

Connectives

Objective

To practise writing and using connecting words and phrases.

Background knowledge

Connectives are words and phrases used to link clauses and sentences. They can be conjunctions, adverbs or adverbial phrases and have a variety of uses, including extending an idea, making comparisons, giving opposing ideas, contrasts, showing cause and effect or showing a sequence and the passage of time.

They are used to allow writing to flow and help the reader understand links between ideas or the sequence of events.

Left-handers may wish to lift their pen from the paper while joining, thus avoiding having to push awkwardly across the page. If the ink or pencil trace disappears, do not tell them they have to produce a joining mark. However, do ensure they are joining just above the paper, rather than printing. Left-handers may also want to produce a sharper, more italic-style exit to their end-low joins. This is fine as long as they leave enough space between their words and don't cramp their letters together.

Activities

● Photocopiable page 96 'Single-word connectives'

The children are given a word bank of single-word connectives. They choose connectives to make sense of sentences and write them in the gaps. Children have the opportunity to practise a variety of joins while writing the words. Remind them that 'x' can be joined if they wish, but if they are finding it tricky, they do not have to join it. Also remind them to dot the 'i's and cross the 't's when they finish writing the word.

● Photocopiable page 97 'Connecting phrases'

In this activity, children are given a choice of two connecting phrases to use within a specified context. They write the two phrases and then choose which is the best connective to use by giving the one they prefer a tick. Some choices are more obvious than others, but sometimes personal preference should be allowed. Children have the opportunity to practise a variety of joins while writing the words. Remind them that there should be equal spacing between the words. They then write out the whole sentence or sentences.

● Photocopiable page 98 'Compound connectives'

A list of simple words that can be combined to form connectives is provided. The children experiment with putting them together to see how many different connectives they can make. The children have the opportunity to practise a variety of joins while writing the words. Remind them that the two words should be combined to form a complete word with even spacing between each letter.

Further ideas

● **Connective pairs:** Provide groups with a collection of word cards, face down. Ask them to pick two words and put them together as a connective. When they are all used up, ask them to write down the ones that actually are connectives and discard the others.

● **Joining:** Provide the children with large sheets of paper and different writing mediums to practise the joins, such as salt (by pouring), paint or water (in squeeze bottles). Encourage them to practise writing connectives using large hand/arm movements.

What's on the CD-ROM



On the CD-ROM you will find:

- Tramline practice areas for all three activities.
- All of the photocopiable pages.