

Talk a Lot

Films

Sentence Blocks

1. (*Present Simple*) My parents prefer classic comedies from the '80s, because they don't like special effects.

What kind

2. (*Present Continuous*) Leo is in Hollywood writing the screenplay for a low-budget horror movie.

Where

3. (*Past Simple*) Joe's friends saw a couple of award-winning films at the Odeon last weekend.

How many

4. (*Past Continuous*) Stacey was chatting up the projectionist just before the projector suddenly broke.

When

5. (*Present Perfect*) Alice has downloaded fifteen films from the internet this month.

Who

6. (*Modal Verbs*) You must rent the latest Johnny Depp DVD – it's cool!

Why

7. (*Future Forms*) Daisy and her boyfriend are going to watch a romantic comedy at the cinema on Valentine's Day.

Where

8. (*First Conditional*) If you buy the DVD boxset, you'll get the soundtrack on CD absolutely free.

What

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*Note: the last two lines of each sentence block will vary. Below there are examples given for each sentence block, but students should think of their own way to get the negative forms in the last line. See the **Talk a Lot Elementary Handbook** for full instructions (available free from <https://purlandtraining.com/>).*

Answers

1. (Present Simple) My parents prefer classic comedies from the '80s, because they don't like special effects. / What kind of films do your parents prefer?* / Classic comedies from the '80s. / Do your parents prefer classic comedies from the '80s? / Yes, they do. / Do your parents prefer political thrillers from the '70s? / No, they don't. My parents don't prefer political thrillers from the '70s.

* Alternative: *What kind of comedies do your parents prefer? / Classic comedies from the '80s. / etc.*

2. (Present Continuous) Leo is in Hollywood writing the screenplay for a low-budget horror movie. / Where is Leo writing the screenplay for a low-budget horror movie? / In Hollywood. / Is Leo in Hollywood writing the screenplay for a low-budget horror movie? / Yes, he is. / Is Leo in Cricklewood writing the screenplay for a low-budget horror movie? / No, he isn't. Leo isn't in Cricklewood writing the screenplay for a low-budget horror movie.

3. (Past Simple) Joe's friends saw a couple of award-winning films at the Odeon last weekend. / How many award-winning films did Joe's friends see at the Odeon last weekend? / A couple. / Did Joe's friends see a couple of award-winning films at the Odeon last weekend? / Yes, they did. / Did Joe's friends see three award-winning films at the Odeon last weekend? / No, they didn't. Joe's friends didn't see three award-winning films at the Odeon last weekend.

4. (Past Continuous) Stacey was chatting up the projectionist just before the projector suddenly broke. / When was Stacey chatting up the projectionist? / Just before the projector suddenly broke. / Was Stacey chatting up the projectionist just before the projector suddenly broke? / Yes, she was. / Was Stacey chatting up the projectionist just after the projector suddenly broke? / No, she wasn't. Stacey wasn't chatting up the projectionist just after the projector suddenly broke.

5. (Present Perfect) Alice has downloaded fifteen films from the internet this month. / Who has downloaded fifteen films from the internet this month? / Alice has. / Has Alice downloaded fifteen films from the internet this month? / Yes, she has. / Has Alice's sister downloaded fifteen films from the internet this month? / No, she hasn't. Alice's sister hasn't downloaded fifteen films from the internet this month.

6. (Modal Verbs) You must rent the latest Johnny Depp DVD – it's cool! / Why must I rent the latest Johnny Depp DVD? / Because it's cool. / Must I rent the latest Johnny Depp DVD because it's cool? / Yes, you must. / Must I rent the latest Johnny Depp DVD because it's cheap? / No, you mustn't. You mustn't rent the latest Johnny Depp DVD because it's cheap.

7. (Future Forms) Daisy and her boyfriend are going to watch a romantic comedy at the cinema on Valentine's Day. / Where are Daisy and her boyfriend going to watch a romantic comedy on Valentine's Day? / At the cinema. / Are Daisy and her boyfriend going to watch a romantic comedy at the cinema on Valentine's Day? / Yes, they are. / Are Daisy and her boyfriend going to watch a romantic comedy at Daisy's house on Valentine's Day? / No, they aren't. Daisy and her boyfriend aren't going to watch a romantic comedy at Daisy's house on Valentine's Day.

8. (First Conditional) If you buy the DVD boxset, you'll get the soundtrack on CD absolutely free. / What will I get absolutely free, if I buy the DVD boxset? / The soundtrack on CD. / Will I get the soundtrack on CD absolutely free, if I buy the DVD boxset? / Yes, you will. / Will I get some cinema tickets absolutely free, if I buy the DVD boxset? / No, you won't. You won't get some cinema tickets absolutely free, if you buy the DVD boxset.

Sentence Block Extensions

For all of the sentence block starting sentences there are at least two different wh- question words that can be used to make sentence blocks. In one case eight different sentence blocks can be made from the same starting sentence when using different wh- question words. There isn't room here to print in full all of the sentence block extensions from this unit. Hopefully, the answers given above will give you the teacher (or you the student) enough guidance to be able to make the sentence block extensions for this unit with confidence.

For example, let's look at the third starting sentence from this unit:

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Joe's friends saw a couple of award-winning films at the Odeon last weekend.

On the handout the wh- question phrase that is given is "How many", but this starting sentence also works equally well with six other wh- question words: "What", "Where", "When", "Who", "Whose", and "Which":

What did Joe's friends see at the Odeon last weekend? / A couple of award-winning films.

