



TeachingLive | Season 7 | Podkin | Week 10 | TEACHING
NOTES | Instructions | Monday 12th December, 1100am

Today's Game – The 'because' game

A quick warm-up to get our creative juices flowing. In pairs or threes, create sentences that hinge round the word 'because'.

[Notes on the next page may be handy.](#)

The Objective – to rapidly create sentences using a complex sentence with two clauses, linked by 'because' – a causal conjunction.



The Because Game

You need an opening statement, e.g.

Tina slept on the sofa.

Partner A explains why, using **because**, e.g.

Tina slept on the sofa because she was tired.

Partner B takes the second part of the sentence and explains why, e.g.

Tina was tired because she had been running.

Partner A takes the second part of the sentence and explains why, e.g.

Tina had been running because she was being chased.

Partner B takes the second part of the sentence and explains why, e.g.

Tina was being chased because she had stolen a sandwich.

And so on – here are some statements that can be used or create your own:

The dog wagged its tail.

Tina ran down the street.

Bob jumped over the hedge.

Mr Cookie picked up the phone.

The lion stepped onto the bus.

The dragon knocked at the door.

The unicorn spread its wings.

Padlet – children have a few minutes to complete one or more ‘post it notes’. The challenge is to write ideas explaining how to look after a pet unicorn, dragon, giant, troll or other mythical creature. The children should build this, sentence by sentence, using adverbs of time in order followed by a comma. Each adverb should be followed by an imperative verb as shown in the model below. Provide these sentence openers for those who need a helping hand.

The Objective – to write sentences instructing, using imperative verbs and temporal language to organise chronologically.

Adverb of time	Example using imperative verb
<i>First,</i>	First, create an enclosed space where your pet will be happy.
<i>Next,</i>	Next, provide a soft blanket for your unicorn to sleep on and make sure there is a shaded area, preferably with leaves.
<i>Then,</i>	Then, talk to your unicorn and stroke it gently.
<i>Also,</i>	Also, provide water, fresh leaves, grass and edible flowers as a basic diet.
<i>After that,</i>	After that, exercise your pet daily by taking it outside to trot around.
<i>Later on,</i>	Later on, make the time to play with your baby unicorn.
<i>Finally,</i>	Finally, sing to your pet and play the radio quietly.

Jotcast activity – instructional & causal language

Provide the sample sentence starters and grid on the next page in the children's books or have it available as a handout or on display. Ideas should now be extended with an explanation.

Adverb of time	Example using imperative verb
<i>First,</i>	First, create an enclosed space where your pet will be happy <u>so that</u> it cannot escape and get into danger.
<i>Next,</i>	Next, provide a soft blanket for your unicorn to sleep on and make sure there is a shaded area, preferably with leaves <u>as</u> unicorns live in forests.
<i>Then,</i>	Then, make sure you talk to your unicorn and stroke it gently <u>since</u> they like nothing more than human contact.
<i>Also,</i>	Also, provide regular water because unicorns become thirsty. They also need fresh leaves, grass and edible flowers as a basic diet. <u>This will result in</u> a healthy unicorn.
<i>After that,</i>	After that, exercise your pet daily by taking it outside to trot around. <u>However,</u> be very careful that there are no dogs or cats around that <u>might result in</u> frightening your baby unicorn.
<i>Later on,</i>	Later on, make the time to play with your baby unicorn <u>otherwise</u> it might pine away.
<i>Finally,</i>	Finally, sing to your pet and play the radio quietly <u>because</u> unicorns like music. If you are lucky, your pet may dance for you!

Causal Language	Temporal Language
<i>Because, as, so, so that, as a result, since consequently, this causes, the reason that, this means that, this results in, therefore, when,</i>	<i>First / Next / After that / Then Later on / Finally In the end</i>

Gallery Challenge – create a unicorn den.

1. First, cut a box to your desired shape; it will need a roof halfway across one side to create a sheltered area for your unicorn.
2. Paint the inside of your sheltered area in a colour of your choice. The sheltered area on this unicorn den is white.



3. Then, paint the grass and sky area on the rest of the box.
4. Next, create the long grass for the flowers to grow in. Paint cardboard tubes green. Make small slits around one end of each tube, this will make the tabs for attaching it to the box. On

the opposite end of the tubes make longer, thinner slits- these slits can be snapped at the corners to make them look like blades of grass, which can then be bent into shape. Once you've done this bend the tabs out and stick to the grass area of your box.



