First: Which word is the action word?

Next: Group the rest of the words by answering these questions:
1. Who did it? (The answer to this question usually goes before the action word.)
2. How did they do it? (The answer to this question usually goes right before the action word.)
3. To whom or what did they do it? (The answer to this usually goes after the action word.)
4. Where did they do it? (The answer to this usually goes at the end of the sentence.)

Sentence:

Example: quickly backyard cat the she in brushed the
Action word: brushed
Who did it? she
How did she do it? quickly
To whom or what did she do it? the cat
Where did she do it? in the backyard

Sentence: She quickly brushed the cat in the backyard.

FIGURE 3.7. Rubric for word grouping activity to teach language organization (syntax).

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