Unit 1: Grammar - Parts of Speech

Content Area: **English Language Arts**
Course(s): **English Language Arts**
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**
Length: **3 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

Students will recognize parts of speech in a variety of contexts with an eye toward applying them to their writing. Students will also analyze various contexts to discover how a single word can act as varying parts of speech.

This unit serves as a review and practice of skills from corresponding units in the grades 6 and 7 curricula. It also ensures that students new to the school in grade 8 have adequate understanding of these concepts as they will apply to an intensive writing curriculum for the year.

The instruction and activities in this unit would appear to apply to only two standards in the Common Core, and only indirectly. However, this grammar unit and three others like it serve as an essential basis early in the school year for the Writing Workshop and ongoing writing experiences. As the students learn the skills and vocabulary related to the mechanics of writing, their facility with more abstract nuances will benefit incalculably.

Standards

LA.W.8.1	Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
LA.W.8.1.A	Introduce claim(s), acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.
LA.W.8.1.B	Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
LA.W.8.1.C	Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
LA.W.8.1.D	Establish and maintain a formal style.
LA.W.8.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, voice and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
LA.W.8.5	With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.
LA.L.8.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
LA.L.8.1.A	Explain the function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences.

LA.L.8.1.B	Form and use verbs in the active and passive voice.
LA.L.8.1.C	Form and use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood.
LA.L.8.1.D	Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood.

Essential Questions

How are the eight parts of speech distinct from each other, and how do they interrelate?

How does context determine the function of a word and thus its part of speech?

Why does varying a word's context sometimes alter its function?

Application of Knowledge and Skills...

Students will know that...

- -all words fall into at least one category of the eight parts of speech.
- -varying a word's context can alter its function.
- -verbs can form verbals (gerunds, participles, and infinitives) and function as other parts of speech.
- -verbs have mood (indicative, subjunctive, imperative) and voice (active, passive).
- -words have different functions that vary with context and their interrelations with other words.

Students will be able to...

- -analyze a word in various contexts and explain how it changes its part of speech.
- -identify the eight parts of speech and classify words into them.
- -identify the varying functions of single words as they appear in different contexts.
- -identify verbals and explain their functions.
- -identify verbals and explain their functions.

Assessments

Parts of Speech Pretest
Diagnostic: Written Test

This initial assessment reveals what understanding, if any, the student already has with regard to parts of speech and the functions of words in context.

Daily Warm-Up Exercises
Formative: Sample Assessment Item

Students complete these exercises in their notes and on the SmartBoard. The class discusses different approaches to various concepts in the unit.

Quiz and Test Reviews
Formative: Self Assessment

After taking a practice quiz or a practice test, students pair up to identify strengths and weaknesses in their understanding of topics. They then share their self-assessments with the class.

Formative Quizzes
Formative: Written Test

At the discretion of the teacher, formative quizzes will assess students' progress in the unit.

NOTE: The Core Standard for Language (L 8.1) has specific requirements for mastery of verbs and verbals.

Unit Test
Summative: Written Test

This test requires students to recall the list of all eight parts of speech (knowledge).

They must also identify the part of speech of words underlined in sentences (comprehension/analysis).

Words that are spelled the same are often placed in different contexts, giving them different grammatical functions. For example, the word "throw" in "I will throw the ball," is a verb; but it is a noun in "That was a good throw" (analysis).

- Preassessment
- Quiz: Nouns, Verbs, and Adjectives (Version A)
- Quiz: Nouns, Verbs, and Adjectives (Version B)
- Quiz: Adverbs and Pronouns (Version A)
- Quiz: Adverbs and Pronouns (Version B)
- Quiz: Prepositons, Conjunctions, and Interjections (Version A)
- Quiz: Prepositons, Conjunctions, and Interjections (Version B)

- Unit Test (Version A)
- Unit Test (Version B)
- Follow-Up Test (Version A)
- Follow-Up Test (Version B)
- Quiz: Verbals, Mood, and Voice

