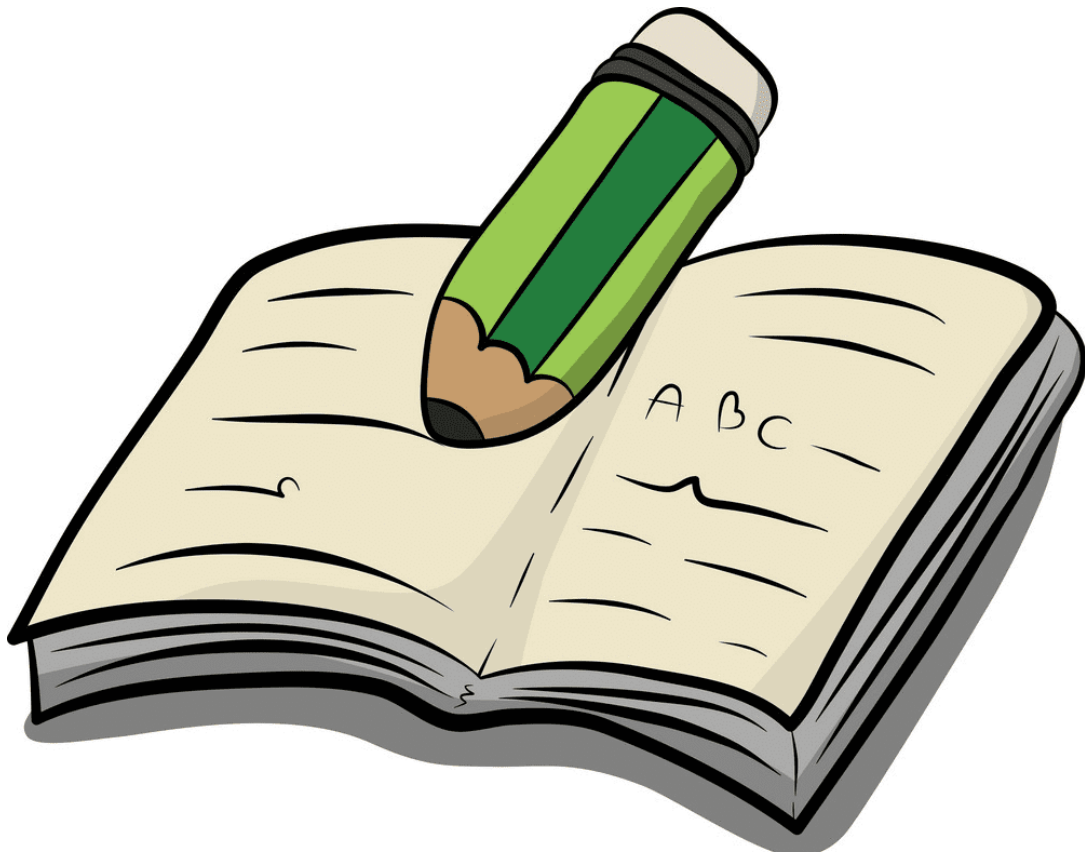


# Writing Activities and Games to Try at Home



We have put together a range of games and activities to make writing at home a purposeful and fun activity to do. It is split into a section of writing activities for you to do with your child on their own and then a section of games that can be played as a family or larger group. There are also some links to online English games at the end.

With all these activities, please support children in sounding out unfamiliar words, using a sound mat for reference if they need it (we have uploaded Sound Mats onto the website). The children have been taught to split up longer words into chunks/syllables to make it easier to sound them out. Phonetically plausible spelling is still the expectation at this point. Please remind children to use their handsome handwriting as much as possible. Have fun!



## Writing Activities

### Speech Bubbles

#### **What you will need:**

A piece of paper for drawing (or a printed cartoon) and a pencil

#### **What to do:**

- Start by having your child draw a picture with a character or two or print a picture with some favourite characters.
- Add speech bubble to create thoughts for your character (or a conversation if you drew more than one character). For example, if your character is a dog, maybe he's standing by an empty bowl. What might a hungry dog say? Some options could be, "Where's my food?" or "I hope they bring pizza!".
- Let your child's imagination run wild with possibilities for filling in the speech bubbles and enjoy this writing activity together by writing down the silly suggestions, too!

