



Literacy Resource Pack

Punctuation Pyramid

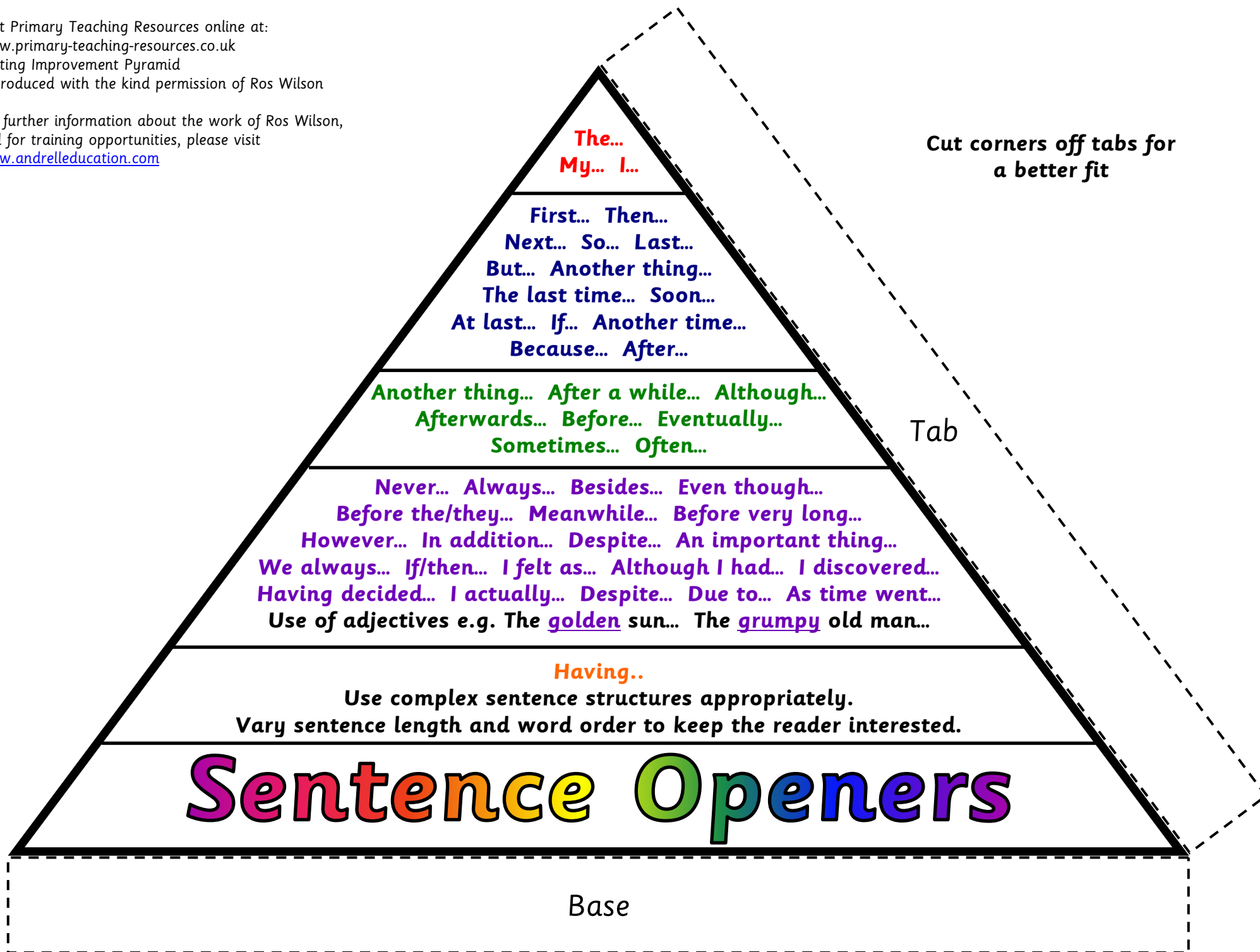
