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GRADE

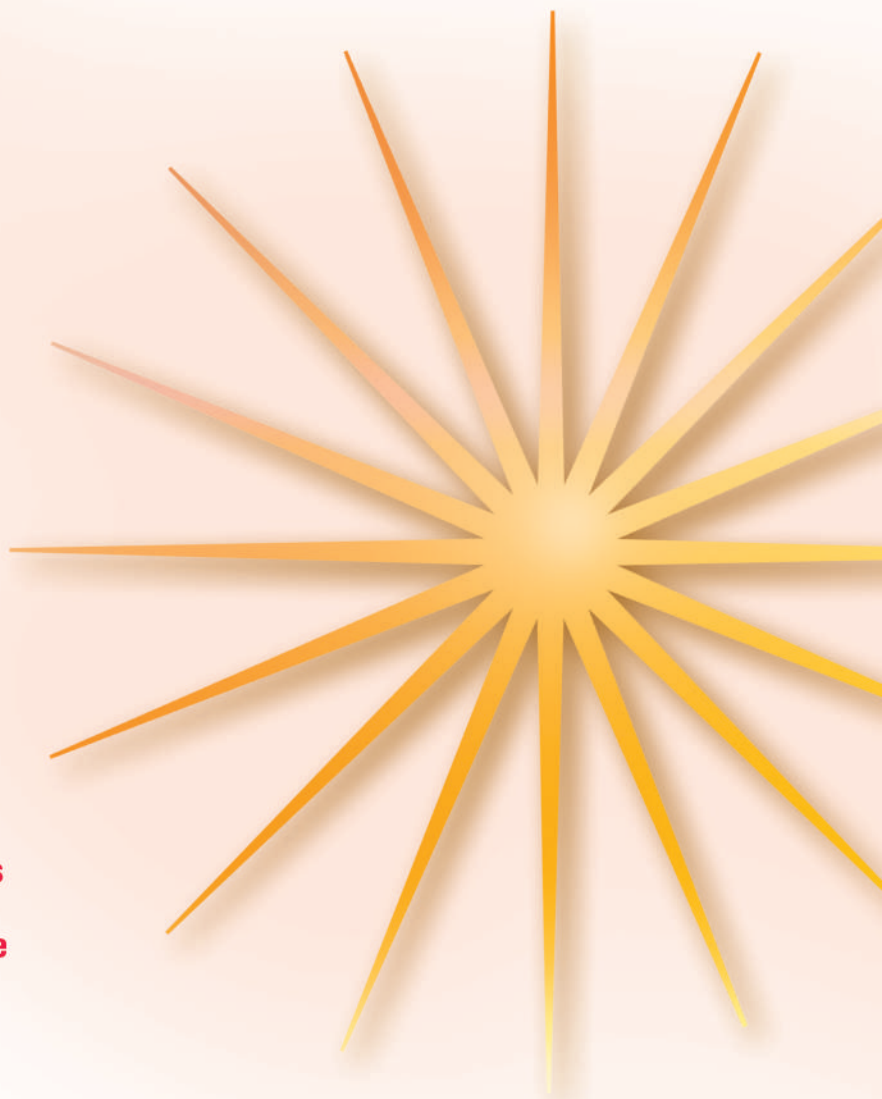
6

Language Arts



Focused Practice for Language Arts Mastery

- **Grammar and usage**
- **Parts of speech and sentence types**
- **Vocabulary acquisition and usage**
- **Writer's guide**
- **Answer key**



SPECTRUM®

Language Arts

Grade 6

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Table of Contents **Grade 6**

Chapter I Grammar

Parts of Speech

Lesson 1.1 Common and Proper Nouns	6
Lesson 1.2 Regular and Irregular Plural Nouns	8
Lesson 1.3 Personal and Intensive Pronouns	10
Lesson 1.4 Demonstrative Pronouns	12
Lesson 1.5 Relative Pronouns	14
Lesson 1.6 Indefinite Pronouns	16
Lesson 1.7 Pronoun Shifts	18
Lesson 1.8 Verbs: Regular Present and Past Tense	20
Lesson 1.9 Verbs: Irregular Present and Past Tense	22
Lesson 1.10 Subject-Verb Agreement	24
Lesson 1.11 Action Verbs	26
Lesson 1.12 Helping Verbs	28
Lesson 1.13 Linking Verbs	30
Lesson 1.14 Transitive Verbs	32
Lesson 1.15 Gerunds, Participles, and Infinitives	34
Lesson 1.16 Adjectives	36
Lesson 1.17 Adverbs	38
Lesson 1.18 Conjunctions	40
Lesson 1.19 Interjections	42
Lesson 1.20 Prepositions	44
Lesson 1.21 Prepositional Phrases	46
Lesson 1.22 Articles	48
Review: Lessons 1–22	50