5. After that, design flowers and leaves so the den looks more appealing to your unicorn. You can do this by cutting leaf and petal shapes out of coloured paper. Stick the petals on pipe cleaners or lolly sticks to resemble flowers. If you're feeling more adventurous you could try making origami flowers by following online tutorials. Arrange the flowers in the long grass and glue the leaves into place on top of the roof.



6. Now, take some tin foil and mould it to form a water bowl. Find a nice piece of soft material to use as a blanket for your unicorn to curl up in at nap time.



7. After that, add some pipe cleaners to the front edge of the sheltered area to stop your unicorn from wandering off at night, we all know how curious these creatures can be!



9. Finally, show it to your unicorn and help them to settle in.

Blogging Model

How to look after a baby unicorn

Have you just been given a baby unicorn to look after? Are you wondering how on earth you will manage to take good care of such a precious creature? Fear not. Read these instructions and you will be able to enjoy your pet and have the pleasure of watching it develop healthily.

What you need: living quarters, a soft blanket, shade, water bowl and edible flowers, grass and leaves, plenty of kindness.

What to do:

First, create an enclosed space where your pet will be happy so that it cannot escape and get into danger.

Next, provide a soft blanket for your unicorn to sleep on and make sure there is a shaded area, preferably with leaves as unicorns live in forests.

Then, talk to your unicorn and stroke it gently since they like nothing more than human contact.

Also, provide regular water because unicorns become thirsty. They also need fresh leaves, grass and edible flowers as a basic diet. This will result in a healthy unicorn.

After that, exercise your pet daily by taking it outside to trot around. However, be very careful that there are no dogs or cats around that might result in your baby unicorn becoming afraid.

Later on, make the time to play with your baby unicorn otherwise it might pine away.

Finally, sing to your pet and play the radio quietly because unicorns like music. If you are lucky, your pet may dance for you!

Unicorns make wonderful pets but eventually will outgrow any house. Consequently, you will have to release your pet into the wild. This will be a sad day but if you have treated it well then it will return. Unicorns are faithful to those who treat them kindly.

Blogging Activity – instructional writing with some causal language.

The model text is given on the previous page. The children's writing could be about looking after a pet unicorn, dragon, goblin, etc.

Objective – learning to write instruction, using a coherent overall structure as well as temporal and causal language.

Audio Challenge – If children want to record their own blog ensure that they have read it aloud a number of times. They should read it slowly and clearly with expression. This could be worked on in pairs or threes so that children can develop their performance.

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Appendices

How to Look After a Pet Dragon

Have you ever wanted to keep a unique pet? If so, purchase a dragon from the local hatchery. You will never be bored.

However - a pet dragon is not easy to care for and you will need to follow these instructions. If not, you may find that your baby dragon becomes a fiery nuisance!

What you need: a dragon whistle, a collar, plenty of food and a dragon's den.

What you do.

* Your pet dragon will roam freely. However, if you use a dragon whistle then it will come whenever you call. Dragons have very good hearing so that even if your pet has flown into a distant valley, it will hear your whistle and fly to you.

* A good collar is a necessity because your dragon may be curious and stray. Even young dragons can be very strong so the collar should be made of the finest dwarf metal. A collar will be essential if you intend to put your dragon in for a 'Best Baby Dragon Competition'.

* Dragon mealtimes can be scary so follow these instructions to the letter or you may be scorched!

- First, collect dragon food such as mice, rats and the bodies of other lesser creatures.
- Next, lay the dragon feast on a flat rock.

- After that, provide a bucket of water because dragons always like to drink after eating.
- Finally, retire to a safe distance before letting your pet out for its dinner.
- Remember that a hungry dragon may well mistake you for its next meal so a simple disguise is essential.



- Keep your pet lodged in a simple dragon's den. These have to be custom made and can be purchased at your local 'Dragons R'Us' store. They should be made of fireproof material so that you do not end up by calling the fire brigade. At first, you may keep a very young dragon in the house but as it grows larger, you will have to find an outdoor spot as a sleeping dragon will snore loudly. They have also been known to cause house fires accidentally.

A final note of warning.

Dragons are not just for birthdays. They are for a lifetime. As your pet matures, it will be able to communicate with you telepathically. It will protect you from danger and of course a trained dragon will allow its owner to ride on it as it flies. Many owners treat their dragons by polishing their scales with the juice of sun flames and feed them titbits such as cloud berries.

One final word of caution. Dragons cannot help hoarding. It will always be their instinct to collect and hide anything bright, shiny or valuable. This means that you must hide away anything that glitters otherwise your dragon may steal your treasures!

How to Keep a Dragonlet.

Are you bored by your pets? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have the most thrilling pet in the world? Why not tame a baby dragon (dragonlet)? Follow these simple instructions and soon this most magnificent of creatures will easily be tamed.

