

THE SENTENCE BUREAU

Every great sentence is BUILT. Grab your tools, Agent.



Field Agent: Penelope

At the Sentence Bureau, we don't just read sentences — we **build** them. You will learn to tell a real sentence from a broken one, grow a tiny sentence into a mighty one, and join short sentences into strong ones. Your mission: become a **Sentence Architect**.

Sentence or Fragment?

A sentence is a COMPLETE THOUGHT.

THE RULE

Every real sentence has two parts:

NAMING PART	TELLING PART
The brown dog <i>who or what?</i>	chased the ball. <i>what does it do?</i>

Missing a part? Then it is a **FRAGMENT** — a broken piece, not a whole thought. “The brown dog” leaves us hanging: *the dog WHAT?*

1 Detective sort. Read each one. Does it have BOTH parts? Circle **SENTENCE** or **FRAGMENT**.

a) The owl hooted in the dark.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

b) A shiny red robot.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

c) Ran across the yard.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

d) My little sister laughed.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

e) The tall trees in the forest.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

2 Repair the fragments. Take each **FRAGMENT** above (b, c, e) and add the **MISSING** part so it becomes a whole sentence. Write your fixed sentence.

b) _____

c) _____

e) _____

Four Kinds of Sentences

Same job, different jobs — and each gets its own end mark.

Kind	What it does	Example	Ends with
Statement	Tells you something.	The map is real.	.
Question	Asks something.	Where is the map?	?
Exclamation	Shows big feeling.	We found it!	!
Command	Tells you to do something.	Bring the map.	.

1 Add the end mark. Read each sentence out loud. Write the right mark (. ? !) in the box.

a) The rocket is ready

b) Where did you hide the map

c) Watch out for the trap

d) Please close the door

e) Is it raining

f) That was amazing

2 Your turn to write. Write your OWN sentence of each kind. Mind the end mark!

a) A statement (ends with .)

b) A question (ends with ?)

c) An exclamation (ends with !)

Grow a Sentence

Ask questions to make a tiny sentence mighty.

THE MOVE

A bare sentence tells a little. Ask it **questions** — **who? what? when? where? why? how?** — and each answer you add makes it bigger and clearer.

The dog ran. → **The muddy dog ran across the yard because it heard the door.**

(what dog? · where? · why?)

1 Grow this kernel. Answer the questions in the boxes, then combine your answers into ONE big sentence on the line.

The dog ran.

WHAT dog?

WHERE?

WHEN?

WHY?

My big sentence:

2 No boxes this time, Agent. Grow this kernel on your own. Ask yourself who/what/when/where/why/how, then write ONE mighty sentence.

The ship sailed.

because • but • so

Three little words. Three ways to think.

THE KEYSTONE

Start a sentence, then finish it three different ways:

because → gives a **reason** • **but** → adds a **surprise** or opposite • **so** → tells what happens next

*The dragon was hungry **because** it had not eaten all week. • The dragon was hungry **but** it was too sleepy to hunt. • The dragon was hungry **so** it flew off to find a snack.*

1 Finish it three ways. Same beginning, three different endings.

She packed her bag...

because

a reason

but

a surprise

so

what happens next

2 Now a trickier one. Same three moves.

The volcano rumbled...

because

a reason

but

a surprise

so

what happens next

Detective's note: this is the same thinking you use everywhere — **because** is a cause, **but** is a contrast, **so** is a consequence. Three gears every good thinker keeps sharp.

Combine Two Into One

Short and choppy? Snap them together.

THE MOVE

Two tiny sentences can feel choppy. Join them with a word like **and**, **but**, **because**, or **so** to make one smooth, stronger sentence.

The wind blew.

+

The kite flew high.

→ The wind blew, so the kite flew high.

1 Combine each pair into ONE better sentence. The joining word is a hint — use it.

The cat was black.

+

The cat had green eyes.

a) (and)

It was raining.

+

We went outside anyway.

b) (but)

She won the race.

+

She trained every day.

c) (because)

2 Architect's challenge. Write TWO short choppy sentences of your own, then combine them into one.

Two short:

Combined:

The Big Case

Two tricky traps the best agents catch. Then — case closed.

1 The Run-On Trap. This one runs on and on with no stops. Read it out loud — you have to gasp for air! **Fix it** so each thought is its own closed sentence (split it, or join with words + end marks).

The storm rolled in the sky turned black we ran for the cave

(THREE sentences crashed together — where should the stops go?)

2 The Disguise Trap. One of these LOOKS like a sentence (capital letter, period) but is secretly a FRAGMENT. One is SHORT but is a real sentence. Circle each correctly, then **FIX** the fragment.

a) The enormous ship at the edge of the harbor.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

b) Ships sail.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

Fix the fragment: _____

3 Final build, Architect. Take this kernel, GROW it with a detail, AND finish with **because, but, or so.** One mighty sentence — everything you learned, together.

The lantern flickered.

CASE CLOSED!

You can tell a real sentence from a broken one, grow it, join it, and dodge every trap.
The Bureau is proud — you are a **Sentence Architect**.