



ELL STRATEGY: Sentence Frames and Stems



The Learning Benefits:

Sentence frames and stems support academic writing and discourse and also provide context for applying academic vocabulary and syntax. This helps students to structure writing and explain their thinking, with particular benefits for ELLs.

Implementation Use Cases:

Tall Tales (above) is a sentence frames activity that is part of the Speak Agent Math platform. Students complete a story by selecting keywords to fill in the blanks. ELLs may access audio and visual hints for each keyword.

Explain Your Work is a scaffolded writing activity that students use to explain their thinking in three stages:

1. Students use visual aids to fill in sentence frames.
2. Next, students finish sentence stems by typing.
3. Finally, students write their own explanations.

After students submit their work, teachers can review and give immediate feedback on writing.

Distance Learning Tips

- ▶ *Tall Tales* scores responses online based on how accurately students complete each story.
- ▶ *Explain Your Work* sends student writing to teachers for online review in Speak Agent. It also stores all writing and feedback in personal digital portfolios.

Favorite Teacher Feature

Tall Tales provides students with graphical answer choices:



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