What you need: a newly laid dragon's egg, a warm fire, a water bucket, a sturdy metal chain, coloured glass beads and a book of dragon rhymes and tales.

What you do.

- a. First, find a dragon's egg and keep it at a high temperature until the baby dragon hatches.

Locating an egg may not be as easy as you imagine. Dragons are very cautious about where they make their nests. These are often found in deep caves on craggy mountains.

- b. Next, keep your baby dragon well-fed, watered and warm.
- c. Now, begin to train your baby dragon, or 'dragonlet', to carry out basic functions such as 'fetch and carry' and 'sit'. This can be done by rewarding good behaviour with small treats such as moon berries.
- d. After that, use a sturdy metal chain and allow the dragon to fly short distances. It is helpful at this stage to make sure that the dragon becomes used to a light-weight saddle.
- e. Discourage your dragon's hoarding instincts by providing a small pile of coloured glass as their own treasure.
- f. Make sure that you talk to your pet. They enjoy bedtime stories, nursery rhymes and riddles.

- g. Finally, make sure that your dragonlet has a daily fly for exercise and is allowed to breathe fire only to light bonfires or to help with rapid roasting!

A final note.

You can only fully tame a dragon that has just been born otherwise they soon develop into cunning creatures that can never be fully trusted. Wild dragons do not really make good



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Appendices

- An explanatory text model explaining how a dragon's fire works.
- Model text – how a teacher-pleaser machine works.
- Model text – how the tidy your bedroom machine works
- Teaching notes for explanatory writing.

How a Dragon's fire works.

Everyone knows that the large majority of dragons breathe fire. This characteristic is both fascinating and terrifying. However, for many years no-one knew how dragons were able to produce fire. However, recent research carried out by Professor Gradon has revealed the mysterious nature of dragon-fire.

Dragons are renowned for their amazing ability to breath fire. In order for his to happen, they have to eat a quantity of fire-coals which are only found on the edge of volcanoes. These provide the fiery energy that a dragon needs to produce fire. Most animals would find this impossible because the fire would burn their skin and flesh. However, dragons have developed a thin fire-chute which is covered in a layer of steel that is fire-resistant. As a result of this, the dragons breathe fire without fear of damaging themselves.

In order to provide enough blast of wind, the dragon's lungs have sufficient blowing power due to a muscular mechanism that pumps their lungs like a pair of bellows. As a result, a fully-grown dragon can blow enough fire to incinerate a tree or melt a knight in full armour. Furthermore, if dragons fly close to the sun, they absorb extra heat through their scales.

Dragon hunters are now familiar with how a dragon's fire works. However, their real problem is to avoid being burned. As a result of the threat of fire, many hunters wear flame-proof clothing.

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The 'Teacher-Pleaser' machine' - How it works

Do you suffer from a grumpy teacher? If so, then use the 'Teacher-Pleaser' machine and soon your teacher will become the jolliest person in school. How does the machine work?

To start the machine running, you have to wind up the clockwork handle. This provides enough energy to turn the large wheel which causes the apple dispenser to work. As the wheel spins, this also causes the tea mug to heat up so that a fresh, warm cup of tea can be served. When your teacher receives a lovely cup of tea and an apple, she will feel in a good mood instantly.

If the wheel begins to slow down, turn the handle again. As a result, the clockwork machinery speeds up the wheel. This means that you can turn on one of the best features of the 'Teacher-Pleaser'. Press the red button on the top of the machine. This will result in starting up the pencil-sharpener. Therefore in 30 seconds you can sharpen every pencil!

Furthermore, if you press the green button then a spinning brush appears which will sweep up and recycle any pieces of paper so that your class can be clean and tidy. The 'Teacher-Pleaser' also writes notes saying, '*You are the best teacher in the world*'. Finally, there is an in-built calendar to alert you to your teacher's birthday so you remember to buy a present.

Use one of these amazing machines because it will keep your teacher happy. Therefore your school life will be a breeze!

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The 'Tidy Your Bedroom' Machine - How it Works

Does your bedroom look as if a gorilla has been on the rampage? Has keeping your room tidy become an issue? If so, you could use a 'Tidy Your Bedroom Machine' to

keep your parents happy. But how does it actually work?

Take your machine into the bedroom and place it on the floor. It is quite easy to carry because it is made of a light metal called aluminium so that children can easily use it.

First of all, it is important to start the machine. Pull down the red handle and release it. This causes the spring to bend. When you release the handle, the spring shoots up. The power from this pushes the machine into life. As a result of this surge of energy, the machine will have sufficient strength to grab clothes, close doors and even sweep the floor.

