

Body Language

We are

jumping, singing, walking,
eating, sleeping, listening,
reading, writing, painting,
laughing, playing, swimming,
breathing, growing, running,
messaging, skipping, dancing
girls!

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What to do

- * That's one way for children to write a single **sentence** containing (possibly) the longest **noun phrase** ever!
- * More importantly, it's a good way for them to see and reflect on the ever-increasing range of things they and their bodies need, and are able, to do.
- * Start by collecting together a board-full of things the children do every day. You'll very quickly get a large number of **verbs** – literally doing words.
- * Tell the children that they are going to write pieces to celebrate their bodies by using any of the verbs you've collected plus any more they think of as they write.
- * Divide the children into small groups, with each group working on a single piece of writing. The aim is to think and write fast – you might even set a time limit for the activity.
- * Explain that in their writing, they will need to change each verb they write down into its **progressive form** by adding the **suffix -ing**. This changes the root verbs into **adjectives**, all leading to and describing the final **noun** – *girls* in the example above – with groups choosing a concluding noun, depending on the mix.
- * They should start their writing, as the three girls did in their poem with *We are* and then write down as many words as they can in the time you allow.
- * Once groups have their collection of activities, they now need to check if any further spelling changes are needed, for example, changing 'write' to 'writing' or 'skip' to 'skipping'. Groups can also now put **commas** between the adjectives to separate them and make the whole easier to read.
- * These make great pieces to read aloud and perform. They can also be linked to work in science on our bodies and our need for exercise, diet, mental activity, etc.