



# Appendix A

## Conventions of Academic English / Language for Learning: Grade Band Skills

**PLEASE NOTE:** Language Standards 1 and 2 are organized within grade bands. For the Core Conventions Skills and Core Punctuation and Spelling Skills, the student is expected to know and be able to use the skills by the end of the grade band. The → is included to indicate skills that connect and progress across the band. These particular skills are depicted on a continuum because research suggests that they develop along a progression.

## Prekindergarten-Grade 2

### Conventions of Academic English/Language for Learning

**ANCHOR STANDARD L1:** Demonstrate command of the conventions of academic English grammar and usage when writing or speaking\*.

\*While building proficiency in English, ELLs/MLLs in English as a New Language and Bilingual Education programs may demonstrate skills bilingually or transfer linguistic knowledge across languages.

#### Core Conventions Skills for Prekindergarten → Grade 2:

- Print upper- and lowercase letters in their name → Print many upper- and lowercase letters → Print all upper- and lowercase letters.
- Use frequently occurring nouns and verbs (orally) → Use frequently occurring nouns and verbs.
- Use common, proper, and possessive nouns.
- Use collective nouns (e.g., group).
- Form and use regular plural nouns (e.g., dog, dogs; wish, wishes).
- Form and use frequently occurring irregular plural nouns (e.g., feet, children, mice, fish).
- Use singular and plural nouns with matching verbs in basic sentences (e.g., The boy jumps; The boys jump).
- Understand and use interrogatives (question words—e.g., who, what, where, when, why, how).
- Use frequently occurring prepositions (e.g., to, from, in, out, on, off, for, of, by, with).
- Produce and expand complete sentences in shared language activities.
- Use personal, possessive, and indefinite pronouns (e.g., I, me, my; they, them, their, anyone, everything). → Use reflexive pronouns (e.g., myself, ourselves).
- Use verbs → Use verbs to convey a sense of past, present, and future (e.g., Yesterday I walked home; Today I walk home; Tomorrow I will walk home). → Form and use the past tense of frequently occurring irregular verbs (e.g., sat, hid, told).
- Use frequently occurring adjectives. → Use adjectives or adverbs appropriately.
- Use frequently occurring conjunctions (e.g., and, but, or, so because). → Use frequently occurring transition words (e.g., first, then, therefore, finally)
- Produce and expand complete sentences → Understand and use simple and compound sentences in speech or writing (e.g., The child read the book; The child read the book, but she did not watch the movie).

**ANCHOR STANDARD L2:** Demonstrate command of the conventions of academic English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing\*.

\*While building proficiency in English, ELLs/MLLs in English as a New Language and Bilingual Education programs may demonstrate skills bilingually or transfer linguistic knowledge across languages).

**Core Punctuation and Spelling Skills for Prekindergarten → Grade 2:**

- Attempt to write symbols or letters to represent words.
- Spell simple words phonetically, drawing on knowledge of sound-letter relationships. → Spell unknown words phonetically, drawing on phonemic awareness and spelling conventions. → Use conventional spelling for words with common spelling patterns and for frequently occurring irregular words. → Generalize learned spelling patterns when writing words (e.g., cage → rage; boy → toy).
- Write a letter or letters for most consonant and short-vowel sounds (phonemes).
- Consult reference materials as needed to check and correct spellings.
- Recognize and name end punctuation. → Use end punctuation for sentences.
- Capitalize the first letter of their name. → Capitalize the first word in a sentence and the pronoun I. → Capitalize dates and names of people. → Capitalize names, places, and holidays.
- Use commas in dates and to separate single words in a series. → Use commas in greetings and closings of letters.
- Use an apostrophe to form contractions and frequently occurring possessives.

## Grades 3-5

### Conventions of Academic English/Language for Learning

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**ANCHOR STANDARD L1:** Demonstrate command of the conventions of academic English grammar and usage when writing or speaking\*.

\*While building proficiency in English, ELLs/MLLs in English as a New Language and Bilingual Education programs may demonstrate skills bilingually or transfer linguistic knowledge across languages.