If the spring is set in motion again, the extra power will allow the machine to polish any surfaces. The additional boost of energy also means that it can extend a metallic 'grabber-arm' which can pick up books, old pieces of clothing and toys. The arm is extendable because it may need to reach under the bed for lost socks.

However, the machine will need careful programming because it cannot think for itself and therefore the results can be disastrous. Be careful to use the small computer to give specific instructions so that the machine does tidy your room rather than destroy it.

If you treat the 'Tidy Your Bedroom Machine' with care, it will last for years. Make sure that the spring is not over-used or it runs the risk of breaking. This will mean that you will have to tidy your own mess!

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Teaching notes for Machine Explanations.

Introducing the Topic.

Children have a natural inclination towards being ‘inventors’. Years ago, Edward de Bono wrote a book which had children’s designs for a ‘dog walking machine’. The idea of designing machines can be used in an imaginary way or real machines might be made. One class of year 5s I taught, designed marble sorting machines. The idea was to design and make a machine that could sort marbles by their sizes.

One word of warning – because children enjoy drawing their inventions so much, it is easy to forget that you are also teaching them to ‘explain’ how it works. It helps to keep the key language feature in your mind, causal connectives - words such as – *this causes, this means that, so, when, as a result, therefore, because*. Children often muddle instructions with explanations. Explanations tell the reader ‘how’ things work’ or ‘why’ things happen. They are about one thing resulting in another – cause and effect.

when	this results in	because	so	so that
this causes	this means that	as a result	if	therefore

Explanation Warmup.

Most explanatory writing that children are asked to do is rather dull. As a fun warm up provide them with the list of challenges below. They have to work in pairs and explain any of these to their partner – but – they have to use the words **‘as a result’**. I

have given an example so that you can see the sort of thing that they might say.

Explain to your partner why -
● rainbows don't wobble in the wind? ● do mice live in holes? ● do cats purr? ● does the moon change shape? ● do some teachers shout? ● do ostriches bury their heads in the sand? ● do boys wear gel? ● did the wolf pretend to be granny? ● was the troll so angry? ● is a banana curly? ● does a banana have a skin?

'It is a little known fact that ostriches are very nervous birds. They do not like sudden noises. If an ostrich happens to be near someone who shouts this makes them very frightened. As a result, they bury their heads in the sand so that they cannot hear or see what is happening.'

Working with the texts.

To begin the topic, you might ask the children to think of different machines that help us in our lives, e.g. cars, washing machines, bicycles, etc. Then make a list of machines of the future – robots and machines that would be handy to have such as a 'homework' machine which completes your homework in seconds!

Begin by working on the ‘teacher-pleaser’ as it is a simpler model. Ask the children to read the explanation and then draw the ‘teacher-pleaser’, labelling it’s key parts. In pairs they should then explain how it works. Of course, to do this they will need to have carefully read the explanation and use the causal connectives. Have these on cards so that the children can rehearse their sentences. They could role-play this, with one of them in role as a sales person explaining to the customer how the machine works.

The children could then design their own ‘teacher-pleaser’, adding other features and follow the same structure and language features to create simple explanations. Once they have written and illustrated their explanations, these could be swapped and their writing partner might check to see if they have managed to write a clear explanation, focussing on how their machine works. It helps if they underline the actual explanatory sentences, where the connectives are used.

The ‘Tidy-your-bedroom’ machine is harder. Read and discuss, using the following ideas to help the children deepen their understanding of the text and to internalise the language patterns.

- Read and draw the machine, labelling it.
- Read through and underline the causal connectives.
- Work in pairs. one of you is the child who has just been given the machine. The other is the parent who has to explain how it works.
- Pretend you are an interviewer on a programme called ‘How Do They Do That’. Interview the designer of the machine, asking them to explain how it works.

Work with the children to develop ‘the ingredients for writing an effective explanation’. Use the list as a guide for the class

shared writing, the children's own writing and evaluation. They will notice such key points as:

- Use a clear title so the reader knows what the explanation is about.
- Begin with an opening that makes the reader want to read on. A good 'hook' to use is a question.
- Make the explanation easy to follow.
- Use the causal connectives to show how one thing leads to another.
- Simple drawings help the reader if sections are hard to explain in words.
- You may need to use 'time' connectives to organise the sequence in which things happen, e.g. First, next, after that, etc.
- Use 'you' or 'your' to talk to the reader.
- End the explanation with any key points, reminders or ideas.

Design a machine and explain how it works.

Decide with the class a list of possible ideas for machines. You can lead into this by listing ideas for machines that help with everyday problems, sorting out things that you do not like doing or what would make life a real luxury. Here are some ideas that children made up.

