

Grammar - Punctuation

Content Area: **English Language Arts**
Course(s): **English Language Arts, Generic District Course**
Time Period: **Generic Time Period**
Length: **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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.8.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.8.2.a	Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.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...

Students will know that:

-punctuation has specific functions for ensuring clarity in sentences.

-punctuation is used to format many conventional constructions.

-correct punctuation facilitates effective writing.

-commas, dashes, and ellipses can be used to indicate a break.

-an ellipsis can be used to indicate an omission.

- -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 skilled at...

Students will be able to:

-identify specific functions for various forms of punctuation: apostrophes, colons, commas, dashes, exclamation points, hyphens, periods, questions marks, and semicolons.

-format conventional constructions such as clauses, sentences, and series using applicable punctuation.

-use commas, dashes, and ellipses to indicate a break.

-use an ellipsis to indicate an omission.

- -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

- 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.
- At the discretion of the teacher, formative quizzes will assess students' progress in the unit.
- Daily Warm-Up Exercises
- Diagnostic: Written Test
- Formative Quizzes
- Formative: Sample Assessment Item
- Formative: Self Assessment
- Formative: Written Test
- NOTE: The Core Standard for Language (L 6.1) has specific requirements for mastery of pronouns.
- NOTE: The Core Standard for Language (L 7.2 A) has specific requirements for mastery of coordinate adjectives.
- Quiz and Test Reviews
- Students complete these exercises in their notes and on the SmartBoard. The class discusses different approaches to various concepts and skills in the unit.
- Summative: Written Test
- This test requires students to apply various forms of punctuation to sentences.
- Unit Pretest
- Unit 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

None for this unit.

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](#)