

Grammar/Mechanics of Writing

Welcome, everyone! I have three primary goals for this class:

- 1) to help each student understand the basic grammatical foundation of the English language,
- 2) to help each student craft well-constructed sentences and paragraphs, and
- 3) to increase each student's vocabulary.

Secondary goals include boosting reading comprehension and laying the groundwork for success in higher Language Arts/English classes.

The syllabus is subject to change, particularly if I see a need to switch directions, to slow down, or to speed up. I communicate regularly on the class page, which you (student and/or parent) should check between class meetings:

jennicreates.com/tc-classes/mechanics-of-writing/

Password: thursdayconnection

Feel free to contact me at any time: (423) 503-7971 / jennie@jennicreates.com

This class will cover the basics grammar, mechanics, and usage, from nouns and modifiers to figurative language and reading for comprehension. Because the class is made up of fifth through seventh graders with various levels of writing ability, sometimes tedious lessons on grammar and punctuation are important for some and unnecessary for others. ***Be patient and considerate of those around you.***

This class has three primary elements:

- 1) Vocabulary:** Each week students will have five vocabulary words to define and study. While this may seem tedious, my goal is to elevate students' writing and that includes improving their vocabulary. They'll have 75 words each semester and will make up a third of their overall grade.
- 2) Worksheet packets:** Each week students will go home with worksheets/assignments to complete and return. It may feel daunting at first, but repetition is key for retention when it comes to grammar. These packets will make up a third of their overall grade.
- 3) Take-home and in-class tests:** Students will take four tests each semester. The first three are take-home and the final semester test is taken in class. Tests will account for a third of their grade.

Required Materials: A dictionary for at-home use; pencil for in-class work ;a notebook/paper for keeping a list of defined vocabulary words and taking notes in class

Note: I have high expectations for all of my students, but as a homeschooling mother I understand there are plenty of variables that affect a student's capabilities. If there is a problem with an assignment, contact me BEFORE it is due. I have no problem extending grace to a student BEFORE a due date. There is less grace to be extended ON or AFTER a due date. :)

Fall 2018	Topic Covered	Homework	Test
1 Aug. 16	Types of sentences, fragments, run-ons, simple/compound sentences; Copyediting marks	Worksheets: Identifying types of sentences; Copyediting marks; Define and study vocab	
2 Aug. 23	Vocab Quiz; Nouns (Proper Cap/Improper, Collective)	Worksheets: Identifying types of sentences, Nouns; Define and study vocab	
3 Aug. 30	Vocab Quiz; Pronouns (Singular/Plural/Indefinite)	Worksheets: Nouns and Pronouns; Define and study vocab	
4 Sept. 6	Vocab Quiz; Verbs (Present/Past Tense/Past Participle); Subject/Verb Agreement	Worksheets: Noun/Pronoun Verbs/Agreement; Define and study vocab	Home Test
5 Sept. 13	Vocab Quiz; Action Verbs vs. Being Verbs	Worksheets: Subject/Verb Agreement; Define and study vocab	
6 Sept. 20	Vocab Quiz; Active vs. Passive Language/Helping Verbs	Worksheets: Active/Passive Voice; Define and study vocab	
7 Sept. 27	Vocab Quiz; Adjectives (Demonstrative)	Worksheets: Nouns and Adjectives; Define and study vocab	
8 Oct. 4	Vocab Quiz; Adverbs (-ly, comparative)	Worksheets: Adverbs and Verbs; Define and study vocab	Home Test
9 Oct. 18	Vocab Quiz; Prepositions, Conjunctions, Interjections	Worksheets: Modifiers and Prepositions, Conjunctions, Interjections; Define and study vocab	
10 Oct. 25	Vocab Quiz; End marks and commas to separate	Worksheets: Types of Sentences and corresponding punctuation; Define and study vocab	
11 Nov. 1	Vocab Quiz; Semicolons, colons, quotation marks	Worksheets: Modifiers, Subject/Verb Agreement, punctuation; Define and study vocab	
12 Nov. 8	Vocab Quiz; Apostrophe, Dashes, Hyphens, Parentheses	Worksheets: Punctuation; Define and study vocab	Home Test

13 Nov. 15	Vocab Quiz; Titles, Addresses, and Dates	Worksheets: Punctuation and Titles; Define and study vocab	
14 Nov. 29	Vocab Quiz; Gerunds, Infinitives, Participles	Worksheets: Titles, Gerunds, Infinitives; Define and study vocab	
15 Dec. 6	Vocab Quiz; Diagramming Simple Sentences	Worksheets: Diagramming; Sentences; Define and study vocab	
16 Dec. 13	Vocab Quiz; Review In-Class Test	No homework! Merry Christmas!	