

# Zippy Sentences

## Sentence Stretching and Combining

**Grade level:** 2/3

**Time:** 20-30 minutes

**Materials:** 6 large sheets of different colored butcher paper, paper and pencils for students

### Procedure:

- Write the following headings on the butcher paper: **setting (when?)**, **setting (where?)**, **character (who?)**, **action (said)**, **food**, **tastes**.
- As a class brainstorm words for possible **time settings** (long ago, last week, in the middle of the day), **place settings** (in a land far, far, away, down in the dark basement, up in a tree), animal **characters** with characteristics (a funny, floppy-eared bunny; a tall, skinny-necked giraffe; a huge, roly-polly rhinoceros), **action** (interesting “said” words such as: trumpeted, chirped, moaned, chattered), **food** (let them be imaginative and encourage details – chocolate mint double-decker ice cream cone, pepperoni pizza with extra cheese) and a word to describe the **taste** such as: wonderful, scrumptious, fantastic.
- After each list has at least five examples, show students how to mix and match to form sentences. For example, they might choose the first example from list 1, the third from list 2, the fifth from list 3, the second from list 4, the third from list 5, add the word **tastes** or **is** and the first from list 6. The sentence might read something like this:

**On a cold windy day, in the icy North Pole, a big old polar bear snorted, “These big, juicy berries are tasty”.**
- Students may use just the examples displayed, or substitute some of their own ideas, or write an original sentence based on the pattern.
- Save some time to share the funny sentences.
- Options:
  - Challenge the more capable writers to change the order of the categories.
  - Let students work in pairs.
  - Change **action** to synonyms for went and change **food** to another place setting. (Example: On a cold windy day, in the icy North Pole, a big old polar bear tiptoed across the ice to reach the edge of the frozen lake.)