

Fluency Strategy

Strategy: Zipped Up Sentences.

Appropriate Grade Level: K-5

Materials Needed:

- Strips of oak tag or index cards
- Pencil, pen, or marker and scissors
- Sentences that explain or describe vocabulary words (can use content vocabulary too)
- Zip lock plastic baggies
- Timer

Procedures/Steps:

1. Write a complete sentence on a piece of oak tag or an index card.
2. Cut up the sentence into individual words (or phrases).
3. Put the pieces in a zip lock plastic bag.
4. Have the student empty the bag and arrange the pieces to create a sentence.
5. Use a timer to target fluency and automaticity.

Comments/Tips:

- Be careful that students *don't confuse fluency with speed*. Children who focus on reading with breakneck speed tend to lose comprehension in the process.
- For *content area study*, write sentences that explain or describe vocabulary that students need to know. For example, you might write: **A habitat is a place where a living organism can get all its needs met.** To make this *self-checking*, have a word written on the back of the strip before you cut it apart. For example, the sentence above on habitat might reveal the word **environment** when the pieces are arranged in the correct sequence and then flipped over.

Source: Goodman, G. (2008). *Interventions for struggling learners: putting RTI into practice.*