Sentences

Lesson 1.23 Declarative Sentences	52
Lesson 1.24 Interrogative Sentences	54
Lesson 1.25 Exclamatory Sentences	56
Lesson 1.26 Imperative Sentences	58
Lesson 1.27 Simple Sentences	60
Lesson 1.28 Compound Sentences	62
Lesson 1.29 Complex Sentences	64
Lesson 1.30 Sentence Fragments	66
Lesson 1.31 Combining Sentences	68
Lesson 1.32 Writing a Paragraph	70
Review: Lessons 23–32	74

Table of Contents **Grade 6**

Chapter 2 Mechanics

Capitalization

Lesson 2.1 Proper Nouns: Days of the Week, Months of the Year	76
Lesson 2.2 Proper Nouns: Historical Events, Names of Languages and Nationalities, Team Names	78
Lesson 2.3 Proper Nouns: Organizations, Departments of Government, Sections of the Country	80
Lesson 2.4 Proper Nouns: Titles, Geographic Names	82
Lesson 2.5 Sentences, Direct Quotations	84
Lesson 2.6 Personal and Business Letters	86
Review: Lessons 1–6	88

Punctuation

Lesson 2.7 Periods: After Imperative Sentences, In Dialogue, In Abbreviations, In Initials.	90
Lesson 2.8 Question Marks	92
Lesson 2.9 Exclamation Points	94
Lesson 2.10 Commas: Series, Direct Address, Multiple Adjectives.	96
Lesson 2.11 Commas: Combining Sentences (between clauses), Set-Off Dialogue	98
Lesson 2.12 Commas: Personal and Business Letters.	100
Lesson 2.13 Quotation Marks	102
Lesson 2.14 Apostrophes.	104
Lesson 2.15 Colons.	106
Lesson 2.16 Semicolons	108
Lesson 2.17 Hyphens	110
Lesson 2.18 Parentheses	112
Review: Lessons 7–18	114

Table of Contents **Grade 6**

Chapter 3 Usage

Lesson 3.1 Tricky Verb Usage	116
Lesson 3.2 Adjectives and Adverbs	118
Lesson 3.3 Negatives and Double Negatives	120
Lesson 3.4 Synonyms and Antonyms	122
Lesson 3.5 Analogies	124
Lesson 3.6 Homophones	126
Lesson 3.7 Multiple-Meaning Words	128
Lesson 3.8 Connotations and Denotations	130
Lesson 3.9 Figures of Speech: Similies, Metaphores, and Personification	132
Review: Lessons 1–9	136

Chapter 4 Writer’s Guide

Lesson 4.1 Prewriting	138
Lesson 4.2 Drafting	139
Lesson 4.3 Revising	140
Lesson 4.4 Proofreading	141
Lesson 4.5 Publishing	142
Lesson 4.6 Evaluating Writing	143
Lesson 4.7 Writing Process Practice	144

Answer Key	149
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Lesson 1.1 Common and Proper Nouns

Common nouns name people, places, and things. They are general nouns (not specific). In a sentence, the noun is the person, place, or thing that can act or be acted upon.

teacher – a person
I like my *teacher*.

country – a place
I will visit another *country*.

book – a thing
What is your favorite *book*?

Proper nouns name specific people, places, and things.

Mrs. Crane – a specific person
Mrs. Crane is my favorite teacher.

United States of America – a specific place
I was born in the *United States of America*.

Animal Farm – a specific thing
Animal Farm is one of my favorite books.

Complete It

Use the word box below to complete the following sentences. Remember, common nouns are general and proper nouns are more specific. Proper nouns are also capitalized.

doctor	poem	song
Saturn	Dr. Green	planet
"Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"	Where the Sidewalk Ends	

- I am writing a _____ for music class.
- I took my cat to see _____ when he had a cold.
- The planet with the rings is called _____.
- My mom takes me to the _____ when I'm sick.
- My _____ came in third place in the poetry contest.
- Mars is the closest _____ to the earth.
- _____ is one of my favorite books.
- My little sister likes to sing _____ before she goes to bed.

