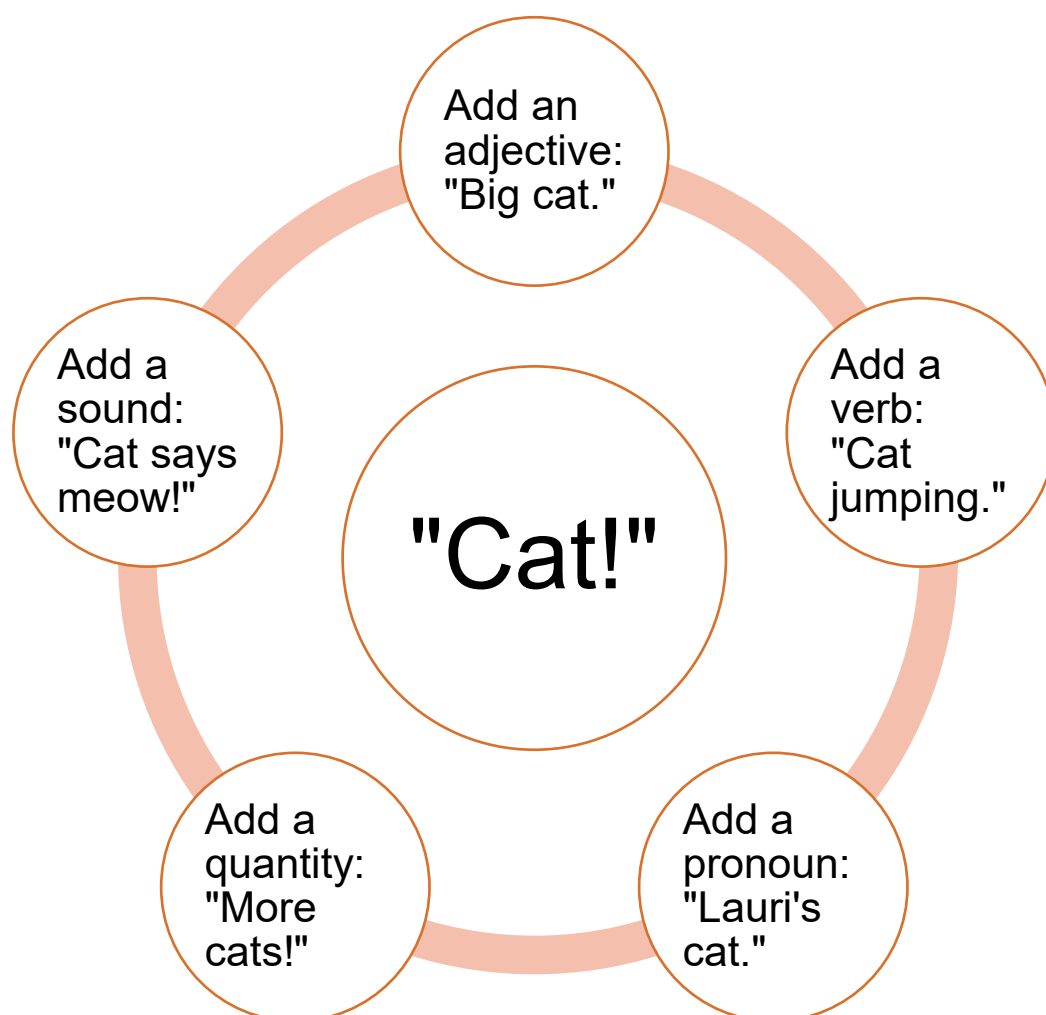


Building on what children say – Expansions

- This strategy involves repeating what a child says and adding one or two related words.
- It is especially helpful for children learning to talk – those using single words or short phrases.
- Always remember to keep the focus on what's happening now or just happened.