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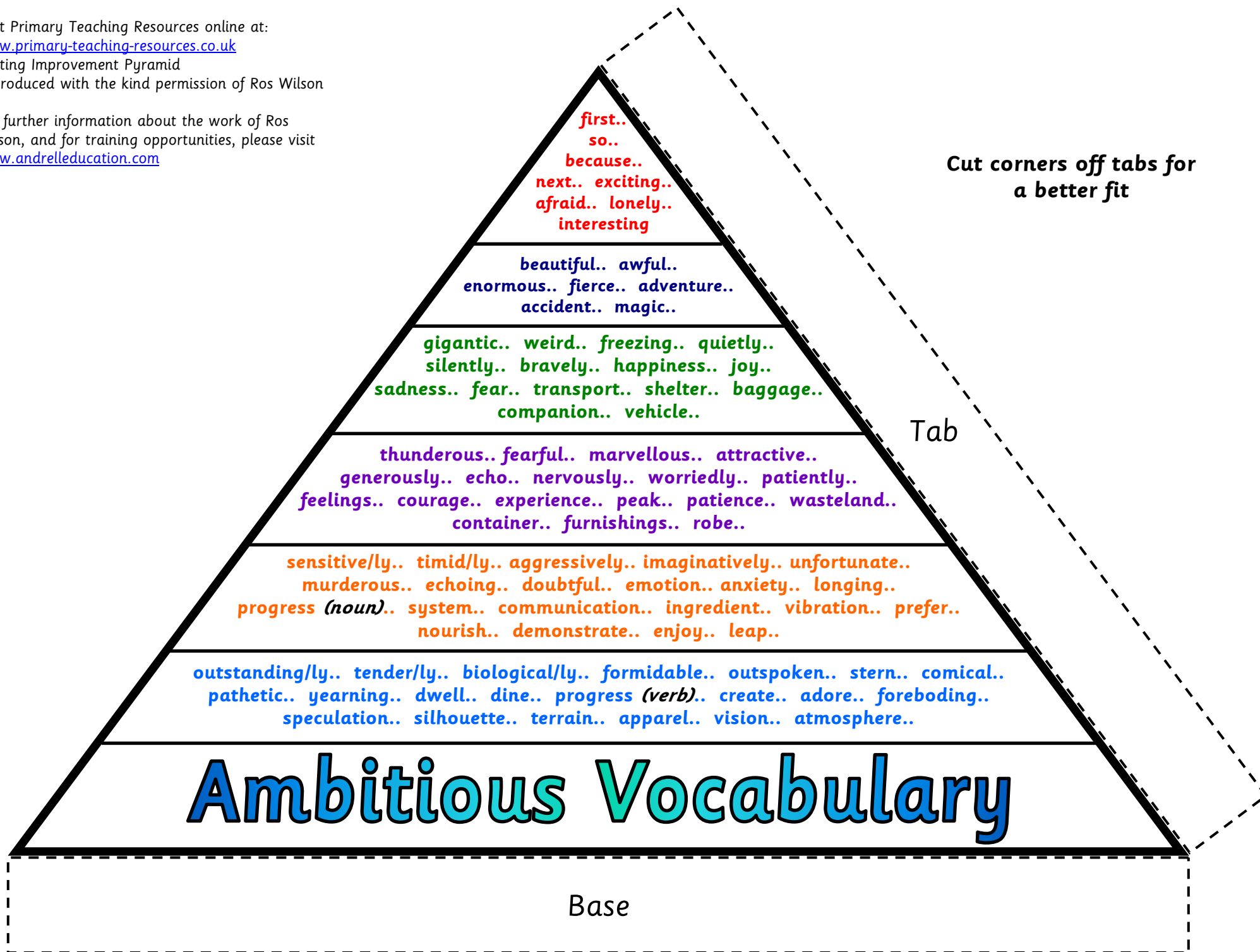
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