- A cat feeding machine.
- A washer-upper.
- A homework machine.
- A playground fun-maker.
- A world disaster-beater.
- A chocolate-shape maker.
- The ideal child's bedroom.
- A recycling machine.

- A machine to keep a baby happy.
- An ideal bicycle.

The first stage is to give the children time to design their machines. These could be simple pencil drawings that are labelled. The next stage is for the children to work in pairs. They take it in turns to explain how their machine works. In order to do this it is worth putting the key connectives onto cards and explain that the children have to use the connectives to aid their explanation. Hear some of the explanations as a class and identify the specific sentences where the explanation is made, using the connectives, to show cause and effect.

Select one machine idea and use shared writing to involve the children in writing up an explanation at the right level. Make sure that the sentences explain 'how' the machine works by using the causal connectives. You will need a simple 3 part structure that introduces what you are about to explain, followed by the explanation of how it works with an ending. It is also useful to add in a diagram to visually show how the machine works. As a result – you will have written an explanation!

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How to Trap a Frost Dragon

Are you kept awake at night by the sound of Frost Dragons crunching bones? Do not despair; help is at hand. Frost Dragons must be defeated. Read these instructions and soon, you too will be rid of these terrible beasts.

What you need: a magical spade, a brown sheet, some sticks and leaves and a large lump of tasty meat.

What you do:

1. First, dig a deep pit.
2. Next, cover the pit with the brown sheet.
3. After that, scatter on the sticks and leaves.
4. Finally, place the large lump of tasty meat on top.
5. Now, hide behind a tree and wait.
6. In the end, the Frost Dragon will not be able to resist the temptation and will, therefore, fall into the pit.
7. Dispose of the captured Frost Dragon with care and in an environmentally friendly manner. To prevent it ever returning, move the Frost Dragon as far away from human beings as possible.

Hopefully, you will be freed from this fearful Frost Dragon forever.

WARNING! Do not enter a Frost Dragon's cave as its treasure may be enchanted.

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How to trap a Frost Dragon



② What You need:



3) What you do:

pit
trench

First, → 

Next, → 

After that, → 
Finally, → 

Now, → 

In the end, → 

Dispose



To prevent



Hopefully,



Warning
Do not



as



How to Trap a Frost Dragon	
beginning	Storm, Chinese, frost,
type of dragon:	Life destroyer, shape-shifting, never-ending, pumpkin, fire breathing
what you need:	1) spade trowel, digger, hire a dog, dumper 2) sheet truck, shovel rug, magic carpet, 3) sticks and leaves grass, turf branches, fake grass 4) tasty meat crusty meat, chunks a steak, meat, chicken drumstick
what you do:	First, Next, After that, In the end, Finally, Chinese Now,
Warning: Where?	rocket planet Saturn Arctic, underground cave, Dragon World, China
Conclusion	astronaut Neil Armstrong sudden snow wicked in winter

What you need:

magical spade	brown Sheet	some sticks and leaves	large lump of tasty meat
wide bladed Shovel	waterproof tarpaulin	poisoned ivy and freshly sawn timber	fresh joint of succulent lamb
Sharp pointed trowel/ ditch	opaque rug made from mixed fabric	sweet scented roses with pointed thorns	round freshly boiled ham ^{bone}
dangerous digger	green ragged towel	Autumn leaves laced with rat poison	barbecue rib of pork
razor sharp JCB drill digger	Sheet of short cut turf	twisted wigs slow sinking mud	juicy wild boar
		from The Forest of Dean	Freshly caught

6/11/12

Ben

^{x get}
magical

What you do:

digger
dog

1.) First, lead the digger dog to scratch the earth ^{and} ~~and to~~ form a deep, dark trench.

rug

2.) Next, stretch the camouflaged rug and spread it on top of the trench.

turf

3.) After that, swiftly smooth the turf over and flatten ~~stretch~~ gently.

meat
chunks

calmly.

- 4.) Finally, drop four spicy meat chunks carefully on top of the camouflaged turf.
- 5.) Now, hide behind an Autumn tree and wait.

- 6.) In the end, the Chinese dragon will trip and tumble into the deep, dark trench.
- Dispose of the dragon gently and smoothly bribe it into a waiting dustbin.
- To stop it coming back take it far, far away to Chinese dragon world where there are no humans.
- A final word of warning:
Do not enter a shape shifting dragon's cave because there may be a twister twirling and twithering. Also a hurricane could knock you out of the cave.
- Word of warning:
George
- izzling

Here is a copy of the boxed up planner that the children used, showing the key parts of the model text and leaving space for the children to write in their ideas.