What did Joe's friends do last weekend? / They saw a couple of award-winning films at the Odeon.

Where did Joe's friends see a couple of award-winning films last weekend? / At the Odeon.

When did Joe's friends see a couple of award-winning films at the Odeon? / Last weekend.

Who saw a couple of award-winning films at the Odeon last weekend? / Joe's friends did.

Whose friends saw a couple of award-winning films at the Odeon last weekend? / Joe's friends did.

Which films did Joe's friends see at the Odeon last weekend? / A couple of award-winning films.

The idea is easy. Change the wh- question word each time and you can make several completely different sentence blocks from the original starting sentence, simply by finding the relevant information for the answer in the starting sentence. As you can see, sometimes the same wh- question word can be used more than once to make different sentence blocks.

You could cut out and give the section below to students:



Films

Make new sentence blocks from the starting sentences in this unit using different "wh-" question words:

	WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	WHO	WHY	WHICH	HOW
1.	what			who	why	which	
2.	what (x2)			who	why	which	
3.	what (x2)	where	when	who whose		which	
4.	what	where		who (x2)			
5.	what (x2)	where	when				how many
6.	what (x2)					which (x2)	
7.	what (x2) what kind (x2)		when	who whose			
8.	what (2 nd)		when				how

Talk a Lot Elementary Book 3



Talk a Lot

Films

Sentence Blocks



Sentence Blocks – Sentence Stress and Vowel Sounds

Task 1: Circle the content words in the following starting sentences. (For answer, see Task 2 below.)

Films

1. My parents prefer classic comedies from the '80s, because they don't like special effects.
2. Leo is in Hollywood writing the screenplay for a low-budget horror movie.
3. Joe's friends saw a couple of award-winning films at the Odeon last weekend.
4. Stacey was chatting up the projectionist just before the projector suddenly broke.
5. Alice has downloaded fifteen films from the internet this month.
6. You must rent the latest Johnny Depp DVD – it's cool!
7. Daisy and her boyfriend are going to watch a romantic comedy at the cinema on Valentine's Day.
8. If you buy the DVD boxset, you'll get the soundtrack on CD absolutely free.



Sentence Blocks – Sentence Stress and Vowel Sounds

Task 2: Underline the stressed syllable in each content word, shown in black. (For answer, see Task 3 below.)

Films

1. My parents prefer classic comedies from the '80s, because they don't like special effects.
2. Leo is in Hollywood writing the screenplay for a low-budget horror movie.
3. Joe's friends saw a couple of award-winning films at the Odeon last weekend.
4. Stacey was chatting up the projectionist just before the projector suddenly broke.
5. Alice has downloaded fifteen films from the internet this month.
6. You must rent the latest Johnny Depp DVD – it's cool!*
7. Daisy and her boyfriend are going to watch a romantic comedy at the cinema on Valentine's Day.
8. If you buy the DVD boxset, you'll get the soundtrack on CD absolutely free.

**Intonation: although auxiliary verbs are usually unstressed, the word "must" is stressed in this sentence to give added emphasis to the recommendation.*



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Sentence Blocks

Sentence Blocks – Sentence Stress and Vowel Sounds

Task 3: Write the correct vowel sound above each stressed syllable (underlined). (For answer, see below.)

Films

1. My parents prefer classic comedies from the eighties, because they don't like special effects.
2. Leo is in Hollywood writing the screenplay for a low-budget horror movie.
3. Joe's friends saw a couple of award-winning films at the Odeon last weekend.
4. Stacey was chatting up the projectionist just before the projector suddenly broke.
5. Alice has downloaded fifteen films from the internet this month.
6. You must rent the latest Johnny Depp DVD – it's cool!
7. Daisy and her boyfriend are going to watch a romantic comedy at the cinema on Valentine's Day.
8. If you buy the DVD boxset, you'll get the soundtrack on CD absolutely free.



Sentence Blocks – Sentence Stress and Vowel Sounds

Each content word (shown in black) contains one syllable with a strong stress, which is underlined. Each stressed syllable has one vowel sound. The vowel sounds on stressed syllables are the most important sounds in the sentence. They make the “sound spine” of the sentence. To improve communication, try to get the sound spine right.

Films

1. My parents prefer classic comedies from the eighties, because they don't like special effects.
/eə/ /ɜ:/ /æ/ /ɒ/ /eɪ/ /əʊ/ /aɪ/ /e/ /e/
/i/ /ɒ/ /aɪ/ /i:/ /əʊ/ /ʌ/ /ɒ/ /u:/
2. Leo is in Hollywood writing the screenplay for a low-budget horror movie.
/əʊ/ /e/ /ɔ:/ /ʌ/ /ɔ:/ /ɪ/ /ɪ/ /əʊ/ /a:/ /e/
/eɪ/ /æ/ /ʌ/ /e/ /e/ /ʌ/ /əʊ/
3. Joe's friends saw a couple of award-winning films at the Odeon last weekend.
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4. Stacey was chatting up the projectionist just before the projector suddenly broke.
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5. Alice has downloaded fifteen films from the internet this month.
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6. You must rent the latest Johnny Depp DVD – it's cool!
/eɪ/ /ɔ:/ /eɪ/ /ɒ/ /e/ /aɪ/ /e/
7. Daisy and her boyfriend are going to watch a romantic comedy at the cinema on Valentine's Day.
/aɪ/ /i:/ /ɒ/ /e/ /aʊ/ /i:/ /u:/ /i:/
8. If you buy the DVD boxset, you'll get the soundtrack on CD absolutely free.