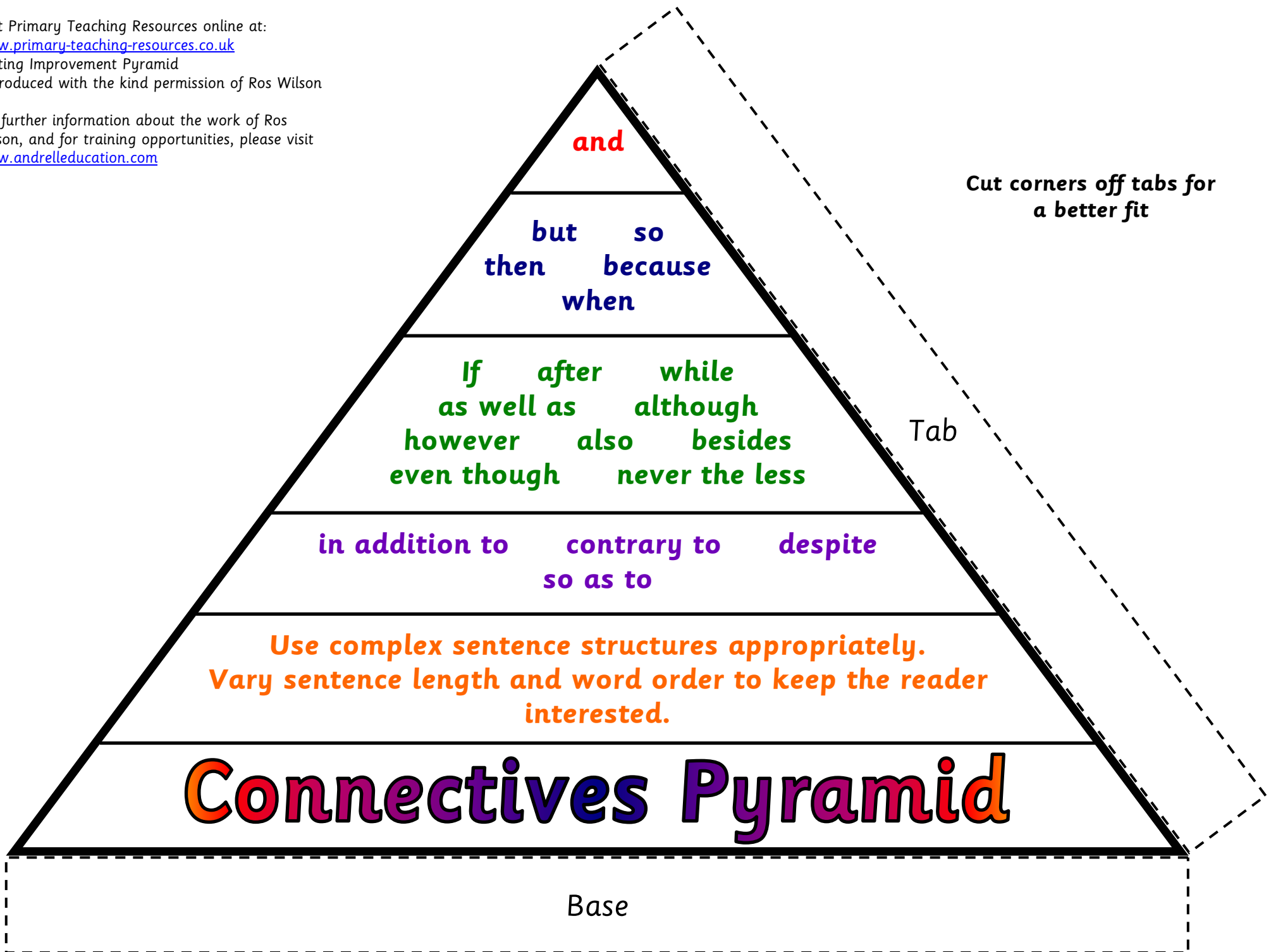
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and

