

**RUN ON SENTENCES**  
**“Chicken Chatter”**  
**A Grammar Play**  
**By Carole L. Cooney**

Setting: Uncle Ben’s Chicken Coop

Characters:

Narrator

Babble, a very talkative baby chicken

Austin, the scholarly rooster

Fierce, the fox

Narrator: Once upon a time, Uncle Ben’s Chicken Coop was a flurry of feathers! Loud squawks and clucks could be heard all over the place. Suddenly, Babble, a very talkative baby chicken, came running out of the coop, tripped, and landed in the middle of the yard.

Babble: (speaking very fast!) Cluck! Cluck! Cluck! Cluck! Cluck! Cluck! Oh my oh my oh my! I’ve just come from the coop and out the window I saw Fierce the ferocious fox with his big fluffy tail and red shiny eyes he snarled and I could see his teeth were huge and pointy and then... Cluck! Cluck! Cluck!

Austin: (loudly) Cock-a-doodle-do! Cock-a-doodle-do! STOP babbling, Babble!

Babble: Did you speak to me? Cluck! Cluck! Cluck! I was just telling everyone what I saw and it scared me so much that I had to come outside and... Cluck! Cluck! Cluck!

Austin: Cock-a-doodle-do! Cock-a-doodle-do! Didn’t you hear me, Babble? I said STOP!

Babble: Why, Austin? Cluck! Cluck! Cluck! I was only going to ...

Austin: Babble, you are speaking so fast that no one knows what you are saying. Now, SLOW DOWN. You’ve got to tell us your story one idea at a time.

Narrator: Everyone’s attention was focused on Babble to see if she could speak clearly with one idea at a time. You see, usually, Babble just talks and talks and talks so that all of her ideas run on and on and on. Let’s see if Austin, the scholarly rooster, can help Babble speak more clearly.

Austin: Cock-a-doodle-do! Cock-a-doodle-do! I’m going to ask you some questions about what just happened. This will help you separate your ideas. Let’s begin. Babble, where did you just come from?

Babble: Cluck! Cluck! Cluck! Cluck! Cluck! Cluck! I just came from the coop and...Cluck...

Austin: Stop! Babble, you were just about to speak of a second idea. We’re not ready for that. Also, how about stopping the clucking for a while?

Babble: Cluck, cluck, oops! Sorry. Okay. Shall I start again?

Austin: Yes!

Babble: I just came from the coop.

Austin: What happened next?

Babble: I was looking out the window and then I saw...oops! Should I stop after the word "window"?

Austin: That would be good. Now, what did you see?

Babble: I saw Fierce, the ferocious fox, with his big fluffy tail and red shiny eyes he snarled and I could see his teeth were huge and pointy.

Austin: That was good but you have TWO IDEAS. Let's see how you can separate those two ideas.

Babble: I saw Fierce, the ferocious fox, with his big fluffy tail and red shiny eyes.

Austin: Good. What's the next idea?

Babble: He snarled and I could see his teeth were huge and pointy.

Austin: Excellent! Now tell us your story from beginning to end. Remember to speak slowly and clearly.

Babble: I just came from the coop. I was looking out the window. I saw Fierce, the ferocious fox, with his big fluffy tail and red shiny eyes. He snarled and I could see his huge, pointy teeth.

Austin: That was perfect! Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

Narrator: Just then, Fierce, the ferocious fox, slid under the fence and crawled into the chicken yard.

Babble: (speaking slowly and clearly) I see Fierce! I'm not afraid. I'm going to scare him away.

Narrator: Babble ran toward Fierce, clucking and pecking as fast as she could.

Babble: Cluck! Cluck! Cluck! Peck! Peck! Peck! Cluck! Cluck! Cluck! Peck! Peck! Peck!

Fierce: (howling) Ah-whoooooo! Ah-whoooooo! Stop that! That hurts! Ah-whoooooo!

Babble: OUT YOU GO! DO YOU HEAR ME? GO! CLUCK, CLUCK, CLUCK!

Narrator: Fierce scrambled under the fence to get away from Babble's painful pecks.

Austin: Bravo! Babble! You spoke so loudly and clearly, YOU MADE EVERY IDEA COUNT!