

Talk a Lot

Places in the UK

Sentence Blocks

1. (*Present Simple*) Debbie is British because she was born in England.

Why

2. (*Present Continuous*) My grandparents are heading for Stonehenge this morning, before driving to Bristol in the afternoon.

When

3. (*Past Simple*) In 1996 Kate Coleridge walked from Land's End to John o'Groats, to raise money for her local hospital.

Where

4. (*Past Continuous*) Stewart was studying Scottish History at Oxford, when he discovered his passion for Gaelic.

When

5. (*Present Perfect*) Barbara's climbed in Snowdonia five times in the past decade.

How many

6. (*Modal Verbs*) You *have* to see Giant's Causeway before you leave.

What

7. (*Future Forms*) Chloe's latest exhibition will visit Cardiff in August.

Which

8. (*First Conditional*) If you enjoy sunsets, you'll love the Norfolk Broads at dusk.

What

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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) Debbie is British because she was born in England. / Why is Debbie British? / Because she was born in England. / Is Debbie British because she was born in England? / Yes, she is. / Is Debbie British because she was born on a Thursday? / No, she isn't. Debbie isn't British because she was born on a Thursday.
2. (Present Continuous) My grandparents are heading for Stonehenge this morning, before driving to Bristol in the afternoon. / When are your grandparents heading for Stonehenge? / This morning, before driving to Bristol in the afternoon. / Are your grandparents heading for Stonehenge this morning, before driving to Bristol in the afternoon? / Yes, they are. / Are your grandparents heading for Stonehenge tomorrow? / No, they aren't. My grandparents aren't heading for Stonehenge tomorrow.
3. (Past Simple) In 1996 Kate Coleridge walked from Land's End to John o'Groats, to raise money for her local hospital. / Where did Kate Coleridge walk in 1996, to raise money for her local hospital? / From Land's End to John o'Groats. / Did Kate Coleridge walk from Land's End to John o'Groats in 1996, to raise money for her local hospital? / Yes, she did. / Did Kate Coleridge walk from Clumber Park to Skegness in 1996, to raise money for her local hospital? / No, she didn't. Kate Coleridge didn't walk from Clumber Park to Skegness in 1996, to raise money for her local hospital.
4. (Past Continuous) Stewart was studying Scottish History at Oxford, when he discovered his passion for Gaelic. / When did Stewart discover his passion for Gaelic? / When he was studying Scottish History at Oxford. / Did Stewart discover his passion for Gaelic when he was studying Scottish History at Oxford? / Yes, he did. / Did Stewart discover his passion for Gaelic when he was playing badminton with his friend? / No, he didn't. Stewart didn't discover his passion for Gaelic when he was playing badminton with his friend.
5. (Present Perfect) Barbara's climbed in Snowdonia five times in the past decade. / How many times has Barbara climbed in Snowdonia in the past decade? / Five times. / Has Barbara climbed in Snowdonia five times in the past decade? / Yes, she has. / Has Barbara climbed in Snowdonia six times in the past decade? / No, she hasn't. Barbara hasn't climbed in Snowdonia six times in the past decade.
6. (Modal Verbs) You *have* to see Giant's Causeway before you leave. / What do I have to see before I leave? / Giant's Causeway. / Do I have to see Giant's Causeway before I leave? / Yes, you do. / Do I have to see the new multi-storey car park before I leave? / No, you don't. You don't have to see the new multi-storey car park before you leave.
7. (Future Forms) Chloe's latest exhibition will visit Cardiff in August. / Which exhibition will visit Cardiff in August? / Chloe's latest exhibition will. / Will Chloe's latest exhibition visit Cardiff in August? / Yes, it will. / Will Chloe's first exhibition visit Cardiff in August? / No, it won't. Chloe's first exhibition won't visit Cardiff in August.
8. (First Conditional) If you enjoy sunsets, you'll love the Norfolk Broads at dusk. / What will I love, if I enjoy sunsets? / The Norfolk Broads at dusk. / Will I love the Norfolk Broads at dusk, if I enjoy sunsets? / Yes, you will. / Will I love the view of the power station at dusk, if I enjoy sunsets? / No, you won't. You won't love the view of the power station at dusk, if you enjoy sunsets.

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 nine 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 third starting sentence from this unit:

In 1996 Kate Coleridge walked from Land's End to John o'Groats, to raise money for her local hospital.

