

Language Conventions

Sentence Shuffle

Objective

Students will arrange words and punctuation to make logical sentences.

Students can never get enough practice in sentence construction. In this game, students will work together to put shuffled sentence parts together in logical order. They will also discuss the purpose and placement of punctuation marks.

1. Tell students that practicing proper sentence structure—the arrangement of words and the use of punctuation—can help them become more effective writers. Write these sentence parts on the board. Ask volunteers how they could arrange the sentence parts to make a logical sentence, including punctuation.

may be able to travel in space

and very rich people have the opportunity

In the future

for now

regular citizens

only astronauts

2. Then write the entire sentence on the board, with the parts put together correctly. Discuss the function of each clause and punctuation mark. Tell students they are going to play a game in which they arrange sentence parts into logical sentences.

In the future, regular citizens may be able to travel in space; for now, only astronauts and very rich people have the opportunity.
3. Photocopy and cut out the sentence parts on the **Sentence Shuffle reproducible (page 57)**. Place each cut-up sentence into an envelope. Label the envelopes with numbers 1–6. On each envelope, list the punctuation marks the sentence requires, which is noted on the reproducible.
4. Divide the class into six teams. Give one envelope to each team. Teams must arrange the sentences parts into a sentence that makes sense, and then write the sentence on a piece of paper. As a team, they then add to the sentence the punctuation marks noted on the envelope.

Materials

- Sentence Shuffle reproducible
- Paragraph Shuffle reproducible
- scissors
- envelopes
- timer

Sentence Shuffle

Sentence 1 (2 commas, 1 period)

During the Middle Ages
the plague destroyed one-third
of the population in Europe
and it probably delayed
the discovery of the New World by
approximately 200 years

Sentence 2 (1 comma, 1 semicolon, 1 period)

Fleas carried the disease
from rodents
to people however most
people believed the disease
was a punishment
from God

Sentence 3 (3 commas, 1 period)

People were absolutely
terrified of the disease and
they left
their homes standing empty
their children or parents unburied
and their jobs without notice

Sentence 4 (3 commas, 1 colon, 1 period)

Symptoms of the plague
included the following
purple boils in the
armpits high fever
vomit with blood and finally
death in three days



Sentence 5 (1 comma, 1 period)

Because there were
so few workers
left servants and
serfs were able
to ask for higher
wages and better working conditions

Sentence 6 (6 commas, 1 apostrophe, 1 period)

The plague
also called the Black Death
killed a massive portion
of Europe's population
which led to
changes in trade music
art and many other things