LEARNING METHOD · DEEP DIVE

Snowball: Learning a Sentence From the End

Why LinguaBite teaches a sentence backwards, how the chunks are cut, and how to run a drill so that each step makes the next one easier instead of harder.

A1 · Snowball · chunks · connected speech

from the end

Part 1 is the last chunk; each part adds one chunk in front.

we will finish. → … the sooner we will finish.

The sooner we start, the sooner we will finish.

chunks

Two or three words that are said as one unit.

What is | your name

How | are you?

first word full

The word that opens a chunk keeps its full form.

are /ɑː/ you? → How are /ə/ you?

Part 1: are you? · Part 2: How are you?

TERM	MEANING	EXAMPLE
rung / part	one step of the ladder	part 1: you? · part 2: are you?
weak form	the reduced form inside a phrase	a /ə/ dog, to /tə/ go
linking	a final consonant joins the next vowel	an apple → a-napple
beat mode	repeat a rung with a gap to speak in	3 repetitions, 2-second gap

1 Part 1: the last chunk

Write part 1 of the ladder: the last chunk of the sentence (two or three words).

1. The sooner we start, the sooner we will finish. → _____
2. What is your name? → _____
3. How are you? → _____
4. I would like a cup of tea. → _____
5. She lives in a small flat. → _____
6. We are going to the cinema tonight. → _____
7. Can you help me, please? → _____
8. Where do you live? → _____

2 The next rung

Write part 2: add the chunk that comes before part 1.

1 Part 1: we will finish. → Part 2: _____

2 Part 1: your name? → Part 2: _____

3 Part 1: are you? → Part 2: _____

4 Part 1: you live? → Part 2: _____

5 Part 1: a small flat. → Part 2: _____

6 Part 1: of tea. → Part 2: _____

7 Part 1: tonight. → Part 2: _____

8 Part 1: me, please? → Part 2: _____

3 Drill mistakes

Each line describes a mistake in how someone practises. Write what they should do instead.

1 She says the chunk as separate words: What … is … your … name.

2 He reduces the first word of part 1 to a schwa.

3 She reads the sentence first and plays the audio only to check.

4 He turns the speed down for the whole drill.

5 She learns each rung as a new phrase.

6 He stops as soon as the full sentence is unlocked.

Remember Listen first, then speak, then read. English spelling shows the full forms and hides the weak ones you need to hear.

4 Build the ladder

Sentence: "I would like to book a table for two." Write each part of the ladder, from part 1 to the full sentence.

Part 1: [1] _____ · Part 2: [2] _____ · Part 3: [3] _____ · Part 4: [4] _____ · Part 5 (full): [5] _____ · In part 5, 'would' is weak, but in a part that starts with it, it is [6] _____. 'to' in 'like to book' is said [7] _____. 'a' in 'a table' is said [8] _____.

5 Good chunk or bad cut?

Which are good chunks (said as one unit), and which are bad cuts?

your name | a cup of tea | for two | are you | is your | the | cup of | you will finish the

good chunk	bad cut

Where are the answers?

The answers, with an explanation for each one, are in the LinguaBite app. Open this Deep Dive and scroll to Downloads at the bottom of the article: once you have downloaded this worksheet, its answers appear there after a couple of days, so you do the exercises first. You can choose 1, 2 or 3 days in the app's Settings.

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