<u>Beginning:</u> (Type of dragon.)	<u>Instructions</u> 'Are you kept awake at night	
<u>What you need:</u>	a magical spade, a brown sheet...	1. 2. 3. 4.
<u>What you do:</u> (The steps to take.)	1) 'First, dig a deep pit. 2) Next, ...	
<u>Ending:</u> (Word of warning.)	Dispose of the captured Frost dragon with care... To prevent it ever returning, remove the Frost dragon... Do not enter a Frost dragon's cave as...	

How to Keep a Dragonlet

Are you bored by your pets? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have the most thrilling pet in the world? Why not tame a baby dragon (dragonlet)? Follow these simple instructions and soon this most magnificent of creatures will easily be tamed.

What you need: a newly laid dragon's egg, a warm fire, a water bucket, a sturdy metal chain, coloured glass beads and a book of dragon rhymes and tales.

What you do

- h. Keep your dragon's egg at a high temperature until the baby dragon hatches.

Locating an egg may not be as easy as you imagine. Dragons are very cautious about where they make their nests. These are often found in deep caves on craggy mountains.

- i. Next, keep your baby dragon well-fed, watered and warm.
- j. Now, begin to train your baby dragon, or 'dragonlet', to carry out basic functions such as 'fetch and carry' and 'sit'. This can be done by rewarding good behaviour with small treats such as moon berries.
- k. After that, use a sturdy metal chain and allow the dragon to fly short distances. It is helpful at this stage to make sure that the dragon becomes used to a lightweight saddle.
- l. Discourage your dragon's hoarding instincts by providing a small pile of coloured glass as their own treasure.

- m. Make sure that you talk to your pet. They enjoy bedtime stories, nursery rhymes and riddles.
- n. Finally, make sure that your dragonlet has a daily fly for exercise and is allowed to breathe fire only to light bonfires or to help with rapid roasting!

A final note

You can only fully tame a dragon that has just been born. Otherwise they soon develop into cunning creatures that can never be fully trusted. Wild dragons do not really make good pets but you may be able to gain their respect by solving riddles. Of course, you can also gain a dragon's interest by offering it large quantities of treasure.

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How to Look After a Pet Dragon

Have you ever wanted to keep a unique pet? If so, purchase a dragon from the local hatchery. You will never be bored.

However, a pet dragon is not easy to care for and you will need to follow these instructions. If not, you may find that your baby dragon becomes a fiery nuisance!

What you need: a dragon whistle, a collar, plenty of food and a dragon's den.

What you do

- a) Your pet dragon will roam freely. However, if you use a dragon whistle then it will come whenever you call.
Dragons have very good hearing so even if your pet has flown into a distant valley, it will hear your whistle and fly to you.
- b) If you need to make sure that your dragon stays near you then a good collar is a necessity. Even young dragons can be very strong so the collar should be made of the finest dwarf metal. A collar will be essential if you intend to put your dragon in for a 'Best Baby Dragon Competition'.
- c) Dragon mealtimes can be scary so follow these instructions to the letter or you may be scorched!
 - First, collect dragon food such as mice, rats and the bodies of other lesser creatures.
 - Next, lay the dragon feast on a flat rock.

- After that, provide a bucket of water as dragons always like to drink after eating.
- Finally, retire to a safe distance before letting your pet out for its dinner.
- Remember that a hungry dragon may well mistake you for its next meal so a disguise is essential.

d) Keep your pet lodged in a basic dragon's den. These have to be custom made and can be purchased at your local 'Dragons "R" Us' store. They should be made of fireproof material. At first you may keep a very young dragon in the house but as it grows larger, you will have to find an outdoor spot as a sleeping dragon will snore loudly. They have also been known to cause house fires accidentally.

A final note of warning

Dragons are not just for birthdays. They are for a lifetime. As your pet matures, it will be able to communicate with you telepathically. It will protect you from danger and of course a trained dragon will allow its owner to ride on it as it flies. Many owners treat their dragons by polishing their scales with the juice of sun flames and feed them titbits such as cloudberry.

One final word of caution: dragons cannot help hoarding. It will always be their instinct to collect and hide anything bright, shiny or valuable. This means that you must hide away anything that glitters.

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Further teaching notes for Dragon Instructions

Introducing the Topic

Dragons are always popular. You could start by mocking up a front page from the local newspaper, stating that dragons have been sighted in the local area. Alternatively, there are 3 mocked up news clips on 'YouTube' about dragon sightings in Louisville that are ideal to introduce the topic.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ae1nMWcllQM>

Working with the texts

To begin the topic, you might ask the children to think of different ways to trap the dragon. In order to write their instructions, it helps to learn a version. Use the simple 'How to Trap a Dragon'. This can be learned orally, using pictures and actions.

