

Name: _____ Date: _____

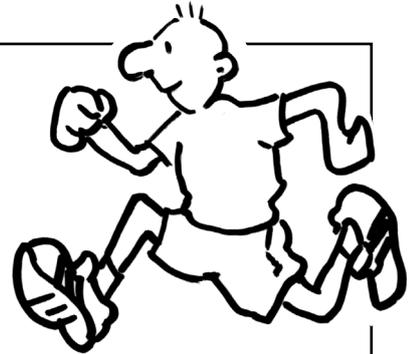
Essential Words in Sentences

Sentences can contain a lot of information but some words can be deleted without changing the meaning. For example: **Roger went** to the river **for a swim**. This sentence could be **shortened**. Roger went for a swim.

Task 1

Underline the essential words in these sentences.

1. John wore his new trainers for the school fun run.
2. Alex injured his ankle playing football for the local team.
3. The streets were full of people doing their Christmas shopping.
4. After school Sue and Mary went swimming at the leisure centre.
5. On Saturday Brian went with his Mum to the market.
6. We saved enough money to go on holiday next week.



Task 2

Underline the essential words in each sentence of the paragraph. The first sentence has been done for you.

After it had stopped raining Jim thought that he should take the dog out to the park for a walk. Scruffy had been restlessly walking up and down the hall all afternoon, waiting for his usual outing. Jim took the lead from its hook in the cupboard and Scruffy ran in, almost knocking Jim over in his eagerness to get out. In the garden, Scruffy tugged on his lead, dragging Jim all the way down the street to the park. There Scruffy, happy to be outside, pulled so hard on the lead that it slipped from Jim's hand. Scruffy raced straight for the pond where the ducks were snoozing in the afternoon sunshine.

Task 3

Rewrite the paragraph using only the essential words that you underlined.

Jim thought he should take the dog for a walk.

Task 4

Find five sentences in your reading book. Write them out underlining the essential words.