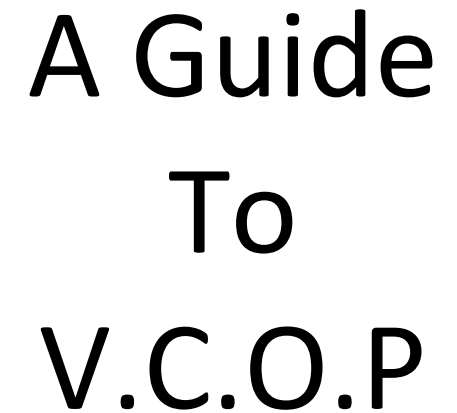


Connectives are used to join sentences together. The simplest connective to use is and, as in: Bill went to the shops and he bought an ice-cream. Other more complex connectives include - then, after,so, while, because, although.

- ## 0-0 openers

An opener is the first word used in a sentence. When children start on their writing journey most sentences initially begin with 'I'. To develop this try:

- Look at different types of punctuation in your reading at home.
- Ask your child to give examples of when they would use a ? or ! or . or , - use the punctuation pyramid.
- Punctuation Kung-Fu (make the shape of each punctuation sign in the air.
- Use different types of punctuation in different sentences.



## *What is V.C.O.P?*

V.C.O.P is an acronym that represents four generic areas of key learning within writing.

V—Vocabulary  
C—Connectives  
O—Openers  
P—Punctuation

## *How are we using V.C.O.P within Giffnock Primary School?*

Children in each class will learn key skills related to the four areas.

## *Why are we using V.C.O.P within the school?*

We are using V.C.O.P to help children understand the key aspects of writing and how they can progress to the next level of writing.

## *Does the V.C.O.P method work?*

Many schools have, and continue to successfully teach the V.C.O.P method. They have seen major improvements in their writing once V.C.O.P is integrated and taught across the school at all age ranges.

## *Who developed V.C.O.P?*

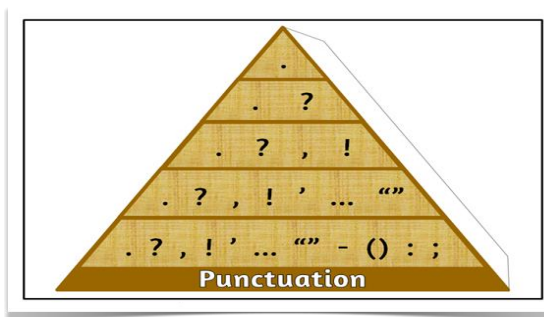
Ros Wilson has developed the V.C.O.P materials and has a website for further background information at:  
<https://global.oup.com/education/content/pri/mary/experts/ros-wilson>

## *How does V.C.O.P help my child to improve their writing skills?*

V.C.O.P works on the principle of exploring where aspects of writing can be improved or 'up-levelled.' To reach the next stage in their writing children will need to know how to 'up-level'.

A series of pyramids give children guidance on the next steps to take to further improve their written work. For example;

## *The Punctuation Pyramid.*



The top of the pyramid shows the most basic of punctuation: a full stop. As writers become more competent they will start to use a wider range of punctuation correctly within their work. Similar pyramids are used to show the progression of all four areas within the V.C.O.P targets.

## *Helping my child with V.C.O.P at home.*

# V-Vocabulary (Wow words!)

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- Talk about and write down interesting (Wow) words in the stories you are reading at home.
- Try using the words you have found in a sentence.
- Have a mini-quiz: 'How many words can you think of instead of 'said'? or 'went', 'nice', 'good'. Put each one in a sentence.
- Give your child a Wow word to put into a sentence. How many different sentences can they make?
- Give your child two different words and ask them to make different sentences from them. E.g.: 'magical' and 'boy'.