#### **Core Conventions Skills for Grades 3→5:**

- Produce simple, compound, and complex sentences.
- Explain the function of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs in general as well as in particular sentences.
- Use relative pronouns (who, whose, whom, which, that) and relative adverbs (where, when, why).
- Explain the function of conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections in general as well as in particular sentences.
- Form and use regular and irregular plural nouns.
- Use abstract nouns.
- Form and use regular and irregular verbs.
- Form and use the simple verb tenses (e.g., I walked; I walk; I will walk).
- Form and use the progressive verb tenses (e.g., I was walking; I am walking; I will be walking).
- Form and use the perfect verb tenses (e.g., I had walked; I have walked; I will have walked).
- Use verb tense to convey various times, sequences, states, and conditions.
- Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense.
- Ensure subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement.
- Use coordinating and subordinating conjunctions.
- Use and identify prepositional phrases.
- Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-ons.
- Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., to, too, two; there, their).

**ANCHOR STANDARD L2:** Demonstrate command of the conventions of academic English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing\*.

\*While building proficiency in English, ELLs/MLLs in English as a New Language and Bilingual Education programs may demonstrate skills bilingually or transfer linguistic knowledge across languages.

**Core Punctuation and Spelling Skills for Grades 3→5:**

- Capitalize appropriate words in titles.
- Use correct capitalization.
- Use commas in addresses.
- Use commas and quotation marks in dialogue. → Use commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text.
- Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence.
- Use a comma to separate an introductory element from the rest of the sentence.
- Use punctuation to separate items in a series.
- Form and use possessives.
- Use conventional spelling for high-frequency and other studied words, and to add suffixes to base words (e.g., sitting, smiled, cries, happiness).
- Use spelling patterns, rules, and generalizations (e.g., word families, position-based spellings, syllable patterns, ending rules, meaningful word parts) in writing words.  
→ Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.
- Use quotation marks or italics to indicate titles of works.

## Grades 6-8

### Conventions of Academic English/Language for Learning

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**ANCHOR STANDARD L1:** Demonstrate command of the conventions of academic English grammar and usage when writing or speaking\*.

\*While building proficiency in English, ELLs/MLLs in English as a New Language and Bilingual Education programs may demonstrate skills bilingually or transfer linguistic knowledge across languages.

#### **Core Conventions Skills for Grades 6→8:**

- Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case (subjective, objective, and possessive).
- Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.
- Recognize and correct pronouns that have unclear or ambiguous antecedents.
- Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general, as well as in specific sentences.
- Place phrases and clauses within a sentence, recognizing and correcting misplaced and dangling modifiers.
- Use simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas.
- Explain the function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives).
- Form and use verbs in the active and passive voice.
- Recognize and correct inappropriate verb shifts.

**ANCHOR STANDARD L2:** Demonstrate command of the conventions of academic English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing\*.

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#### **Core Punctuation and Spelling Skills for Grades 6→8:**

- Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes, hyphens) to clarify and enhance writing.
- Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break.
- Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission.

## Grades 9-12

### Conventions of Academic English/Language for Learning

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**ANCHOR STANDARD L1:** Demonstrate command of the conventions of academic English grammar and usage when writing or speaking\*.

\*While building proficiency in English, ELLs/MLLs in English as a New Language and Bilingual Education programs may demonstrate skills bilingually or transfer linguistic knowledge across languages.

**Core Conventions Skills for Grades 9→12:**

- Use parallel structure.
- Use various types of phrases and clauses to add variety and interest to writing or presentations.
- Understand that usage is a matter of convention that can change over time.
- Resolve issues of complex or contested usage, consulting references as needed.

**ANCHOR STANDARD L2:** Demonstrate command of the conventions of academic English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing\*.

\*While building proficiency in English, ELLs/MLLs in English as a New Language and Bilingual Education programs may demonstrate skills bilingually or transfer linguistic knowledge across languages.

**Core Punctuation and Spelling Skills for Grades 9→12:**

- Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes, hyphens) to clarify and enhance writing.
- Use a semicolon to link two or more closely related independent clauses.
- Use a colon to introduce a list or quotation.