



EduTrend Contents

G4C · STORYTELLING AND WRITING GAMES · PRIMARY

One Word at a Time

Build a group story one word each, record it on a board and improve one part together

Ages 6–10

Level: Developing

10 minutes

Circle of 4–10

Activity 02

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 02 · AT A GLANCE

One Word at a Time

Players sit in a circle and build a story by adding one word each in turn. An adult or confident writer records it on a board. At the end, the group reads the story aloud and suggests one change to make it clearer. The game builds listening, grammar awareness and quick thinking.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- listen to build a sentence;
- notice grammar;
- think quickly;
- suggest a clear improvement.

KEY WORDS

word · sentence · listen · grammar · improve · clear

CURRICULUM LINKS

English: grammar, sentence structure and narrative.

1**WARM UP**

Words and ideas ready

2**EXPLAIN**

One game, one rule

3**TELL**

Say it first

4**WRITE**

Record the story

5**IMPROVE**

Change one thing

6**SHARE**

Read aloud

Materials (whole group)

- Whiteboard and pen (optional)
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Set up a board.
- Model a few turns.
- Choose a scribe.
- Agree the pass rule.

SAFETY

Allow short phrases for anyone who needs them. Keep stories invented and kind.

ACTIVITY 02 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Separate the ideas stage from the correction stage.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–1 min Warm up	Name story openers.	<i>"How do stories start?"</i>
1–2 min Explain	One word each.	<i>"Does your word make sense next?"</i>
2–7 min Play	Build the story.	<i>"What word fits here?"</i>
7–10 min Improve	Read aloud; change one thing.	<i>"What would make it clearer?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Add a word that makes sense with the words before it.

ACTIVITY 02 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The story writing know-how in brief

Games make revision feel natural when a listener needs more clarity.

Building a sentence one word at a time trains grammar awareness.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Funny words are always best.” The sentence must work.
- “Stories can’t change after.” Improving is part of writing.
- “I must think of a word in advance.” Listen first.

Adapting the activity

Support

Allow a short phrase instead of one word.

Stretch

Set a genre, such as mystery, or a word that must appear before the end.

WORKSHEET 1

Our story

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Copy the story from the board.

Story

WORKSHEET 2

Improve it

Choose one sentence to improve.

Improve

Before	After

WORKSHEET 3

Reflection

Write or draw.

The best word in our story was...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Adds sensible words	Listens	Suggests improvements

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

One Word at a Time is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents G4C Storytelling and Writing Games programme (primary, level: developing). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

© 2026 EduTrend Contents. This activity may be printed and copied for use with pupils in your own school, club or home. It may not be resold or published elsewhere. Photos: Kelly Sikkema / Unsplash.