

SENTENCE PATTERNING CHART

Bechtel, M. 2001. *Bringing it all together: Language and literacy in the multilingual classroom*. Carlsbad, CA: Dominie Press.

The *Sentence Patterning Chart* is an adaptation first developed by the McCrackens. It is created on a large piece of butcher paper to assist students with vocabulary, parts of a sentence and sentence structure. This strategies supports students in reading and writing, engaging them in a low anxiety environment.

ADJECTIVE	NOUN	VERB	PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE
sad tired lonely hard-working	miners	dig Work shovel	under the mountain an the rivers around the mining camps

Procedures:

1. Draw four or five columns on a large piece of butcher paper. For grades K 3 include adjectives, nouns, verbs and prepositional phrases. In grades 4 -6 you may add a column for adverbs.
2. Label each column using a different color for each column. For early grades and for Emergent Bilinguals, you may add a brief description below the name. (e.g., under Adjective, you may include “describing words”).
3. Select a plural noun. The noun may coincide with the key concept you are teaching in a content area unit or a book the students are reading. A plural noun avoids worrying about verb/subject agreement and the use of articles.
4. Have students volunteer vocabulary to include in each of the columns.
5. Chant the chart to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell” to create a sentence. Some of the sentences may be nonsensical – just adds to the fun.
6. Display the completed chart in your room for students’ reference.

Extensions:

- A. After they have practices chanting the various sentences, have students copy some of the words on word cards, using the same color as the chart. For younger students, you may create the cards.
 - Divide students in small groups. Make sure that younger students have all the cards they need to make complete sentences. Ask each group to put together the most interesting sentences, using all the their cards.

- Using *Numbered Heads Together*, one student reads one of the sentences the group created.
 - For older students provide a random set of cards. Ask students to create a sentence with two adjectives, one noun, one verb, one adverb and a prepositional phrase. If they do not have the necessary parts of speech in their set, they must “go trading” with another group.
- B. To practice comparative and superlative adjectives, add a strip of paper that covers the adjective column, and brainstorm the possibilities.
- C. Replace present tense verbs with participles or past tense verbs, to meet specific standards.