### Start a Journal

#### **What you will need:**

A notebook and whatever your child would like to write with.

#### **What to do:**

Writing a journal gives children the freedom to write about whatever they like. They might want to write the best part of their day, something they have been thinking about, worries they might have, great ideas or even things they are feeling thankful for that day. There are many types of journals available to buy for children with structured pages or you could just use a plain notebook that they can use however they want. You could encourage your child to spend a few minutes each day writing in their journal.

### Instructions from your Imagination

#### **What you will need:**

A notebook and whatever your child would like to write with.

#### **What to do:**

- Have fun creating some instructions for the following:
  - How to care for a pet unicorn
  - How to get to the end of the rainbow
  - Create a magical recipe (how to turn your teacher into a frog)
- Think of your own ideas and have fun creating some crazy instructions!



## **Keep a favourite book going**

### **What you will need:**

Any book you have finished reading, paper and a pencil.

### **What to do:**

Have you ever finished a book you wished would keep going? Thought a character should have acted in a different way or wanted to change a story's ending?

- Once your child has finished reading a book, have a discussion about something they would like to change in the story. Here are some question prompts to help discussions:
  - Did you like the ending? What could happen instead?
  - Did you think it was good when [character] [what they did]? What could they do instead?
  - What might happen next if the story didn't finish there?
- Ask your child to re-write the relevant part of the story to add in their changes. Can they add an illustration similar to those in the story to match?

## **Photo Scrap Book Captions**

### **What you will need:**

Copies of fun family photos, scrap book and pencils

### **What to do:**

This is a fun way to practise writing whilst making something for the children to keep and look back on.

- Work together to stick copies of fun family photos into a scrap book.
- Let the children write captions for the photos to remind themselves of what was happening and where they were. They might want to write them on scrap paper first then write them up in the scrap book using their best handwriting.
- This could be a fun gift to make for someone else as well which would give even more motivation for writing.



## Pairs Game

### **What you will need:**

Paper, pencils and a dice

### **What to do:**

This game gives inspiration for some silly sentence writing.

- Work together to choose six adjectives and six nouns and write them on a piece of paper.
- Number the adjectives and nouns 1-6.
- Roll a dice and first choose an adjective, then repeat and choose a noun.
- Use your noun and adjective to make a sentence. Your sentence has to make sense but can be silly.
- This game could also be played as a group – whoever has the silliest sentence is the winner!

## A sentence of 3...

### **What you will need:**

Paper, pencils and sentence openers.

### **What to do:**

This activity involves adding adjectives to describe a given character or object. A sentence of 3 has a lot of impact on the reader, for example, The queen was **huge**, **angry** and **badly dressed**.

- Choose a character or object to describe
- Write them down at the start of you sentence. For example:
  - The queen was...
  - The dragon was...
  - The alien was...
  - The volcano was...
  - The tree was...
- Choose three adjectives to describe the character or object.
- Write them down in your sentence, remembering to put commas between the first two adjectives and 'and' before the final one.



## Writing Games

### Roll the Dice

#### **What you will need:**

A piece of paper (preferably lined), a pencil, a dice

#### **What to do:**

This writing game is all about creating a fun story with your child using dice to determine how many words you get to add each turn.

- Start by having your child choose a main character and a setting, and a problem. For example, your character might be a cat, your setting might be a garden, and the problem might be that the cat needs to find some food.
- Write the first sentence of your story based on the character, setting, and problem you've chosen with your child. Using the example above, the first sentence might be, "Once, there was a cat in a garden who couldn't find any food."
- Once the first sentence is written, have your child roll the dice. Whatever number the dice lands on is the number of words they'll add to the story — not one word more or less!
- When they've added their words, it's your turn to roll the dice and write your next round of words based on the dice number.
- Take up to five turns each before finishing your story together by choosing an ending. Then read your story aloud to see how it all flows!

