Sentence Comprehension

Sentence-level comprehension is critical for understanding connected text. As students build decoding skills and begin to recognize sentence-level context clues, they begin to read for meaning, develop their reading comprehension skills, and build their knowledge base.

Classroom Ideas

Teach or Review
As necessary, teach or review the concept of a sentence, emphasizing the importance of understanding the meaning of an entire sentence when reading. Use a simple example, such as Kim got on a ____ (bus/red), and model how you would determine the meaning and identify the correct word to complete the sentence. Discuss what it may be about and try each of the answer choices in the sentence blank. Choose the word that makes sense and discuss why. Have students draw a picture to match the sentence.

Mystery Word
Pick one or more pages from a familiar big book. Mask out key words in some of the sentences, with no more than one word missing per sentence. Read word choices for each sentence to students and then have them choose the word to fit and explain their reasoning. After the text on a page is complete, read the page aloud together.

Listening Lab
Read a brief passage to students that includes some words that do not make sense. Have students give a thumbs-down if they hear a word that is illogical and suggest an alternative.

Art Studio
Present one of three different decodable sentences to different students (e.g., A wet dog is on the rug, A big cat is on the bed, A red bug is in a net). Have students work independently to read and illustrate their sentence. After completing their illustrations, students should find other students that have illustrated the same sentence. To challenge students, distribute three sentences with only a slight variation between them (e.g., A mad/hot/wet pig is in the pen.).

Bingo
Give each student a bingo board with decodable words or pictures and review each. Then, read a series of sentences with one word missing. Students should place a token on the word or picture that could complete the sentence.

Curriculum Connection

To review vocabulary, orally present definitions for content-area vocabulary words with key words omitted. Challenge students to identify and generate words to complete the definitions.