Unit 3: Grammar - Punctuation

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

Unit Overview

Students will demonstrate the proper use of the various forms of punctuation in a variety of contexts. In accordance with Core Standards for Language 8.2 A and B, the portion of the unit involving commas includes lessons on how to use a comma or an ellipsis to indicate a pause or break, and an ellipsis to indicate an omission.

This comprehensive unit on punctuation includes instruction and practice on the use of end punctuation (periods, question marks, and exclamation points) and intermediary punctuation (apostrophes, hyphens, dashes, parentheses, commas, semicolons, and colons).

Quotation marks are covered in lessons regarding dialogue in narrative writing; therefore, they are not covered in this unit.

Standards

LA.L.8.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
LA.L.8.2.A	Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break.
LA.L.8.2.B	Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission.

Essential Questions

How is punctuation used?

How does punctuation ensure clarity of meaning and correctness of format?

How does the proper use of punctuation improve one’s writing?

How can practice and observation make punctuation easier?

Application of Knowledge and Skills...

Students will know that...

- -an ellipsis can be used to indicate an omission.
- -commas, dashes, and ellipses can be used to indicate a break.
- -correct punctuation facilitates effective writing.
- -punctuation has specific functions for ensuring clarity in sentences.
- -punctuation is used to format many conventional constructions.

Students will be able to...

- -format conventional constructions such as clauses, sentences, and series using applicable punctuation.
- -identify specific functions for various forms of punctuation: apostrophes, colons, commas, dashes, exclamation points, hyphens, periods, questions marks, and semicolons.
- -use an ellipsis to indicate an omission.
- -use commas, dashes, and ellipses to indicate a break.

Assessments

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 and skills 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 6.1) has specific requirements for mastery of pronouns.

Unit Test
Summative: Written Test

This test requires students to apply various forms of punctuation to sentences.

NOTE: The Core Standard for Language (L 7.2 A) has specific requirements for mastery of coordinate adjectives.

Unit Pretest
Diagnostic: Written Test

Use of punctuation

Activities

Activities may include the following:

Distribution of handouts/study guides for each form of punctuation; discussion and analysis of concepts and contexts

SmartBoard exercises requiring correction or punctuation of sentences (may be used as daily warm-up activities)

Worksheets for practice and analysis of skills and concepts

Composition of flash cards to supplement study guides

Supplemental activities/lessons from *The Writer's Craft*

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

Visual: handouts, flash cards, practice quizzes and tests

Auditory: rhymes, repetitions of key phrases from guides

Visual/Kinesthetic: SmartBoard activities

Struggling learners: peer pairings, handouts, reviews

Advanced students: peer pairings; challenge sentences

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

Punctuation is an essential element for writing and is expected to be used in all written assignments in all content areas.

Resources

Punctuation guide sheets

Worksheets

Pearson Prentice Hall *Writing and Grammar Workbook*

Pearson Prentice Hall *Writing Coach*

Pearson Prentice Hall Writing Coach *ExamView* CD-ROM

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)

Instruction for All Students by Paula Rutherford

- UbD Punctuation Notes Apostrophes Hyphens.doc
- UbD Punctuation Notes Commas.doc
- UbD Punctuation Notes Dash Ellipsis.doc
- UbD Punctuation Notes Restrictive and Nonrestrictive.doc
- UbD Punctuation Notes Semicolons Colons.doc

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.