the section below to students:



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Make new sentence blocks from the starting sentences in this unit using different "wh-" question words:

	WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	WHO	WHY	WHICH	HOW
1.	what kind			who		which	
2.	what (x2) what kind			who		which	
3.	what (x2)		when	who			
4.	what (x2)	where					
5.	what (x2)					which	
6.			when	who			
7.	what (x2)			who		which	
8.	what (x2)		when	who			

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Learning English

Sentence Blocks

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Sentence Blocks – Sentence Stress and Vowel Sounds

Task 1: Circle the content words in the following starting sentences. (For answer, see Task 2 below.)

Learning English

1. Ala is an English student at the smallest language school in Toruń.
2. We're studying past perfect verbs after break.
3. Leroy passed his exam last month because he did a lot of revision.
4. Kenneth and Maria were writing the vowels and consonants of the English alphabet in their notebooks.
5. I've finished both of my assignments.
6. Hayley has to do her homework before she goes to work tonight.
7. Next week we're going to start Unit Three.
8. If Ali passes his speaking exam, he will move up to level five.

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Sentence Blocks – Sentence Stress and Vowel Sounds

Task 2: Underline the stressed syllable in each content word, shown in black. (For answer, see Task 3 below.)

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Sentence Blocks

Sentence Blocks – Sentence Stress and Vowel Sounds

Task 3: Write the correct vowel sound above each stressed syllable (underlined). (For answer, see below.)

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1. Ala is an English student at the smallest language school in Toruń.
2. We're studying past perfect verbs after break.
3. Leroy passed his exam last month because he did a lot of revision.
4. Kenneth and Marja were writing the vowels and consonants of the English alphabet in their notebooks.
5. I've finished both of my assignments.
6. Hayley has to do her homework before she goes to work tonight.
7. Next week we're going to start Unit Three.
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Sentence Blocks – Sentence Stress and Vowel Sounds

Each content word (shown in black) contains one syllable with a strong stress, which is underlined. Each stressed syllable has one vowel sound. The vowel sounds on stressed syllables are the most important sounds in the sentence. They make the "sound spine" of the sentence. To improve communication, try to get the sound spine right.

Learning English

1. Ala is an English student at the smallest language school in Toruń.
/æ/ /ɪ/ /u:/ /ɔ:/ /æ/ /u:/ /ʊ/
2. We're studying past perfect verbs after break.
/ʌ/ /ɑ:/ /ɜ:/ /ɜ:/ /eɪ/
3. Leroy passed his exam last month because he did a lot of revision.
/i:/ /ɑ:/ /æ/ /ɑ:/ /ʌ/ /ɪ/ /ɪ/
4. Kenneth and Marja were writing the vowels and consonants of the English alphabet in their notebooks.
/e/ /ɪ/ /aɪ/ /aʊə/ /ɒ/ /ɪ/ /æ/ /əʊ/
5. I've finished both of my assignments.
/ɪ/ /əʊ/ /aɪ/
6. Hayley has to do her homework before she goes to work tonight.
/eɪ/ /u:/ /əʊ/ /əʊ/ /ɜ:/ /aɪ/
7. Next week we're going to start Unit Three.
/e/ /i:/ /ɑ:/ /u:/ /i:/
8. If Ali passes his speaking exam, he will move up to level five.
/æ/ /ɑ:/ /i:/ /æ/ /u:/ /ʌ/ /e/ /aɪ/