Lesson 1.2 Common and Proper Nouns

Proof It

Correct the mistakes in the use of common and proper nouns using proofreading marks.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| / | - lowercase letter |
| ≡ | - capitalize letter |
| ^ | - insert words or letters |



John Muir

John muir was born in 1838 in dunbar, scotland. From a very young age, he had a love of Nature. He traveled all over the world. He came to the united states to observe nature and take notes on what he saw. He wrote many nature Books. John Muir was concerned for the welfare of the land. He wanted to protect it. He asked president theodore roosevelt for help. The National parks System was founded by John Muir. This System sets aside land for Parks. The first national park was yellowstone national park. John Muir is also the founder of the sierra club. The people in this Club teach others about nature and how to protect it. John Muir is known as one of the world's greatest conservation leaders.

Try It

Write a biography about someone you think is a hero. Use at least six common and six proper nouns correctly in your biography.

Lesson 1.2 Regular and Irregular Plural Nouns

A **plural noun** names more than one person, place, or thing. Most nouns are made plural by adding an **s** to the end of the word.

cars

cups

footballs

Nouns ending in the letters **s**, **x**, or **z** or in a **ch** or **sh** sound need **es**.

bosses

taxes

waltzes

If a word ends in the letter **y**, then the **y** is changed to an **i** before adding the **es**.

countries

cities

flies

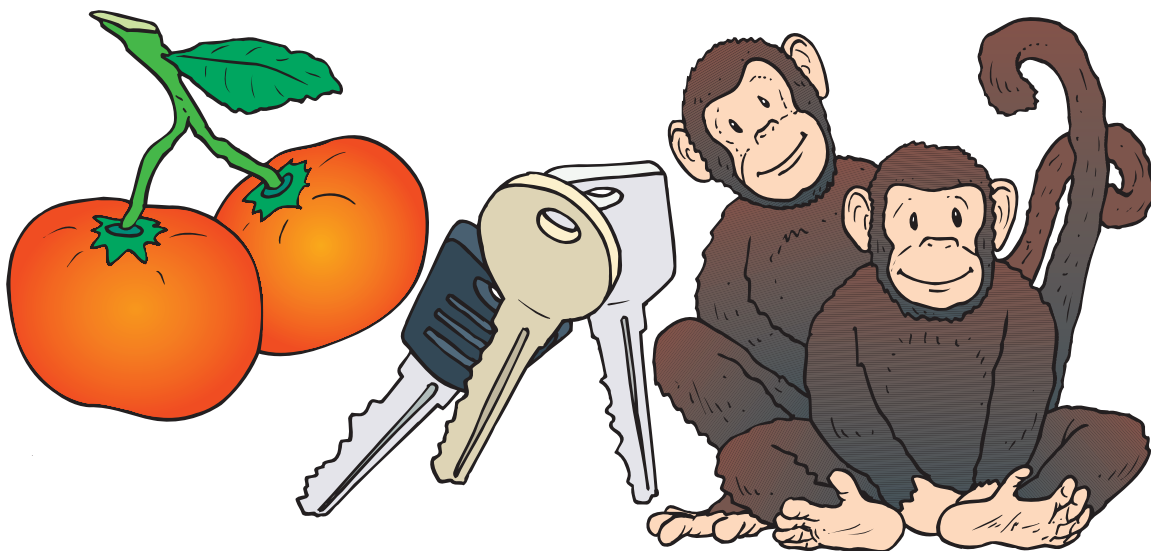
However, words that end in **y** with a vowel before the **y** only add the **s**.

boys

keys

donkeys

If a noun ends in **f** or **fe**, and the **f** sound can still be heard in the plural form, just add **s**. If the final sound of the plural form is **v**, then change the **f** to **ve** and add the **s**.

roofs (**f** sound)calves (**v** sound)

Lesson 1.2 Regular and Irregular Plural Nouns

Try It

Use the lines to explain how the nouns were made into their plural forms. The first one is done for you.

Column A

match

eyebrow

volcano

wolf

trophy

toothbrush

sheriff

Column B

matches

eyebrows

volcanoes

wolves

trophies

toothbrushes

sheriffs

If the noun ends in ch, add an es. _____

Find It

Write the irregular plural noun form of the following singular nouns on the lines provided. Use a dictionary if you need help.

1. ox _____

2. trout _____

3. man _____

4. series _____

5. axis _____

6. mouse _____

7. sheep _____

8. salmon _____

9. woman _____

10. crisis _____

11. oasis _____

12. radius _____

Lesson 1.3 Personal and Intensive Pronouns

A **pronoun** is a word used in place of a noun.

A **subject pronoun** can be the subject of a sentence. *I, you, he, she, and it* are subject pronouns.

I found the ball.

It is my favorite sport.

An **object pronoun** can be the object of a sentence. *Me, you, him, her, and it* are object pronouns.

