



Constructional Grounding

Teach the simpler sentence structures that build up to the final abstract sentence frame.



Constructional Conspiracy

Teach the earlier learned, similar sentence structures that can then 'gang up' to support acquisition of the full or more abstract form

Full Event Passive

Riches, 2013

The paper was written by the researchers

Grounding:

Simplest - Adjectival (stative) passive

The wagon was broken (and has always been broken)

Intermediate - Ambiguous between adjectival (stative) interpretation and passive interpretation

The wagon was/got broken (and we know who did it)

Advanced/Target Form - Full event passive

The wagon was broken by the bird

Grounding constructions can help kids see that the meaning is possible within a simpler/related syntactic frame - focus on meaning

See work by Gibson, 1998, Johnson, 2001 & Abbot-Smith & Behrens, 2006, Riches, 2013 for more info

Possible Conspirators:

Adjectival passive

Get passive

Have X done

Want X done

Like X done

Isolated BY phrases

Present perfect aspect

The paper was written

The paper got written

She had the paper written

She wanted the paper written

She likes the paper finished

The book by the researchers is long

The pen is by the paper

I have written the paper

Conspirators can help kids develop pieces of the syntactic frame that can be deployed for support - focus on syntactic components.

Reversible Object Relative Clauses

The cow who the horse was kicking knocked over the dog

Grounding:

Simplest - Object Wh- questions

Who did the horse kick? Who is the cow knocking over?

Simplest - Postmodifying Prepositional Phrases

Look at the cow with the spots

Intermediate - Presentational Copula & Reduced Relatives

It's the cow who has spots

Look at the horse kicking the cow

Advanced/Target Form - Full relative clause

The cow who the horse kicked knocked over the dog.

Possible Conspirators:

Object Wh questions

Wh complements

Presentational Copula

Postmodifiers

Reduced Relative

Exclamations

Relative clauses w/

inanimates & prns

Who/What did he kick?

She forgot what to do

That's the firetruck goes woo woo

Look at the man with a hat

Look at the horse kicking the cow

Boy, was the dog running fast!

That's the soap that I dislike