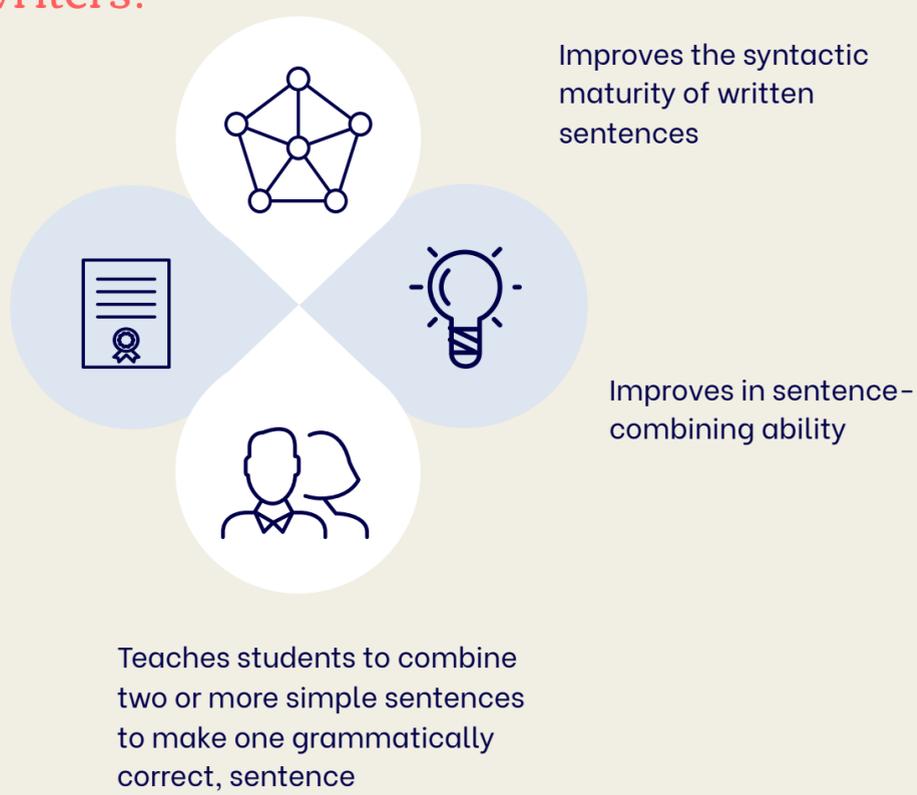


A Sentence-combining Intervention for Developing Writers

*** The Study:** effects of a writing intervention designed to supplement classroom teaching and support the writing skills of students who are at risk of falling behind their peers

What are effective interventions for struggling writers?

1 Sentence Combining Interventions



2 Morphological spelling interventions

- Reflect the shift in focus of classroom-based instruction in upper primary from phonology to morphology
- Improve children's spelling, sentence combining, and text-level writing.



3 Writing assessments

- Inform progress in writing skills during an intervention
- Assessments often focus on quality of the text, using holistic or analytical scoring.

*Curriculum-based Measures of Writing are:

- Quick to administer, reliable, valid, and sensitive to change
- Useful tools for evaluating interventions.

Intervention effectiveness

- Spelling intervention may have some text-level impacts.
- Differences in lexical diversity may result from increased confidence to attempt unfamiliar words and exposures to new words during the intervention



Findings

- Sentence-combining interventions can be an effective tool for improving children's writing regarding sentence combining
- Children may need to be proficient in single word spelling to benefit from sentence combining
- Sentence combining is more appropriate for struggling writers whose primary area of difficulty is reading
- Researchers should consider language profiles when devising interventions for struggling writers

Tips for Teachers:



Reading skills are important for the initial response to the sentence combining intervention



Children with better oral language skills also develop their writing skills faster



For children who do not have significant spelling difficulties, sentence combining interventions may be more suitable

Reference: [Walter, K., Dockrell, J., & Connelly, V. \(2021\). A sentence-combining intervention for struggling writers: response to intervention. Reading and Writing, 1-26.](#)