

Talk a Lot

Problems

Sentence Blocks

1. (*Present Perfect Continuous*) Polly's been considering getting a divorce from Toby for quite some time.

How long

2. (*Past Perfect*) Kev's girlfriend had expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen.

Whose

3. (*Future Perfect*) Your acne will've probably cleared up before the school prom.

When

4. (*Second Conditional*) If Becs found out about William's bit on the side, she'd give him the boot in no time.

Who

5. (*Third Conditional*) If you'd dropped out of high school, you might've ended up on the rock'n'roll.

Where

6. (*Reported Speech*) At dinner last Friday, Kyle told Delia that he'd given up gambling.

What

7. (*Passive Voice*) Both of the red bills were paid immediately, because they were already overdue.

Why

8. (*Imperative Form*) Lose weight fast with the latest *E-Z-Loss*TM formula!

How

Talk a Lot

Problems

Sentence Blocks (without Function Words)

1. (*Present Perfect Continuous*) Polly' considering getting divorce Toby quite some time.
How long

2. (*Past Perfect*) Kev's girlfriend expected get little gift cleaning Jackie's kitchen.
Whose

3. (*Future Perfect*) acne ' probably cleared up school prom.
When

4. (*Second Conditional*) Becs found out William's bit side, ' give boot no time.
Who

5. (*Third Conditional*) ' dropped out high school, ' ended up rock' 'roll.
Where

6. (*Reported Speech*) dinner last Friday, Kyle told Delia ' given up gambling.
What

7. (*Passive Voice*) Both red bills paid immediately, already overdue.
Why

8. (*Imperative Form*) Lose weight fast latest E-Z-Loss™ formula!
How

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Sentence Blocks

*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** and **Intermediate Supplement** for full instructions (available free from <https://purlandtraining.com/>).*

Answers

1. (Present Perfect Continuous) Polly's been considering getting a divorce from Toby for quite some time. / How long has Polly been considering getting a divorce from Toby? / For quite some time. / Has Polly been considering getting a divorce from Toby for quite some time? / Yes, she has. / Has Polly been considering getting a divorce from Toby for a few hours? / No, she hasn't. Polly hasn't been considering getting a divorce from Toby for a few hours.
2. (Past Perfect) Kev's girlfriend had expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen. / Whose girlfriend had expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen? / Kev's girlfriend had. / Had Kev's girlfriend expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen? / Yes, she had. / Had Robin's girlfriend expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen? / No, she hadn't. Robin's girlfriend hadn't expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen.
3. (Future Perfect) Your acne will've probably cleared up before the school prom. / When will my acne have probably cleared up (by)? / Before the school prom. / Will my acne have probably cleared up before the school prom? / Yes, it will (have). / Will my acne have probably cleared up by tomorrow morning? / No, it won't (have). Your acne probably won't have cleared up by tomorrow morning.
4. (Second Conditional) If Becs found out about William's bit on the side, she'd give him the boot in no time. / Who would give William the boot in no time, if she found out about his bit on the side? / Becs would. / Would Becs give William the boot in no time, if she found out about his bit on the side? / Yes, she would. / Would Sherri give William the boot in no time, if she found out about his bit on the side? / No, she wouldn't. Sherri wouldn't give William the boot in no time, if she found out about his bit on the side.
5. (Third Conditional) If you'd dropped out of high school, you might've ended up on the rock'n'roll. / Where might I have ended up, if I'd dropped out of high school? / On the rock'n'roll. / Might I have ended up on the rock'n'roll, if I'd dropped out of high school? / Yes, you might (have). / Might I have ended up in a really good job, if I'd dropped out of high school? / No, you might not (have). You might not have ended up in a really good job, if you'd dropped out of high school.
6. (Reported Speech) At dinner last Friday, Kyle told Delia that he'd given up gambling. / What did Kyle tell Delia that he'd given up, at dinner last Friday? / Gambling. / Did Kyle tell Delia that he'd given up gambling, at dinner last Friday? / Yes, he did. / Did Kyle tell Delia that he'd given up alcohol, at dinner last Friday? / No, he didn't. Kyle didn't tell Delia that he'd given up alcohol, at dinner last Friday.
7. (Passive Voice) Both of the red bills were paid immediately, because they were already overdue. / Why were both of the red bills paid immediately? / Because they were already overdue. / Were both of the red bills paid immediately, because they were already overdue? / Yes, they were. / Were both of the red bills paid immediately, because you enjoy paying red bills? / No, they weren't. Both of the red bills weren't paid immediately because I enjoy paying red bills.
8. (Imperative Form) Lose weight fast with the latest *E-Z-Loss*[™] formula! / How could I lose weight fast? / With the latest *E-Z-Loss*[™] formula! / Could I lose weight fast with the latest *E-Z-Loss*[™] formula? / Yes, you could. / Could I lose weight fast with a rival weight-loss formula? / No, you couldn't. You couldn't lose weight fast with a rival weight-loss formula.

