

The Super Sentence Squad: Building Complete Thoughts

Materials Needed:

- Notebook or blank paper (at least 5 sheets)
- Pencils and erasers
- Two different colored highlighters or crayons (e.g., blue and red)
- Pre-written simple sentence strips (4-5 examples, some correct, some missing parts)
- "Super Sentence Checklist" handout (provided in the lesson)
- Timer (optional)

Learning Objectives (What Valentina Will Learn):

By the end of this lesson, Valentina will be able to:

1. Identify the two main parts of a simple sentence: the Naming Part (Subject) and the Action Part (Predicate).
2. Apply three essential mechanics of writing: starting with a capital letter, using finger spaces, and ending with punctuation.
3. Construct a grammatically complete "Super Sentence" that includes all five necessary elements.

Introduction (10 minutes)

Hook: The Mystery of the Missing Message

Educator (I do): "Valentina, imagine you get a secret message from a friend, but it looks like this: 'ran fast park'. Did that make sense? Did you know who ran? And why did they run? It sounds messy! We need to learn how to turn messy thoughts into crystal-clear messages, which we call 'Super Sentences.' Super Sentences follow five rules so everyone understands exactly what we mean!"

Stating Objectives and Success Criteria

Educator (I do): "Today, we are going to become Sentence Architects! We will learn the five essential parts needed to build a perfect sentence. When you can build a sentence that meets all five rules, you are successful!"

Success Criteria: You have built a Super Sentence if:

1. It has a Naming Part (Subject).
2. It has an Action Part (Predicate).
3. It starts with a Capital Letter.
4. It uses Finger Spaces between every word.
5. It ends with Punctuation (., ?, or !).

Body: Building the Super Sentence (35 minutes)

Phase 1: Introducing the Sentence Parts (I Do) (10 minutes)

Content Focus: Subject and Predicate

Educator (I do): "Every Super Sentence needs two main jobs done: the Naming Job and the Action Job."

- **The Naming Part (Subject):** This tells WHO or WHAT the sentence is about. Who is doing the action? (Use the blue highlighter for this.)
- **The Action Part (Predicate):** This tells WHAT the Naming Part is DOING. It always contains a verb, the action word. (Use the red highlighter for this.)

Modeling: Let's look at a sentence: *The brave astronaut floated to the moon.*

- (Model finding the Naming Part): "Who is the sentence about? *The brave astronaut*. I will color this blue."
- (Model finding the Action Part): "What did the astronaut DO? *floated to the moon*. I will color this red."

Transition: "Now that we know the two structural parts, let's add the three mechanical pieces."

Phase 2: Mechanics Check (We Do) (10 minutes)

Content Focus: Capitalization, Spacing, Punctuation

Educator (We do): "These three parts are like the protective armor for our Super Sentence—they keep it tidy and correct."

Activity: Sentence Surgery

1. **Capital Letter:** "Super Sentences always start with a tall, strong capital letter. If we forget, it looks like a whisper!"
2. **Finger Spaces:** "Words need their own space bubbles! We use finger spaces to separate words so they don't crash together."
3. **Punctuation Power:** "We must stop the sentence! This is the signal that our thought is finished. We use a period (.), a question mark (?), or an exclamation point (!)."

Guided Practice: Present Valentina with an incorrect sentence strip (e.g., "my dog chased the ball").

Educator and Valentina (We do): Work together to perform "Sentence Surgery."

- "Check 1: Does it start with a capital? (No, change 'my' to 'My')."
- "Check 2: Are there spaces? (Check by placing a finger between words). Good!"
- "Check 3: Does it have punctuation? (No, add a period at the end)."

Phase 3: Independent Practice and Application (You Do) (15 minutes)

Activity: The Super Sentence Chef

Educator (You do): "Now you are the Sentence Chef. You must create five perfect Super Sentences about your favorite things (or use these word prompts: robots, stars, bicycles, secret, fast). Use the checklist to make sure you don't miss any ingredients!"

Super Sentence Checklist Handout:

Rule	Check
1. Naming Part (Subject)	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Action Part (Predicate)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Rule	Check
3. Capital Letter Start	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Finger Spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. End Punctuation	<input type="checkbox"/>

Independent Task: Valentina writes three new sentences. As she writes each one, she uses the checklist and her highlighters (blue for Naming Part, red for Action Part) to verify all five rules are followed.

Conclusion (10 minutes)

Recap and Formative Assessment

Educator (Closure): "Great work, Sentence Architect! Let's quickly check your knowledge. I will start a sentence, and you tell me what it is missing."

1. **Educator:** "The cat slept." (Ask: Which words are the Naming Part? What is the Action Part?)
2. **Educator:** "today we went to the zoo." (Ask: What is missing at the beginning?)
3. **Educator:** "My brother rides his bike" (Ask: What is missing at the end?)

Summative Assessment: The Five-Star Sentence Challenge

Task: Valentina will write one final, complex sentence about something she plans to do this week (e.g., "I will read a mysterious book on Saturday").

Success Demonstration: Valentina must read her final sentence aloud and point to the part that satisfies each of the five rules for the educator/parent.

Differentiation and Extension

Scaffolding (Support for Struggling Learners):

- **Color-Coding Focus:** If identifying the Subject/Predicate is hard, use pre-written sentence frames where only the Naming Part or Action Part needs to be filled in (e.g., "The fluffy cloud _____ [action part]." or "_____ [naming part] watched the show.").
- **Visual Prompts:** Keep the Super Sentence Checklist visible at all times. Use a large visual chart showing the capitalization and punctuation marks.

Extension (Challenge for Advanced Learners):

- **Compound Sentences:** Challenge Valentina to join two Super Sentences together using coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) to create a longer, more complex thought. (e.g., "The dog barked, **and** the bird flew away.")
- **Sentence Revision:** Provide several poorly constructed paragraphs (run-ons, fragments, missing punctuation) and challenge Valentina to "edit for excellence," correcting all five rules across the entire passage.