### Household I-Spy

#### **What you will need:**

A piece of paper and a pencil for every player, a timer

#### **What to do:**

This game is a bit like traditional I-Spy but with a writing twist! There are two ways to play.

- **Game 1:** Grab your paper and write each letter of the alphabet down the left-hand side. Once all the players have written the alphabet on your paper, set your timer for 10 minutes. Race from room to room to find and write down as many objects as possible that begin with each letter of the alphabet. Write each object next to its corresponding letter and fill in as many as you can within the time limit.
- **Game 2:** Choose one letter of the alphabet. Set your timer for between 5 and 10 minutes. Race from room to room to find and write down as many items as you can beginning with that letter.





## Accordion Stories

### **What you will need:**

A piece of lined paper and pencil for each player.

### **What to do:**

Play with two people or twenty, an accordion story is fun because you never know what's happened or going to happen until the end when the paper is unfolded and the story is read. Children who find writing more difficult would benefit from teaming up with an adult or more experienced writer for support.

- Each writer starts out with a piece of lined paper. On the top of the page, they begin a story by writing on two lines of the page. This can be one continuous sentence or a couple. **The important part is they write on two lines.**
- Once they finish, they fold down the first line so it can't be seen, and pass the paper, second line showing, to the next writer.
- The new writer writes two more lines, based on the one line they can see, fold down the top two lines, (the other writer's line and their first one) and passes the paper, their last line showing to the next writer.
- Continue until the paper is folded up tight like an accordion.
- Once complete, choose a good reader and story teller from the group to open the page up and read the story that is waiting. It probably won't make sense, but it is good fun and always makes people laugh!

## Secret Story-time

### **What you will need:**

A piece of paper and pencil for each player plus someone to lead the game.

### **What to do:**

This game is very similar to the Accordion stories but it is simpler and has more structure. Each time the paper is passed along, the game leader will give an instruction or ask a question following the structure below. Each child writes the answer to that question before passing the paper along.

- Each player writes down the name of a person or character on their paper.
- They fold it over so it can't be seen and pass the paper to the next player.
- The game leader gives the instruction for everyone to write down another character. All players write this on the paper, fold it again and pass it on.
- Keep passing until each of the following questions are answered:
  - Where did they go?

- 
- What did they do?
  - What did they say?
  - How did it end?
  - The last player unfolds the paper and uses the answers to tell the story.

## **Telephone Pictionary**

### **What you will need:**

A piece of plain paper and pencil for each player.

### **What to do:**

When this game is complete you will end up with a series of phrases and pictures. Does the final picture match the original phrase? Probably not!!

- Each player writes a descriptive phrase (including a noun and a verb) and passes it on to the next player. *For example, a big unicorn stood under the moon.*
- The second player has to draw what the first player has described. Fold over the first phrase so only the drawing can now be seen, and pass it to the next player.
- The third player has to understand the drawing by the second player and write a line or a phrase based on the drawing. Fold the paper to cover the first drawing so only the third player's phrase can be seen and pass it on.
- Pass the sheets around in the same manner until there is no room for writing or drawing on the sheet.
- Once they are complete, open the sheets and compare original sentences with final drawings and have fun laughing at the transformation.



## Online Games:

- **BBC Bitesize – Small Town Superheroes**

Join the Small Town Superheroes as they solve the problems and mysteries that occur in Small Town. You'll need to use your KS1 English skills to help the heroes complete all the missions.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zd63xyc/articles/zncgvk7>

- **BBC Bitesize – Karate Cats English**

Chop a capital letter, fly-kick a full stop or smash a sentence in this fun game for KS1 learners. Head to the dojo to train with the very best Karate Cats and rank up to become an expert in these important English topics!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zd63xyc/articles/zdp4pg8>

- **Topmarks Letters and Sounds Games**

A selection of games to support phonics learning. Use the tabs at the top to find more games to support punctuation and spelling.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds>

- **ICT Games – English Games**

A selection of games to support different areas of the English curriculum. Each game tells you underneath which area of English it supports.

<https://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/literacy.html>