Pinches of SALT

mini-lessons in Language Sample Analysis
for the busy clinician.

This Lesson: Utterance segmentation - Communication units
Creator: Marleen Westerveld, PhD
Updates: subscribe to Instagram: @dr.marleenwesterveld.slp

UTTERANCE SEGMENTATION – COMMUNICATION UNITS

In this lesson we will cover:

1. What are communication units (C-units)
2. How to segment a language sample into C-units
3. Test your knowledge!

Time to complete:
10 minutes max.

COMMUNICATION UNITS – DEFINITION:

- Independent clause with its modifiers;
- can be 'incomplete' (missing subject) e.g., answers to questions

Consider the following:
E Where did you go?
C I went home and **she** went to the Zoo.

In SALT we segment this into 2 Communication Units
C I went home.
C And **she** went to the zoo.

For example:
E Where did you go?
C to the Zoo.

HINTS:
Know your coordinating conjunctions:
- And
- But
- So (not so that...)
- Or
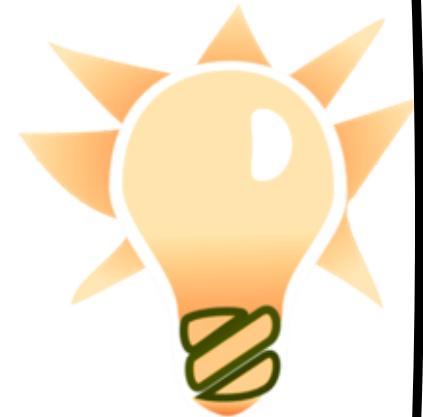
Check if there is a new **subject** after the conjunction.

(MW)

UTTERANCE SEGMENTATION:

I went home when she went to school.

I went home but she went to school.

I went home to see my sick brother while she went to school.

My friend and I went to school.

Mum says I need to eat vegies so I stay healthy.

I like soccer so I go every day.

QUIZ

How many C-Units?

UTTERANCE SEGMENTATION: ONE MORE

E Where do you go to school?
C Redlands. ⬅ Notice the 'incomplete grammatical utterance in response to a question (elliptical responses). This is a C-Unit.
E Do you like it?
C Yeah. ⬅ Separate the yes/no response from the utterance that follows
C I do.
E Why?
C I hate maths, I guess. ⬅ Do not separate tag phrases
C :03 although I like reading! ⬅ Consider pause time / intonation

UTTERANCE SEGMENTATION: LAST ONE

C He found the boy

C and he said I'm ready

C and then the boy said be quiet!   ⬅   Embedded dialogue quotes
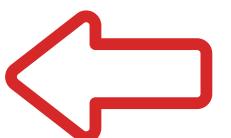
C But a little while later the boy who was afraid of the dark went into the cave that seemed very scary because he had promised his friend he would rescue the baby dragon. (33 words).

WRAPPING UP THIS MINI-LESSON – TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

C one morning there was a girl called Alice her gran loved knitting leather.
C her parents went to work and she thought about going outside but it was raining.
C (so she) so she went to explore the house but then she found a giant suitcase.
C it was a leather suitcase with dress ups photo books and jewelry.
C and then she went in the suitcase to take a better look.
C but then she woke up and then she heard someone say Alice where are you.
C and then she got a bit scared but the suitcase opened.
C and then it was (um) her granny.
C and then her parents were waiting outside downstairs.
C and then she (um) went downstairs (and she) and her parents said it's time to go home now.
C but then she wanted to stay the night.
C and her parents thought it was fine so they went home.
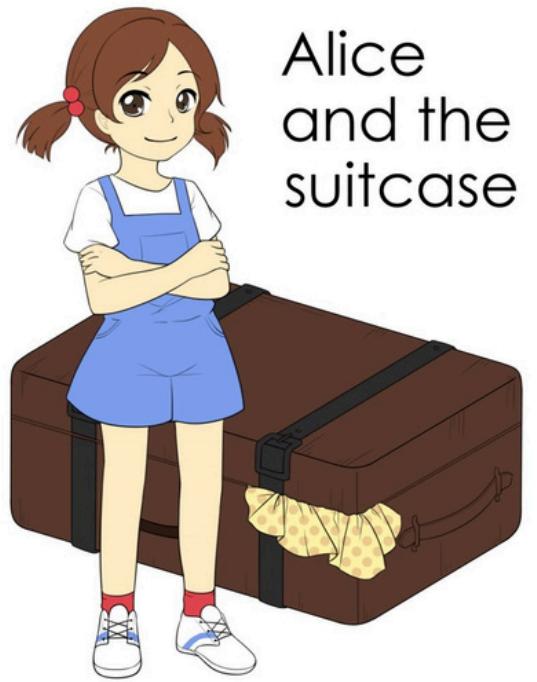
Alice
and the
suitcase

I count 20 C-Units.
Do you?
Find the slides and answers on my website
under E-Learning: pinches of SALT

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(MW)

For a copy of the slides and handouts visit my website (navigate to E-learning):
https://marleenwesterveld.com/salt-webinars/

For more in-depth FREE training visit SALT Software: **https://www.saltsoftware.com/training**

All 'pinches of SALT' will be posted on YouTube: **http://www.youtube.com/@MarleenWesterveldSLP**

To get updates about new training, subscribe to Instagram: **@dr.marleenwesterveld.slp**
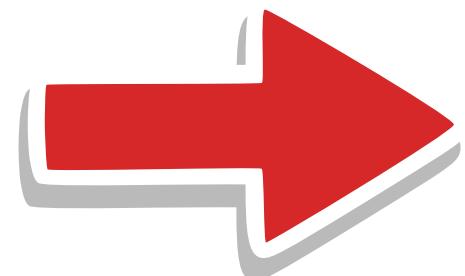
answers next page

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE / ANSWERS

C one morning there was a girl called Alice | <u>her gran</u> loved knitting leather. = 2 C-units

C her parents went to work | and <u>she</u> thought about going outside | but <u>it</u> was raining.= 3 C-units

C (so she) so she went to explore the house | but then <u>she</u> found a giant suitcase. = 2 C-units

C it was a leather suitcase with dress-ups photo books and jewelry. = 1 C-unit

C and then she went in the suitcase to take a better look. = 1 C-unit

C but then she woke up | and then <u>she</u> heard someone say Alice where are you. = 2 C-units

C and then she got a bit scared | but <u>the suitcase</u> opened. = 2 C-units

C and then it was (um) her granny. = 1 C-unit

C and then her parents were waiting outside downstairs. = 1 C-unit

C and then she (um) went downstairs (and she) | and <u>her parents</u> said it's time to go home now. 2 C-units

C but then she wanted to stay the night. 1 C-unit

C and her parents thought it was fine | so <u>they</u> went home. 2 C-units

20 C-Units.
But = coordinating conjunction
and = coordinating
so = coordinating
All 'new' subjects <u>underlined</u>