Matt gave the ball to *me*.

Matt threw *it*.

Possessive pronouns show possession. *My, mine, your, yours, his, her, hers, and its* are possessive pronouns.

Anna gave *my* ball to Matt.

The plural forms of personal pronouns include:

Subject: *we, you, they*

Object: *us, you, them*

Possessive: *our, ours, your, yours, their, theirs*

Intensive pronouns end in *-self* or *-selves* and usually appear right after the subject of a sentence. They emphasize the subject.

I myself am too tired to go to the movies.

You *yourselves* are responsible for the outcome of the game.

Complete It

Complete each of the following sentences with an intensive pronoun. Remember, intensive pronouns end with *-self* or *-selves*.

1. Jessa _____ baked all these muffins.
2. The Boy Scouts _____ set up all these tents.
3. The smoke _____ did all this damage to the house.
4. We _____ created the website in just a couple of days.
5. Oliver _____ wrote that poem.
6. You _____ must clean up all these dominoes.
7. The doctor _____ checked on each of the patients.
8. The kids in Pilar's class _____ raised over \$100 for the charity.

Lesson 1.3 Personal and Intensive Pronouns

Identify It

The following skit contains subject, object, and possessive plural pronouns. Identify what each boldfaced plural pronoun is replacing on the line. Then, write whether the pronoun is a subject, object, or possessive on the line. The first one has been done for you.

Matt and Anna are on **their** _____ Matt and Anna, possessive way to the park to play. On the way, **they** _____ meet Andrew and Stephanie.

We _____ are on **our** _____ way to the park," said Matt. "Can **you** _____ join **us** _____?"

"Can **we** _____ play with **your** _____ ball?" asked Stephanie. "**Ours** _____ is missing."

"**Yours** _____ is missing? That's too bad," said Anna. "Sure, **you** _____ can play with **our** _____ ball."

Matt, Anna, Andrew, and Stephanie all walked to the park. They would all play together.

"I'll throw the ball to you," said Matt to Andrew. Then you can throw the ball to **them** _____," Matt said pointing to Anna and Stephanie.

"Hey," yelled Anna. "I see a ball ahead. Could it be Andrew and Stephanie's ball?"

"Yes, it could be **their** _____ ball," answered Matt. Matt showed Andrew and Stephanie the ball. Sure enough, it was **theirs** _____.



Lesson 1.4 Demonstrative Pronouns

A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun. Pronouns can be a subject, object, or possessive of the sentence. Pronouns can also be demonstrative.

Demonstrative pronouns replace nouns without naming the noun.

this that these those

This is fun. (refers to an event or experience, for example a roller coaster)

That was wonderful. (refers to an event or experience, for example a movie)

These are good. (refers to a basket of apples)

Those are better. (refers to a barrel of pears)

This and *these* are usually used when the person or object is closer to the writer and speaker. *That* and *those* are usually used when the person or object is farther away from the writer or speaker.

This is fast (the roller coaster here), but *that* is faster (the roller coaster over there).

These look good (the apples in the basket that is close), but *those* look better (the pears in the barrel across the room).

Demonstrative pronouns, like other pronouns, add variety to your writing and speaking.

Match It

Draw a line to match the demonstrative pronoun in Column A with the objects of the sentence in Column B.

Column A

this

that

these

those

Column B

many newspapers across the room

one magazine at the library

one wallet in a pocket

many pencils on the desk

this

many ants on the ground

that

one book on the shelf

these

many bananas at the store

those

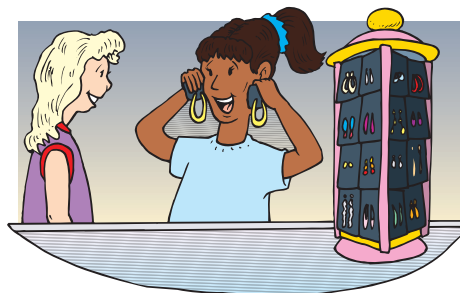
one experience at a baseball game

Lesson 1.4 Demonstrative Pronouns

Proof It

Proof the following dialogue. Use the proofreading marks in the key to delete the demonstrative pronouns that are incorrect and insert the correct words.

e - deletes incorrect word
 ^ - inserts correct word



Lauren and Devin like shopping at the mall. But sometimes they can be hard to please.

“Lauren, look at those!” (holding up earrings next to her ears)

Devin sighed, “I like this better.” (pointing to earrings on a counter farther away)

“Maybe I don’t want earrings at all,” said Lauren. “What about these?” (waving her arm in the air to display a bracelet)

“No,” said Devin. “Now, these is perfect!” (pointing to a belt hanging on the far wall)

“Devin, look at those. (pointing to a clock on the wall) I think the store is closing,” cried Lauren.

