Unit 2: Grammar - Understanding Sentences

Content Area: **English Language Arts**
Course(s): **English Language Arts**
Time Period: **Marking Period 2**
Length: **3 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

Students will analyze sentences, distinguishing between declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences. Additionally, they will distinguish between simple, compound, and complex sentences. They will also explain the differences between dependent and independent clauses, and they will apply this knowledge to their own writing habits.

Standards

LA.L.8.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
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.8.L.8.3	Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. Use verbs in the active and passive voice and in the conditional and subjunctive mood to achieve particular effects (e.g., emphasizing the actor or the action; expressing uncertainty or describing a state contrary to fact).

Essential Questions

How do the different modes of sentence differ from each other?

How do different sentence elements contribute to the meaning of a sentence?

How can sentences be configured to become distinct types of sentences?

How do different types of sentences in context affect one’s writing?

Application of Knowledge and Skills...

Students will know that...

- different configurations of clauses yield different types of sentences.
- fluid writing requires a variety of sentence types and the ability to manipulate the elements of sentences.
- sentences are composed of various elements, principally clauses consisting of subjects and verbs.
- sentences fall into the following modes: declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory.

Students will be able to...

- distinguish between simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences and compose such sentences as specified.
- identify declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences.
- identify various elements in a clause (subject, verb, etc.) and distinguish between dependent and independent clauses.
- improve written passages by manipulating sentences as the situation requires, particularly when using interrupting clauses set off by commas or dashes.

Assessments

Formative Quizzes
Formative: Written Test

Formative quizzes given periodically to assess students' understanding of concepts and demonstration of skills.

Unit Test
Summative: Written Test

End-of-unit test

Unit Prestest
Diagnostic: Written Test

Types of sentences

Worksheets and exercises

Other written assessments

Activities

Possible classroom activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Distribution of handouts/study guides for each sentence mode (declarative, interrogative, etc.) and sentence type (simple, compound, complex); discussion and analysis of concepts and contexts

SmartBoard exercises identifying concepts and manipulating sentences and their contexts (may be used as daily warm-up activities)

Activities from *The Writer's Craft*.

Activities for practice and analysis of skills and concepts

Composition of flash cards to supplement study guides

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

Visual: handouts, flash cards, practice quizzes and tests

Visual/Kinesthetic: SmartBoard activities

Struggling learners: peer groupings, handouts, reviews

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

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

Sentence construction is another key element in the study of World Languages. Concepts from this unit are applicable to the study of Spanish, French, or Latin. Similarly, topics in World Language will also influence understanding in this unit.

Resources

Handouts for sentence modes and sentence types

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)

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)

UbD Understanding Sentences Notes.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.