

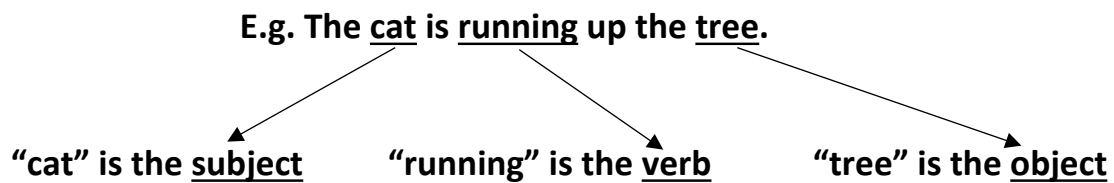
Sentences and Grammar

As your child learns to talk they will learn more words and start to say sentences.

Your child will need many different words to make sentences. Sentences are made of different kinds of words. Grammar helps us say sentences correctly.

Your child should start to use small sentences from just before 3 years of age.

Basic sentences are made up of = Subject – Verb – Object



These are the different kinds of words that we use to make sentences:

- **Pronouns** – Words for **who** you are talking about
(E.g I, me, he, she, his, her, your, us, we, they)
- When you read or tell stories, point out **pronouns** like “he” and “she”. Teach them that “he” is for boys and “she” is for girls.



- **Verbs** – **Action** words
(E.g. have, be, is, are, want, run, climb)
- Teach them more **action words** by acting them out and saying them. You can do this when you play, read, or even during bath or bedtime.

- **Tense** – Words for talking about **when**

(E.g. -ing, -ed, past, present and future tense)

- If your child makes a mistake with **tense**, say the correct word for them to hear.

For example:

Child: “the cat running yesterday”

Adult: “The cat **ran** yesterday, that’s right!”

- **Prepositions** – Words for **where** something is

(E.g. in, on, off, out, under, between, beside, in front)

- Play games to help teach **prepositions**. For example, hide a toy and ask them if the toy was “**in** the box” or “**under** the table”. This helps them see what the words mean in a fun way.

- **Determiners** – Helper words

(E.g. The, this, that, a, it)

- Teach them to use **helper words** like “the” and “is” by asking them to point to fingers and say each word in a sentence. For example, hold up four fingers, and point to each finger as you say the sentence “the cat is sleeping”. Then ask your child to try.

- **Plurals – Words for more than one thing**

(E.g. one horse – two horses)

- Help your child learn **plurals**. Teach them about the “s” or “z” sound at the end of the word. For example:

Child: “Look, two horse!”

Adult: “there are two of them, two horses.”

- **Words must be in the right order**

- If your child mixes up the words in a sentence, say it back to them correctly. For example:

Child: “Shop mum go”

Adult: “Yes! Mum goes to the shops”

If you are worried about your child’s talking or understanding, talk to your doctor about a speech pathology referral.