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On the handout the wh- question word that is given is "Where", but this starting sentence also works equally well with eight other wh- question words: "What", "Where" (2nd), "When", "Who", "Why", "Which", and "How" (x2):

What did Kate Coleridge do in 1996, to raise money for her local hospital? / She walked from Land's End to John o'Groats.

Where did Kate Coleridge walk to in 1996, to raise money for her local hospital? / To John o'Groats.

When did Kate Coleridge walk from Land's End to John o'Groats, to raise money for her local hospital? / In 1996.

Who walked from Land's End to John o'Groats in 1996, to raise money for her local hospital? / Kate Coleridge did.

Why did Kate Coleridge walk from Land's End to John o'Groats in 1996? / To raise money for her local hospital.

Which hospital did Kate Coleridge walk from Land's End to John o'Groats in 1996 to raise money for? / Her local hospital.

How did Kate Coleridge raise money for her local hospital in 1996? / By walking from Land's End to John o'Groats.

How did Kate Coleridge travel/get from Land's End to John o'Groats in 1996, to raise money for her local hospital? / She walked.

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 below, 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			who			
2.	what (x2)	where (x2)		who whose			
3.	what	where (2 nd)	when	who	why	which	how (x2)
4.	what (x4)	where		who		which	
5.	what	where		who		which	how often
6.	what (2 nd)	where	when	who		which	
7.	what	where	when	whose		which (2 nd)	
8.		where	when	who			

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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.)

Places in the UK

1. Debbie is British because she was born in England.
2. My grandparents are heading for Stonehenge this morning, before driving to Bristol in the afternoon.
3. In nineteen ninety-six Kate Coleridge walked from Land's End to John o'Groats, to raise money for her local hospital.
4. Stewart was studying Scottish History at Oxford, when he discovered his passion for Gaelic.
5. Barbara's climbed in Snowdonia five times in the past decade.
6. You *have* to see Giant's Causeway before you leave.
7. Chloe's latest exhibition will visit Cardiff in August.
8. If you enjoy sunsets, you'll love the Norfolk Broads at dusk.

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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.)

Places in the UK

1. Debbie **is** British because she was born in England.
2. My grandparents are heading for Stonehenge this morning, before driving to Bristol in the afternoon.
3. In nineteen ninety-six Kate Coleridge walked from Land's End to John o'Groats, to raise money for her local hospital.
4. Stewart **was** studying Scottish History at Oxford, when he discovered his passion for Gaelic.
5. Barbara's climbed in Snowdonia five times in the past decade.
6. You *have* to see Giant's Causeway before you leave.*
7. Chloe's latest exhibition will visit Cardiff in August.
8. If you enjoy sunsets, you'll love the Norfolk Broads at dusk.

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** The word "have" in "have to" is a modal form and therefore not a content word. However, in this sentence the speaker uses special intonation and stresses the word to emphasise that the listener must do something. In written English this is indicated by putting the word into italics.*

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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. Debbie is British because she was born in England.
2. My grandparents are heading for Stonehenge this morning, before driving to Bristol in the afternoon.
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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.

Places in the UK

1. Debbie is British because she was born in England.
/e/ /ɪ/ /ɔ:/ /ɪ/
2. My grandparents are heading for Stonehenge this morning, before driving to Bristol in the afternoon.
/æ/ /e/ /e/ /ɔ:/ /aɪ/ /ɪ/ /u:/
3. In nineteen ninety-six Kate Coleridge walked from Land's End to John o'Groats, to raise money for her local hospital.
/aɪ/ /aɪ/ /ɪ/ /eɪ/ /əʊ/ /ɔ:/ /æ/ /e/ /ɒ/ /əʊ/ /eɪ/ /ʌ/ /əʊ/ /ɒ/
4. Stewart was studying Scottish History at Oxford, when he discovered his passion for Gaelic.
/u:/ /ʌ/ /ɒ/ /ɪ/ /ɒ/ /ʌ/ /æ/ /eɪ/
5. Barbara's climbed in Snowdonia five times in the past decade.
/ɑ:/ /aɪ/ /əʊ/ /aɪ/ /aɪ/ /ɑ:/ /e/
6. You have to see Giant's Causeway before you leave.
/æ/ /ɪ:/ /ɪə/ /ɔ:/ /ɪ:/
7. Chloe's latest exhibition will visit Cardiff in August.
/əʊ/ /eɪ/ /ɪ/ /ɪ/ /ɑ:/ /ɔ:/
8. If you enjoy sunsets, you'll love the Norfolk Broads at dusk.
/ɔɪ/ /ʌ/ /ʌ/ /ɔ:/ /ɔ:/ /ʌ/