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 seven 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 33 of the sentence block extensions from this unit. Hopefully, the answers provided 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 sixth starting sentence from this unit:

At dinner last Friday, Kyle told Delia that he'd given up gambling.

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Sentence Blocks

On the handout the wh- question word given is "What", but this starting sentence also works equally well with six other wh- question words: "What" (x2), "Where", "When", and "Who" (x2):

What did Kyle tell Delia at dinner last Friday? / That he'd given up gambling.

What did Kyle do at dinner last Friday? / Tell Delia that he'd given up gambling.

Where did Kyle tell Delia that he'd given up gambling last Friday? / At dinner.

When did Kyle tell Delia that he'd given up gambling? / At dinner last Friday.

Who told Delia that he'd given up gambling, at dinner last Friday? / Kyle did.

Who was told that Kyle had given up gambling, at dinner last Friday? / Delia was.

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 below, 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 your students:

Problems

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

	WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	WHO	WHY	WHICH	HOW	Total:
1.	what (x2)			who (x2)				4
2.	what (x2) what kind			who	why			5
3.	what (x2)			whose				3
4.	what (x3)		when	who (2 nd)				5
5.	what			who			how	3
6.	what (x2)	where	when	who (x2)				6
7.	what		when			which	how many	4
8.	what		when			which		3
Total:								33

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Problems

Sentence Blocks

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Sentence Blocks – Sentence Stress and Vowel Sounds

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

Problems

1. Polly's been considering getting a divorce from Toby for quite some time.
2. Kev's girlfriend had expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen.
3. Your acne will've probably cleared up before the school prom.
4. If Becs found out about William's bit on the side, she'd give him the boot in no time.
5. If you'd dropped out of high school, you might've ended up on the rock'n'roll.
6. At dinner last Friday, Kyle told Delia that he'd given up gambling.
7. Both of the red bills were paid immediately, because they were already overdue.
8. Lose weight fast with the latest *E-Z-Loss*TM formula!

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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.)

Problems

1. Polly's been considering getting a divorce from Toby for quite some time.
2. Kev's girlfriend had expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen.
3. Your acne will've probably cleared up before the school prom.
4. If Becs found out about William's bit on the side, she'd give him the boot in no time.
5. If you'd dropped out of high school, you might've ended up on the rock'n'roll.
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Problems

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.)

Problems

1. Polly's been considering getting a divorce from Toby for quite some time.
2. Kev's girlfriend had expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen.
3. Your acne will've probably cleared up before the school prom.
4. If Becs found out about William's bit on the side, she'd give him the boot in no time.
5. If you'd dropped out of high school, you might've ended up on the rock'n'roll.
6. At dinner last Friday, Kyle told Delia that he'd given up gambling.
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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.

Problems

- /ɒ/ /ɪ/ /e/ /ɔ:/ /əʊ/ /aɪ/ /ʌ/ /aɪ/
1. Polly's been considering getting a divorce from Toby for quite some time.

/e/ /ɜ:/ /e/ /e/ /ɪ/ /ɪ/ /i:/ /æ/ /ɪ/

 2. Kev's girlfriend had expected to get a little gift for cleaning Jackie's kitchen.

/æ/ /ɒ/ /ɪə/ /ʌ/ /u:/ /ɒ/

 3. Your acne will've probably cleared up before the school prom.

/e/ /aʊ/ /aʊ/ /ɪ/ /ɪ/ /aɪ/ /ɪ/ /u:/ /əʊ/ /aɪ/

 4. If Becs found out about William's bit on the side, she'd give him the boot in no time.

/ɒ/ /aʊ/ /aɪ/ /u:/ /e/ /ʌ/ /ɒ/ /əʊ/

 5. If you'd dropped out of high school, you might've ended up on the rock'n'roll.

/ɪ/ /ɑ:/ /aɪ/ /aɪə/ /əʊ/ /i:/ /ɪ/ /ʌ/ /æ/

 6. At dinner last Friday, Kyle told Delia that he'd given up gambling.

/əʊ/ /e/ /ɪ/ /eɪ/ /i:/ /e/ /u:/

 7. Both of the red bills were paid immediately, because they were already overdue.

/u:/ /eɪ/ /ɑ:/ /eɪ/ /i:/ /ɔ:/

 8. Lose weight fast with the latest E-Z-Loss™ formula!