

Figure 2.22 shows one way a teacher might illustrate how to deconstruct the challenging sentence in a way that attends to structure but maintains meaning making as the primary goal.

Figure 2.22. Sentence Deconstruction Focusing on Structure and Meaning

Sentence: Broken into clauses	Analysis: Type of clause and how I know	Meaning: What it means
Although many countries are addressing pollution,	Dependent (subordinate clause) It starts with <i>although</i> , so it can't stand on its own. It <i>depends</i> on the other clause.	The clause is giving credit to a lot of countries for doing something about pollution. Using the word <i>although</i> tells me that the rest of the sentence is going to show that's not enough.
environmental degradation continues to create devastating human health problems each year.	Independent (main clause) It can stand on its own, even if I take the other clause away.	The clause has the most important information. Pollution keeps hurting a lot of people every year all over the world.

These are also activities that could happen in content classrooms, but in designated ELD, teachers are able to focus more intensively on the language of the texts and on the language learning needs of ELs at different proficiency levels than may be possible during content instruction. This intense focus on language in ways that build into and from content both reinforces content learning and promotes academic language development. Discussions about language will vary a great deal depending on students' age, English language proficiency level, what is happening during content instruction, the level of collaboration between educators working with ELs, and many other factors. Importantly, discussions about language should not focus solely on grammatical structures or vocabulary but should expand students' understanding of all levels of language, including text and discourse level understandings. Above all, teachers should maintain a clear focus on meaningful interaction with texts and with others and intellectually-rich tasks and content.