For example, if you and a child are looking at a book and they excitedly say, "Cat!", you could respond with:

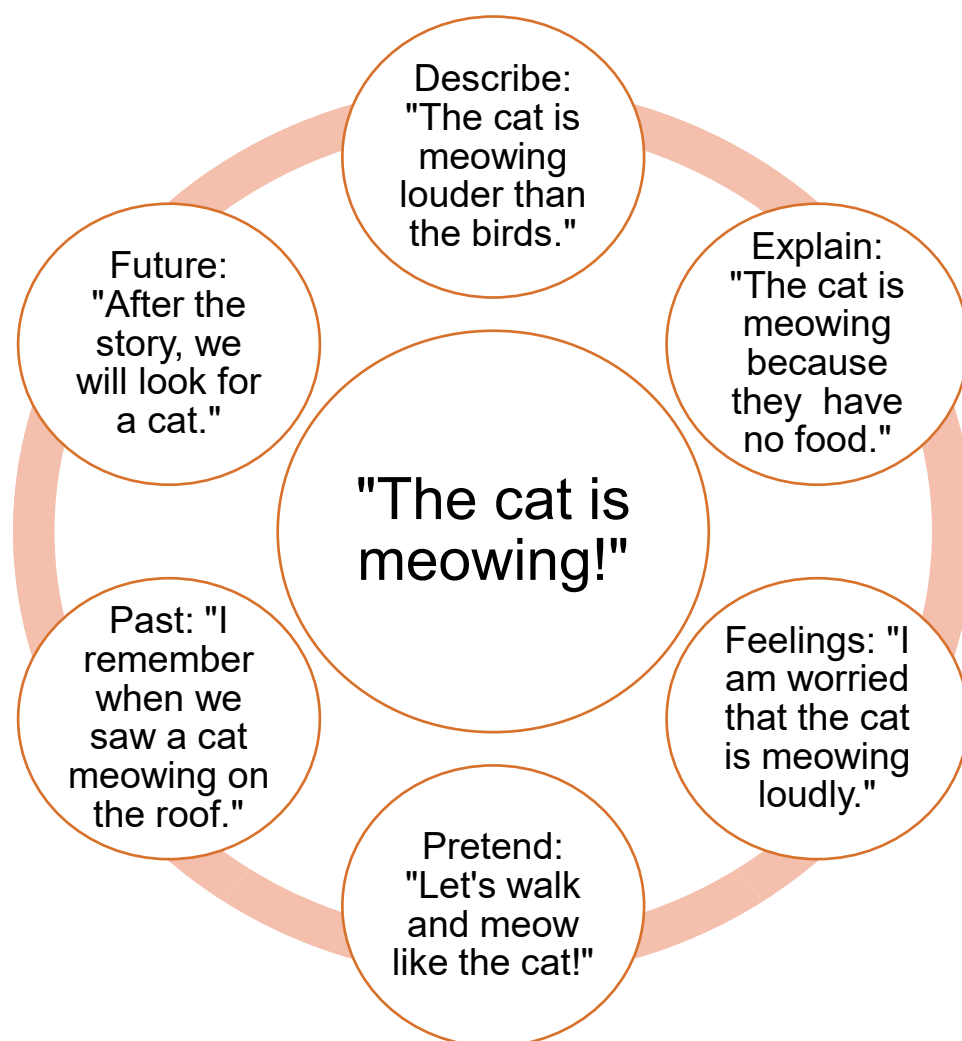


- Repeating back what a child says shows you are listening and interested.
- Adding a word or two keeps the focus on what excites the child and gives a model for future speech.
- This helps children learn new words and gives them a model of how to build short phrases.

Building on what children say – Expansions

- This strategy involves repeating back what a child says and adding new, related information.
- It is useful for children who are starting to use longer phrases or full sentences.
- The focus often moves beyond the present moment.

For example, if a child says, “The cat is meowing,” while looking at a book, you could respond with:



- Building on what a child says keeps the focus on what interests them and gives them a model for what they may want to try and say in the future.
- When the topic is motivating, children are more likely to stay engaged, listen, and make connections that help them understand and talk more about their world.
- This strategy can make back and forth conversations easier to achieve.