Once the children know the basic model, work out the underlying pattern and language features. They can then use these to work on a class version using a different method for dragon trapping. Use shared writing to model the writing, pitching it at the right level given the children's abilities. They can then follow this by writing up instructions for their own different methods for dragon trapping.

Once they have written and illustrated their instructions these could be swapped and their writing partner might check to see if they have managed to write a clear set of instructions that would be easy to follow. Children give each other feedback.

The set of instructions about keeping a pet is harder. Read and discuss, using the following ideas to help the children deepen their understanding of the text and to internalise the language patterns.

- Pretend you are an interviewer on 'Dragon Watch'. Interview an expert about how to keep a pet dragon.
- Role-play purchasing a dragon's den from the local store.

- Sit the children ‘back-to-back’ so that they can role-play a phone-in about ‘how to feed a baby dragon’ to a radio show’s Dragon Agony Aunt.

Work with the children to develop ‘the ingredients for writing an effective set of instructions’. Use the list as a guide for the class shared writing, the children’s own writing and evaluation. They should notice such key points as:

- Use a clear title so the reader knows what the instructions will be about.
- Begin with an opening that makes the reader want to read on. A question often makes a good ‘hook’.
- In the opening, make it clear why the reader should read the instructions.
- List ingredients in order.
- Make any instructions easy to follow.
- Organise what has to be done using numbers, letters or bullet points.
- Use simple drawings to help the reader if sections are hard to explain in words.
- Use ‘bossy’ verbs, e.g. ‘**Throw** the meat to the pet’ to tell the reader what needs to be done.
- Use ‘time’ connectives to organise the order, e.g. First, next, after that, etc.
- Use ‘you’ to talk to the reader, e.g. ‘You may now need to hide.’
- End the instructions with any key points or reminders.

Writing Your Own Dragon Keeper’s Handbook

Decide with the class what a dragon keeper’s handbook would have in it – brainstorm a list of possible chapter headings and then organise into a sensible order, e.g.

- Feeding a baby dragon
- How to house your pet
- How to find a lost baby dragon
- How to ride a dragon
- How to stop your pet from entering the sewage system
- Caring for a dragon’s teeth

- How to keep a dragon's fire bright
- How to communicate with a dragon
- How to teach a dragon to sing
- How to keep a dragon amused
- Answering dragon riddles and surviving.

Pairs or individuals can write up different sections of the guide. These should be illustrated. For the class shared writing, everyone should agree one section to work on together. Make sure that you model with the children the language patterns of instruction, with sufficient embellishment to suit your class.

Publish your handbook on the internet or turn it into a guide that can be duplicated for other classes to read. Ideally, hold a class assembly so that the class can inform the whole school about how they can trap a dragon and keep one as a pet. What fun! I have included a model text about trapping an ogre and a mini set of magical instructions, just in case you get invaded by giants or need a magical boost in your class.



How to Trap an Ogre

Are you kept awake by the sound of ogres tramping through your garden? Do you lie in your bed trembling at the sound of another car being squashed? Do you awake to smashed walls and footprints in the flower beds? Do you live in fear of what might await you round the corner? Do your knees knock at the thought of a walk to the corner shop? If so, the likelihood is that you have an ogre in the neighbourhood!

Do not despair. Help is at hand. Ogres are not so hard to defeat, as they are rather dim-witted. Read these step-by-step instructions and soon you too could be rid of this terrible pest.

What you will need: a spade, a brown sheet, tent pegs, a sack of leaves, some branches, plenty of soil, a large lump of meat.

What you have to do:

