***Top 10 Tips for Developing Students' Control and Choice over Syntax in Their Writing***

| Tip | Rationale |
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| **1** - Teach Sentence Types and Structures | Shanahan emphasizes the importance of explicit grammar instruction, regardless of if a student is an L1 or L2 learner. Understanding different sentence types (simple, compound, complex, etc.) and structures (subject-verb-object, inversion, etc.) gives students a toolkit for varying their sentence patterns. With this knowledge, students can choose the most effective syntax for their intended meaning and audience.<br><br>(Shanahan, 2020) (Henessy, 2020) |
| **2** - Model a Variety of Sentence Structures | By regularly exposing students to a variety of sentence structures through mentor texts, teachers can show how syntax can affect tone and other literary elements. Students learn by example and can slowly work towards integrating these sentence structures into their own writing. |
| **3** - Practice Combining Sentences | Exercises in combining short sentences into longer, more complex ones help students see how ideas can be connected and elaborated on.<br><br>(Shanahan, 2020) |
| **4** - Scaffolding: Use Sentence Frames/Starters | By providing sentence frames or starters as a tool, students, especially those who struggle with syntax, can begin to use more complex structures. They can serve as scaffolding until students are comfortable creating varied sentences independently. |
| **5** - Complete *Language Dives* | By participating in a *Language Dive* activity, students practice deconstructing, reconstructing, and mimicking the structure of complex sentences in their own writing. Here, the discussion element is powerful as it drives thoughtful conversation about syntax and meaning making.<br><br>(EL Education, n.d.) |
| **6** - Analyze and Imitate Mentor Texts | Examining the syntactic choices of professional writers in mentor texts helps students grasp how various sentence structures serve different purposes. Through imitation exercises, students can experiment with these structures in their own writing.<br><br>(Moats, n.d.) |

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| **7 -** Encourage Sentence Expansion | Activities that prompt students to expand or stretch sentences by adding adjectives or subordinate clauses help them to develop more detailed writing. This will ultimately enhance their ability to manage sentence complexity.<br><br>(Hochman & Wexler, 2017) |
| **8 -** Write Whenever Possible | Formal grammar instruction focused on labeling parts of speech does not support students in developing their sentence comprehension skills. We need to teach grammar in an integrated and hands-on way by encouraging students to write grammatically correct sentences as much as possible to build both a capacity for writing and grammar.<br><br>(Shanahan, 2020) (Hochman & Wexler, 2017) |
| **9 -** Contextualized Teaching | When embedded into other subject areas like science or social studies, writing and grammar tasks become more applicable and relatable to students. This in turn boosts their ability to retain information and make thoughtful connections.<br><br>(Hochman & Wexler, 2017) |
| **10 -** Provide Feedback Focused on Syntax | Providing specific feedback on syntactic choices in students' writing helps them identify areas for improvement and recognize their strengths. Highlighting effective syntax and offering revision suggestions where necessary reinforces their understanding and mastery of sentence structure.<br><br>(Hennessy, 2020) |

# References

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