Activities

Activities may include the following:

Introduction to the list of the parts of speech--mnemonic to aid in recalling the list

Distribution of handouts/study guides for each part of speech; discussion and analysis of concepts and contexts

SmartBoard exercises identifying and manipulating words acting as various parts of speech (may be used as daily warm-up activities)

Activities for practice and analysis of skills and concepts

Composition of flash cards to supplement study guides

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

Auditory: Schoolhouse Rock songs

Visual: Schoolhouse Rock videos, handouts, flash cards, practice quizzes, practice test

Visual/Kinesthetic: SmartBoard activities

Struggling learners: peer pairings, handouts, reviews

Advanced students: peer pairings; opportunities to lead SmartBoard activities; opportunities to suggest strategies and demonstrate techniques

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

Student understanding of parts of speech can enhance their study of world languages. This unit will help with sentence construction and understanding adjective/verb agreement.

Resources

Teacher, Student, and Parent Resources

Individual handouts for each of the eight parts of speech

Pearson Prentice Hall *Writing and Grammar Workbook*

Pearson Prentice Hall *Writing Coach*

Pearson Prentice Hall Writing Coach *ExamView* CD-ROM

Youtube links for

Schoolhouse Rock:

Nouns http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sy72OPgdVuA

Verbs http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wn0WEuH4mF4

Adjectives http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkuuZEey_bs

Adverbs http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14fXm4FOMPM

Pronouns http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koZFca8AkT0

Prepositions http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bmz8mM-nPtM

Conjunctions http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZqI5b5wGA4

Interjections http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZqI5b5wGA4

Practice quizzes

Practice test

Student-generated supplemental materials (flashcards, notes)

Teacher Website (for assignments and expectations)

Daily Warm-up activities

The Writer's Craft (the grammar textbook whose content was the basis for the former grammar curriculum, and whose organization and information are highly compatible with this unit)

- Daily Warmups
- UbD Parts of Speech NOUNS.doc
- UbD Parts of Speech VERBS.doc
- UbD Parts of Speech ADJECTIVES.doc
- UbD Parts of Speech ADVERBS.doc
- UbD Parts of Speech ADVERBS.doc
- UbD Parts of Speech PRONOUNS.doc
- UbD Parts of Speech PREPOSITIONS.doc
- UbD Parts of Speech CONJUNCTIONS.doc
- UbD Parts of Speech INTERJECTIONS.doc
- UbD Parts of Speech Schoolhouse Rock Nouns.docx

- UbD Parts of Speech Schoolhouse Rock Verbs.docx
- UbD Parts of Speech Schoolhouse Rock Adjectives.docx
- UbD Parts of Speech Schoolhouse Rock Adverbs.docx
- UbD Parts of Speech Schoolhouse Rock Prepositions.docx
- UbD Parts of Speech Schoolhouse Rock Pronouns.docx
- UbD Parts of Speech Schoolhouse Rock Conjunctions.docx
- UbD Parts of Speech Schoolhouse Rock Interjections.docx
- Practice Quiz: Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives
- Practice Quiz: Adverbs and Pronouns
- Practice Quiz: Prepositions, Conjunctions, and Interjections
- Unit Test--Practice
- Unit Test--Practice (Funny!)

21st Century Skills

CRP.K-12.CRP2.1	Career-ready individuals readily access and use the knowledge and skills acquired through experience and education to be more productive. They make connections between abstract concepts with real-world applications, and they make correct insights about when it is appropriate to apply the use of an academic skill in a workplace situation.
CRP.K-12.CRP4.1	Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas, and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal, and/or visual methods. They communicate in the workplace with clarity and purpose to make maximum use of their own and others' time. They are excellent writers; they master conventions, word choice, and organization, and use effective tone and presentation skills to articulate ideas. They are skilled at interacting with others; they are active listeners and speak clearly and with purpose. Career-ready individuals think about the audience for their communication and prepare accordingly to ensure the desired outcome.