

# Powerful Sentences Patterning Chart and Cards

How did they do that again. . .

- When you introduce the PSPChart to the students, the noun should be plural (so verb form does not need to change and irregular verbs do not cause more confusion than necessary). Once the students are working independently, they will be able to adapt their words according to their chosen topic.
- When using the PSPCards, do not capitalize the starter/transition. When the students move the travelers around to create more “powerful” sentences, the teacher will point out the correct use of capitalization and commas.
- To elicit proper suggestions for adjectives from the students, use the phrase “The teacher is so \_\_\_\_\_.”
- To elicit proper suggestions for verbs from the students, use the “I like to \_\_\_\_\_.”

Classroom Activities:

- The Farmer in the Dell – students choose parts of speech and “travelers” with Post-it notes. Whole class “sings” the sentence to the tune of The Farmer in the Dell while the student points in time.
- The teacher can choose the words/phrases ahead of time (to make sure the different “travelers” actually form a sentence that makes sense) and pass out cards to children to hold. The rest of the class rewrites the sentence by actually moving the students around to get into a new order. Smaller classes can do the same activity with the cards on the white board (magnets), on the floor, or resting on the eraser ledge. If you trust your students, you can ask them for different parts of speech and “travelers” for the same activity.
- Students can use the same strategy independently with a large blank worksheet and small Post-it notes. They write the parts of speech/phrases on Post-its and move the Post-its around to form their sentences. A next step could be transferring the sentence to a white board for the teacher to double-check. The final sentence is then written on the worksheet or writing assignment. This multiple step approach is especially helpful when students have writing assignments and are stuck! For the reluctant writer, having multiple opportunities to brainstorm and practice their writing, lets them build confidence
- Warm-up Activity or Stretch Challenge – teacher gives the students a “boring” sentence such as “The dog runs” and the students (individually or in small groups) must turn it into a “powerful” sentence.