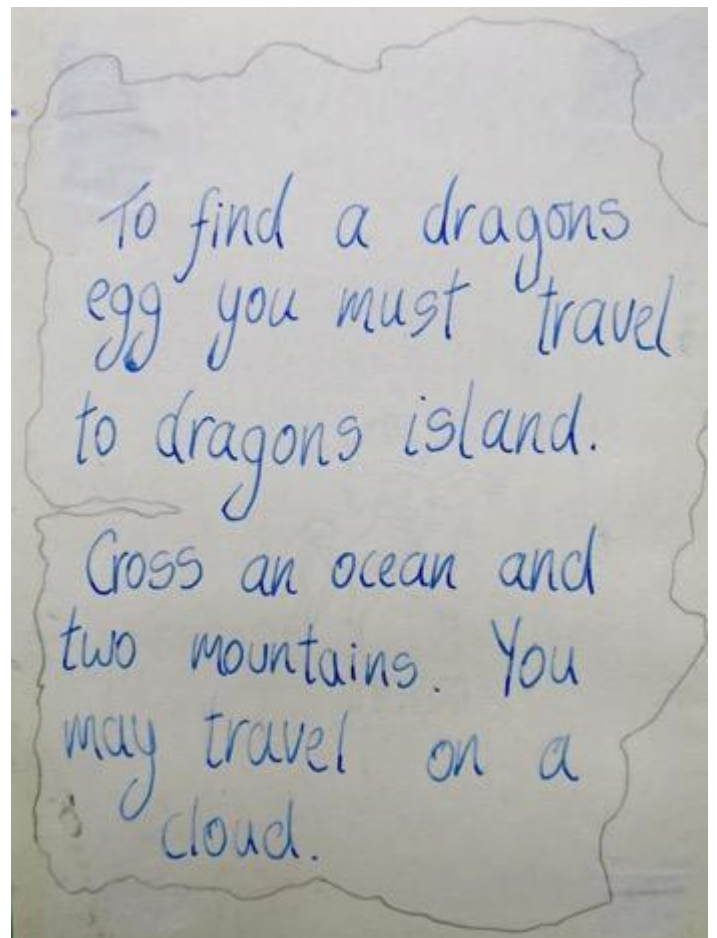
- 1 First, you must dig a very large and deep hole. This needs to be deep enough to hold the ogre.
- 2 Secondly, you must cover the hole with a brown sheet that is pinned securely by tent pegs into the earth.
- 3 After that, scatter leaves, a few branches and enough soil on top of the sheet to cover it.
- 4 Now you have to tempt your ogre by placing a large lump of meat on top of the sheet.
- 5 Hide nearby and wait.
- 6 Soon the tempting smell of the meat will reach the ogre's nose.
- 7 Eventually, the ogre will come along and try to get the meat.
- 8 In the end, it will not be able to resist the food and therefore will fall straight into the pit.

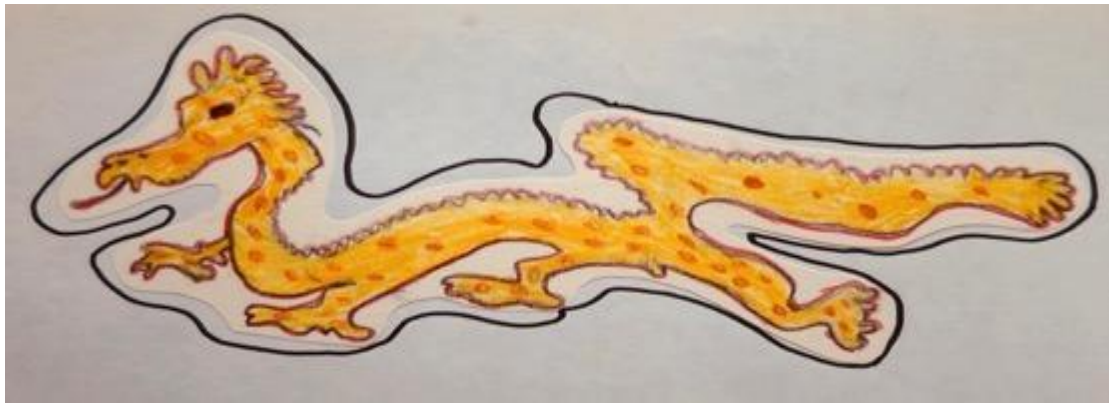
Important note

An angry ogre can be a frightening sight, so keep all little children inside. The ogre will try to escape so make sure that you do not go too near the edge in case it can reach over the top. Some ogres try to bargain their way out. They may sob and weep and beg for their freedom. They may even promise you vast wealth, pretending that they know the whereabouts of a dragon's treasure trove. Do not be fooled. Ogres are in the main very stupid and only think of eating and sleeping.

Magical Instructions

Whisper your heart's secret.
Stand in moonlight
by an ancient lake.
Turn round three times
as midnight strikes.
Walk towards the brightest
star.
Knock at the wooden gate that
has never been seen before.
If a unicorn is there, ask for
your destiny.
If you are met, be a shadow...
run westwards!





Here are some examples of a 'double page' presentation of work from Mrs. Silva's class. What matters most is the standard of writing and the progress made. Prettifying poor writing does not improve the quality of the writing. However, leading towards a final, carefully presented piece can be part of encouraging everyone to try hard, be accurate, write effectively and present work with pride for an audience. This can be done in the children's books, on the blog or through creating an online book.

