



## Ensure Automatization Through Practice and Review

Research suggests that reading and writing skills are best developed when taught and practiced in conjunction with each other. Here are suggestions of activities that educators can incorporate into their lessons to support literacy development through reading and writing.

### Decoding/Encoding Word Lists

dine + ing

write + ing

tune + ful

shine + y

time + er

In order to build phonemic awareness and phonics skills, students should be exposed to a variety of word list activities that develop and strengthen these underlying skills. [Word lists that require students to both read and spell sight words and words containing specific patterns](#) are one way to enhance the reading and writing connection. As students read the words, they need to rely upon their phonics and phonemic knowledge to identify what each letter says. Similarly, as they spell the words, students need to rely upon the same foundational knowledge in order to determine what letters should represent the sounds they hear. With this practice, visual-phonological connections enable readers to find specific words in memory and connect those words to spelling and pronunciation. In this process, students can be cued to sound out the word using specific phonemes.

### Sentence Strips



Another activity that can be utilized to support the development of reading and writing skills is sentence strips. In this activity, the educator would create a sentence that is an appropriate level of challenge for the each student and cut up each individual word. Students then need to use context, syntax, grammar, and background knowledge to construct the sentence correctly using the cut-up words. Educators should determine whether or not they include cues such as capitals and punctuation. [Here](#) is an example sentence with punctuation and capitalization.

### Writing about Literature



According to a [meta-analysis carried out by Steve Graham and Michael Hebert in 2010](#), students who wrote about what they read in a variety of ways had improved comprehension and learning over students who read alone, reread for clarification, or participated in discussions after reading. The benefits of writing about literature are two-fold. First, as stated, writing about a text can enhance comprehension of that text. For instance, written reflections of specific passages guide students to make stronger connections between what they read, know, understand, and think. As students continue to develop their comprehension, writing about the text can help them to analyze the language, text structure, and content of what they are reading. In addition to improving comprehension, writing about literature can strengthen students' fluency, decoding, and spelling skills. Furthermore, writers can gain insight into reading by creating texts intended for an audience to read. [Reaction Journals](#) are one example of how to incorporate writing about literature into a lesson (prompts can be changed to fit specific skills or content).



## Syntax and Parts of Speech



Grammar knowledge is another underlying foundational skill for improving reading comprehension. During reading instruction, educators should be encouraged to spend time teaching and dissecting syntax and parts of speech from the text being read. As students are taught patterns and strategies for constructing appropriate sentences (grammar and syntax), their reading comprehension should also improve. For example, providing instruction in the [purpose and usage of commas](#) is one example of how to incorporate grammar into reading instruction.

### **HOW DOES THIS CONNECT TO ENSURE AUTOMATIZATION THROUGH PRACTICE AND REVIEW?**

When educators intentionally connect instruction and practice of reading and writing skills, they provide students with meaningful opportunities to automatize those skills. Research suggests that by experiencing the connectivity of reading and writing, students can begin to grow in their overall literacy skills. The best way to reinforce this link is to include a variety of opportunities for students to develop reading and writing skills simultaneously.