but so
then because
when

If after while
as well as although
however also besides
even though never the less

in addition to contrary to despite
so as to

Use complex sentence structures appropriately.
Vary sentence length and word order to keep the reader
interested.

Connectives Pyramid

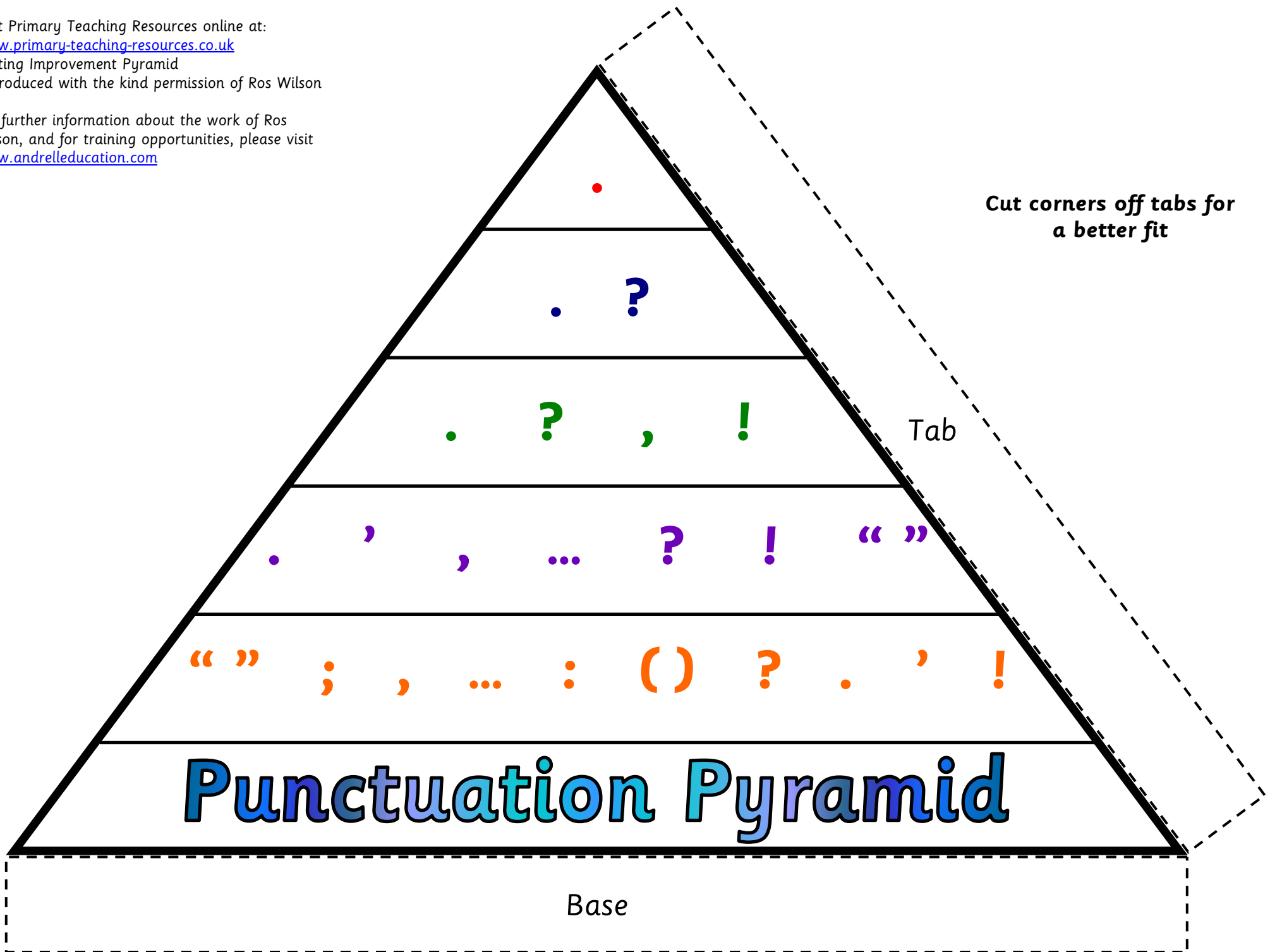
Base

Cut corners off tabs for
a better fit

Tab

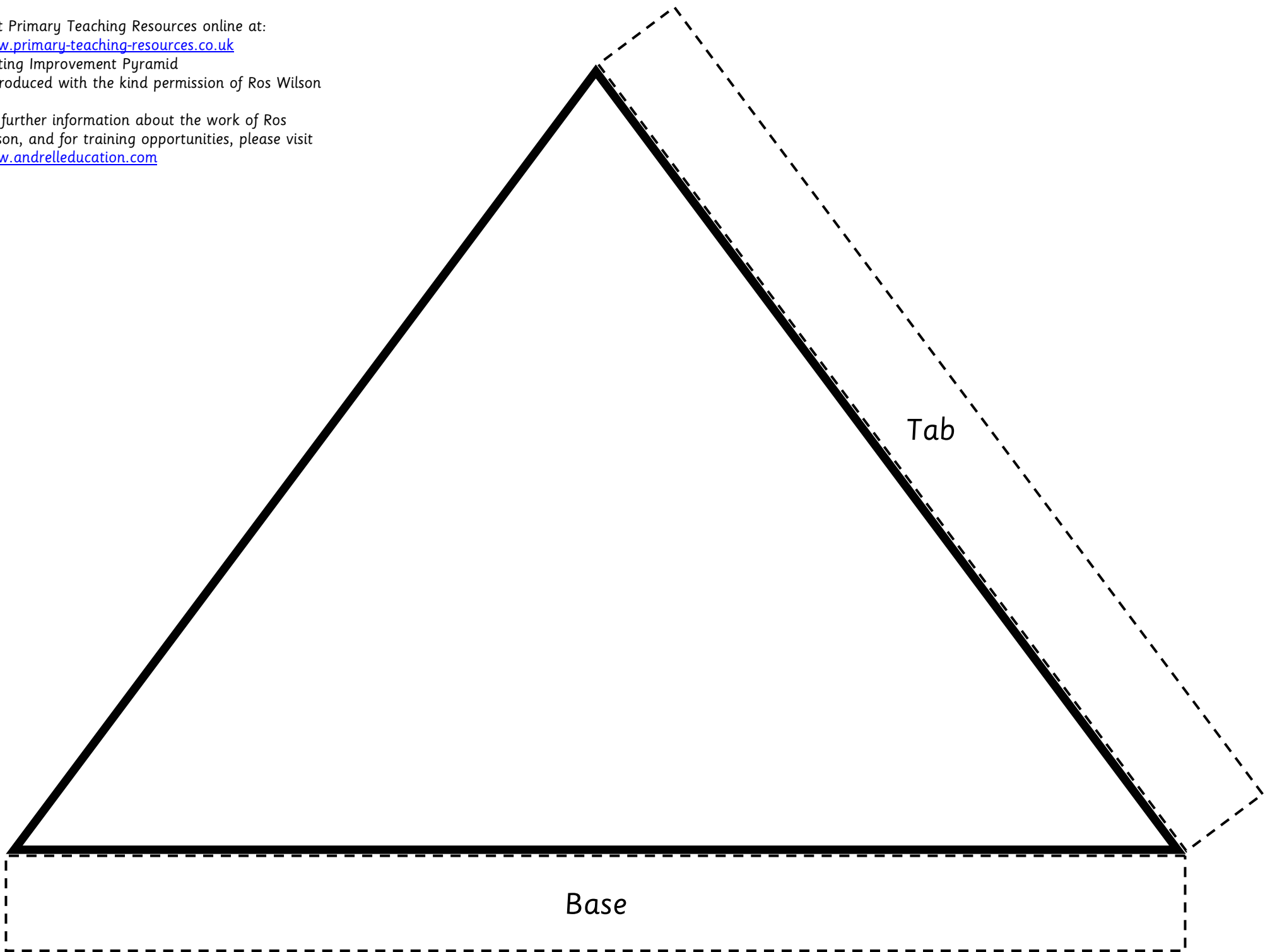
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How to use the Writing Improvement Pyramid

The Writing Improvement Pyramid is a simple and highly-effective tool which provides an instant reference point for children to use when completing writing activities.

Use of the Writing Improvement Pyramid in the classroom is designed to have an immediate impact on writing standards.

Once assembled, the faces of the pyramid present the 'VCOP' system of focused teaching:

V = Vocabulary: teach a wide range of 'wow' words (ambitious vocabulary)

C = Connectives: teach a wide range of words and phrases for connecting thoughts, ideas, sentences, etc.

O = Openers: teach a wide range of ways of opening sentences, including sequence words, linking words and phrases

P = Punctuation: teach a wide range of punctuation

Each face of the pyramid contains a number of 'bands'. The lower down the pyramid you go, the more sophisticated the writing should be.

Children should be encouraged to internalise which VCOP 'band' they are working within and attempt to up-level themselves. Encourage the children to 'have a go' at the bands they are not quite ready for and praise for doing so, even if their work is not quite accurate – they should not be made to feel that they are 'getting it wrong'. Continued teacher modelling during writing sessions and frequent reference to the Pyramid will encourage increased understanding.

For example: Name punctuation marks and model examples of their use during Literacy lessons. Encourage the children to spot punctuation marks in the texts that they read. Ask the children to look at their own writing and assess which band they think they are working within and what punctuation marks they need to start using to reach the next band.

**To assemble, print onto card and cut out each face of the pyramid.
Snip the corners off the tabs, score and glue the faces of the pyramid firmly together.
For a more durable pyramid, either laminate or cover with clear Fablon prior to assembly.**