

## Scrambling words within a sentence and sentences within a paragraph

### Introduction

These types of tools are useful for quickly preparing activities around texts within any curriculum area. Activities that scramble words in a sentence, or sentences in a paragraph, are most suitable for more advanced EAL learners who are reading competently. It is also important that the topic is familiar to the learners. Some tools offer a degree of control over the output in terms of degree of difficulty. These tools also provide a simple way to convert the activity into a worksheet.

**Scrambling sentences:** <https://www.edu-games.org/sentence-games/sentence-scrambler.php>

Original sentence (taken from a concluding paragraph of a balanced argument)

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*Firstly, no dam can control flooding, provide irrigation and also generate electricity as claimed by the builders.*

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Note: It is possible to set the level of difficulty to meet the level of proficiency in English of each individual EAL learner (as well as non-EAL peers). In the image below the output has been set to 25% difficulty. The 3 versions below illustrate how the difficulty setting affects the rendered text.

### Create your sentence scramble worksheet

| S  | Sentences  | S  | Scrambled sentences  |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1  | Firstly, no dam can control flooding, provide irrigation and also generate electricity as claimed by the builders. | 1  | Firstly, no irrigation can control flooding, provide builders. and also generate electricity as claimed by the dam |
| 2  |  | 2  |  |
| 3  |  | 3  |  |
| 4  |  | 4  |  |
| 5  |  | 5  |  |
| 6  |  | 6  |  |
| 7  |  | 7  |  |
| 8  |  | 8  |  |
| 9  |  | 9  |  |
| 10 |  | 10 |  |
| 11 |  | 11 |  |
| 12 |  | 12 |  |
| 13 |  | 12 |  |

Sentence scrambler title:

Remove diacritics:

Degree of difficulty: 
1%
100%
50%

Game description:

These sentences have been scrambled. Can you put them in the correct order?

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*Firstly, no irrigation can control flooding, provide builders. and also generate electricity as claimed by the dam (25% difficulty)*

*by no dam can control irrigation and flooding, Firstly, also generate electricity as claimed provide the builders. (50% difficulty)*

*and no claimed irrigation provide flooding, Firstly, the as also dam electricity generate can by control builders. (75% difficulty)*

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Scrambling paragraphs : <https://www.edu-games.org/sentence-games/paragraph-scrambler.php>

Original paragraph (concluding paragraph of balanced argument):

*Having reviewed all the evidence, I conclude that continuing the construction of the Narmada dam in its current location would be a terrible mistake; any benefits are heavily outweighed by the damage caused to the environment and local people, the Adivasis. Firstly, no dam can control flooding, provide irrigation and also generate electricity as claimed by the builders. In fact, many would argue the dam is only serving the interests of big business, controlling water supplies for new hotels and the tourist industry. Secondly, the project has proven to be an environmental and human catastrophe of monumental proportions. Vast swathes of pristine rainforest have been lost to the rising waters along with the displacement of thousands of Adivasis. The government claims that affected people will be compensated, yet many desperate families have already moved to city slums in search of work. Finally, some scientists predict disaster as the dam is located right on top of a seismic fault line. Whilst it is clear that drought-ridden areas of Gujarat do need a water management scheme, the Narmada dam is not the solution. Even the World Bank agrees, having withdrawn its loan for the first time in its history.*

Note: By default, this tool chooses to cut the text up on the basis of where the full stops occur in the text. This makes the activity a little easier for most children. However, if you wanted to have more manual control you could cut the text up in different places by entering a cursor return between the ‘sentences’ and then rearranging them before scrambling. With a bit of effort, you can make the activity more challenging and additionally focus on specific elements like:

- punctuation
- conjunctions
- adverbial phrases

### Create your paragraph scramble worksheet

Paragraph scrambler title:

Paragraph:

| nr | Scrambled paragraph  |
|----|--|
| 4  | Secondly, the project has proven to be an environmental and human catastrophe of monumental proportions.   |
| 3  | In fact, many would argue the dam is only serving the interests of big business, controlling water supplies for new hotels and the tourist industry. |
| 9  | Even the World Bank agrees, having withdrawn its loan for the first time in its history.   |
| 6  | The government claims that affected people will be compensated, yet many desperate families have already moved to city slums in search of work.      |
| 8  | Whilst it is clear that drought-ridden areas of Gujarat do need a water management scheme, the Narmada dam is not the solution.                      |
| 7  | Finally, some scientists predict disaster as the dam is located right on top of a seismic fault line.  |
| 5  | Vast swathes of pristine rainforest have been lost to the rising waters along with the displacement of thousands of                                  |

Desc:

Scrambled paragraph (the numbers need to be removed for the students)

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4 *Secondly, the project has proven to be an environmental and human catastrophe of monumental proportions.*

3 *In fact, many would argue the dam is only serving the interests of big business, controlling water supplies for new hotels and the tourist industry.*

9 *Even the World Bank agrees, having withdrawn its loan for the first time in its history.*

6 *The government claims that affected people will be compensated, yet many desperate families have already moved to city slums in search of work.*

8 *Whilst it is clear that drought-ridden areas of Gujarat do need a water management scheme, the Narmada dam is not the solution.*

7 *Finally, some scientists predict disaster as the dam is located right on top of a seismic fault line.*

5 *Vast swathes of pristine rainforest have been lost to the rising waters along with the displacement of thousands of Adivasis.*

1 *Having reviewed all the evidence, I conclude that continuing the construction of the Narmada dam in its current location would be a terrible mistake; any benefits are heavily outweighed by the damage caused to the environment and local people, the Adivasis.*

2 *Firstly, no dam can control flooding, provide irrigation and also generate electricity as claimed by the builders.*

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