

Grammar Concepts Activity

LEVELS 15, 18, 21

What are Grammar Concepts?

Grammar refers to a system of rules for arranging words, phrases, and clauses in a sentence and is the foundation of spoken and written language. Understanding the functions of words, phrases, and clauses helps students comprehend and compose both oral dialogue and written text. Grammar is as essential to proficient reading as it is to coherent writing.

Why focus on Grammar Concepts?

Grammar supports the development of fluency and reading comprehension (Mokhtari & Thompson, 2006; Muter, Hulme, Snowling, Stevenson, & Dannemiller, 2004; Perfetti & Stafura, 2013; Vellutino, Tunmer, Jaccard, & Chen, 2007). When students understand phrases and clauses, they are able to “chunk” text as they read instead of reading word by word. They read as if they were speaking. This imitation of speech allows readers to attend to meaning (Perfetti, 1985).

In written text, grammar promotes communication between the reader and the writer (Snow, 2002). The writer uses precise grammar to convey a message. Proficient readers observe the functions of words, phrases, and clauses in sentences to determine the writer’s meaning. Students with knowledge of grammatical concepts, such as pronoun referents and connective words, are better able to read and understand simple and complex sentences and, as a result, determine the writer’s meaning (Cain & Nash, 2011; Crosson & Lesaux, 2013; Perfetti & Stafura 2013). The ability to read and understand complex sentences predicts comprehension of increasingly complex text (Deacon, Kieffer, & Graham, 2018; Mokhtari & Thompson, 2006).

How does Lexia® Core5® Reading address Grammar Concepts?

Levels 15, 18, and 21 of Lexia Core5 Reading each contain a Grammar Concepts activity. Throughout the activities, students build their reading comprehension skills through an exploration of grammar at the sentence level. They learn the parts of speech and their functions across simple, compound, and complex sentences. They also learn the parts of sentences (e.g., subject, predicate, phrase, clause) and their functions. Through combining and expanding tasks, students critically analyze and manipulate sentences of increasing length and complexity. With visual supports, such as highlighting, they begin to see recurring patterns in sentences. Students also learn how the precise use of words (e.g., connectives) or the arrangement of phrases and clauses in a sentence can subtly change the meaning of the sentence and impact comprehension. This explicit grammar instruction and practice strengthens the development of fluency and reading comprehension.

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