

# Sentence Tunes

from *The Reading Teacher's Book of Lists* by Fry and Kress

Have your students explore the way meaning changes with the shifting emphases in the sentences below. It's a fun way to help them pay closer attention to language, meaning and their own reading.

I did not say you stole my red hat.	(Someone else said it.)
I <b>did</b> not say you stole my red hat.	(strong, indignant denial)
I did <b>not</b> say you stole my red hat.	(strong denial)
I did not <b>say</b> you stole my red hat.	(I implied it, but did not say it.)
I did not say <b>you</b> stole my red hat.	(I wasn't talking about you.)
I did not say you <b>stole</b> my red hat.	(I said you did something else with it.)
I did not say you stole <b>my</b> red hat.	(You stole someone else's hat.)
I did not say you stole my <b>red</b> hat.	(You stole a hat of another color.)
I did not say you stole my red <b>hat</b> .	(You stole something else that was red.)

If your student enjoys the exercise – try it again with the sentences below, or work with your tutee to make up your own.



Tom didn't push George first.

I didn't tell Mom you spent the dollar.

Ana didn't lose the book.

You weren't asked to go to the store.