“Yes, and these (pointing to the price tag on the belt) won’t make my mom very happy,” said Devin.

“Come on,” replied Lauren. “Let’s come back again tomorrow!”

Try It

Write more dialogue about Lauren and Devin’s trip to the mall the next day. Be sure to use all four demonstrative pronouns: *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those*.

Lesson 1.5 Relative Pronouns

A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun. Pronouns can be the subject, the object, or the possessive of a sentence.

Relative pronouns are pronouns that are related to nouns that have already been stated. They combine two sentences that share a common noun.

who whose that which

The woman, *who* is a doctor, wasn't at the party.
Who refers to the noun *woman*.

The parents, *whose* children were at the party, were ready to go.
Whose refers to the noun *parents*.
(This relative pronoun shows possession).

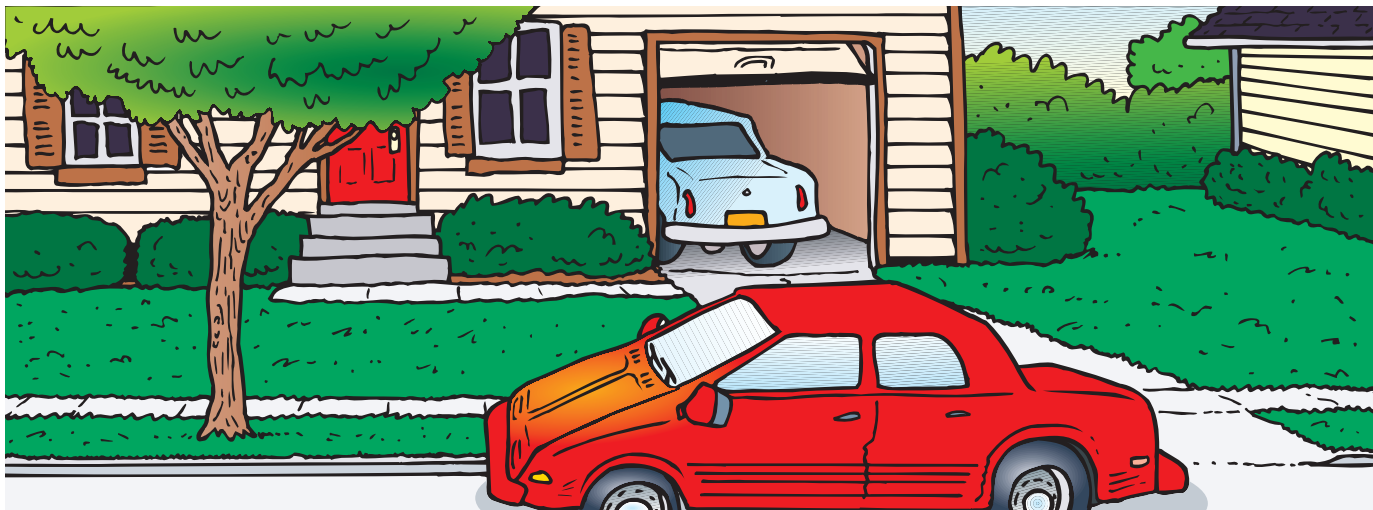
The note *that* you read is incorrect.
That refers to the noun *note*.

The newspaper articles, *which* are long, must be cut.
Which refers to the noun *newspaper articles*.

Complete It

Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct relative pronoun in parentheses. Circle the correct answer.

1. Someone (who, that) likes kiwi usually likes strawberries.
2. Bicyclers (which, whose) bikes are ready can go to the starting line.
3. He likes movies (which, that) have a lot of action.
4. The man, (who, whose) lives across the street, is an actor.
5. The car (who, that) you drove is blocking the driveway.
6. The bananas, (which, that) are the ripest, are used in the recipe.



Lesson 1.5 Relative Pronouns

Solve It

Solve the following riddle. Use a relative pronoun to fill in the blanks.

that which	who whose
---------------	--------------



Who bakes apple pies?

The man _____ grows apples bakes pies.

Who makes the best apple pies?

The man _____ apples are the sweetest bakes the best pies.

What didn't get baked into the pie?

The apple _____ had a bruise did not go in the pie.

What won the prize?

The pies, _____ were the sweetest, won the prize.

Try It

Try writing a riddle of your own. Follow the example above. Ask questions that require an answer with a relative pronoun. Use each relative pronoun at least once.
