

SPECTRUM[®]

GRADE

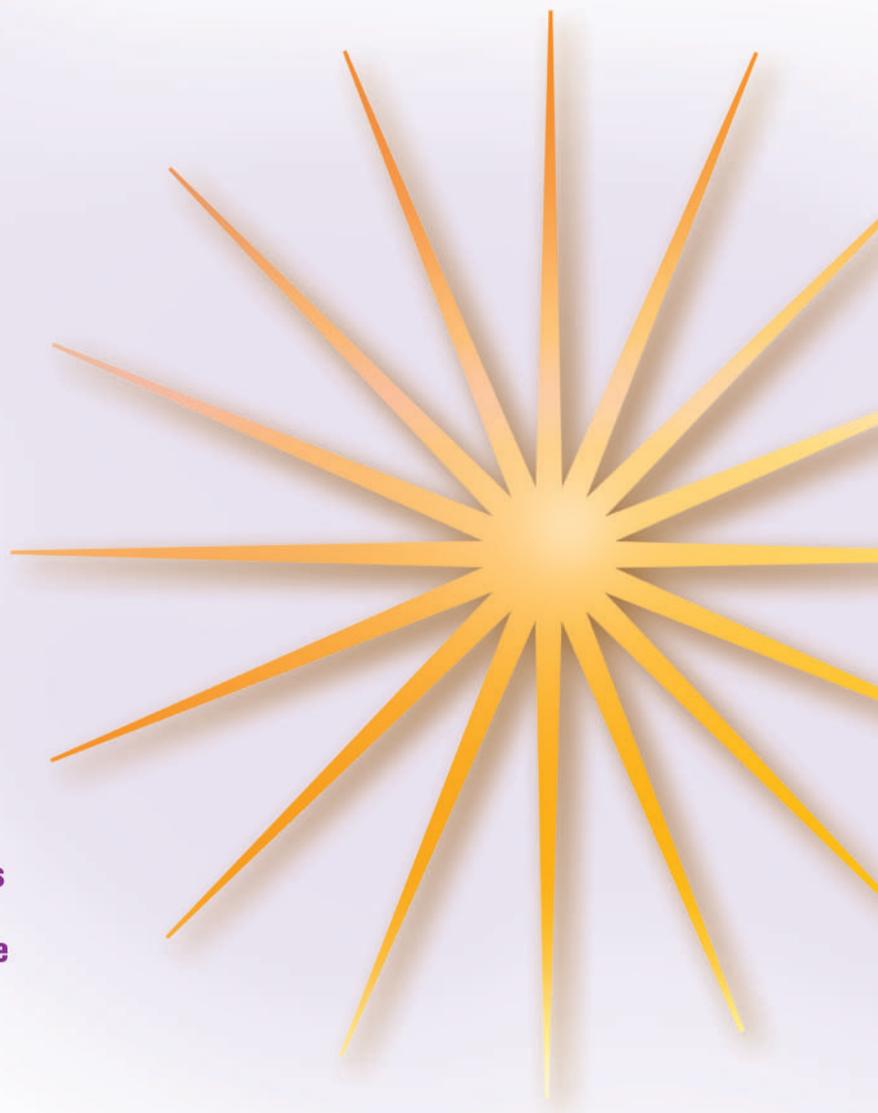
8

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 8

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Chapter 1 Grammar

NAME _____

Lesson 1.1 Common and Proper Nouns

Common nouns name people, places, things, and ideas.

People: driver, musician, brother, pediatrician, firefighter
Places: tunnel, courthouse, zoo, backyard, desert, bedroom
Things: desk, helicopter, dictionary, microphone, pine tree
Ideas: nervousness, environmentalism, justice, religion

Proper nouns name specific people, places, and things. Proper nouns are capitalized. For proper nouns that consist of more than one word, capitalize the first letter of each important word.

People: Aunt Lucy, General Eisenhower, Juan, Ms. Braga
Places: New Mexico, People's Republic of China, Lake Michigan
Things: Eiffel Tower, Baja Bill's Burritos, Declaration of Independence
Ideas: Hinduism, Marxism

Rewrite It

Rewrite each sentence below. Replace the common nouns shown in boldface with proper nouns.

1. I went to visit **my aunt** in **the city** last summer.

2. On **a certain day of the week**, we took a taxi to **the museum**, where the works of **an artist** were being exhibited.

3. We stopped at **the street where the museum was located** and paid our fare.

4. As we exited the cab, I spotted **the tallest building in the city**.

5. Inside the museum, I realized I had left my **smart phone** in the taxi!

6. We spoke with **the security guard**, and he was kind enough to call **the cab company**.

7. As we waited, I took a moment to admire a **specific religion's** tapestry.

8. At last, we were told **the cab driver** had my phone, but he was now in **a suburb of the city**.

9. We arranged to meet him at **a restaurant** later in the day, and I got my phone back.

Lesson 1.1 Common and Proper Nouns

Proof It

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

/ = lowercase letter
≡ = capitalize letter

1. The westide metropolitan library will host a Fundraising Event this Saturday.
2. The Major Religions of China are confucianism, taoism, and buddhism.
3. The Bill Of Rights are the first ten amendments of the United States constitution.
4. Elizabeth and her Cousin traveled to lake Ontario during june and july.
5. NASA Scientists are developing a robot that can explore mercury's surface.
6. Most of the arctic ocean is covered by Sea Ice during Winter.
7. Tony allen is a Nigerian Drummer who currently lives in Paris.
8. June 14 is national flag day.
9. Cane Toads in australia are an example of an Invasive Species.
10. On New Years eve each year, officer Markley visits his Nieces in New York city.
11. The Beauty Bouquet Flower Shop is at the Corner of Fourth street and Wilson boulevard.
12. The north sea is located between great Britain and the Nations of Scandinavia.
13. On fridays, my whole family gets together to play Cards and Board Games, like Monopoly and Scrabble.
14. Some of the Founding Fathers wrote about Freedom and the Pursuit of Happiness.
15. The statue of liberty and the Grand Canyon are well known United States Landmarks.

Try It

Write a paragraph about your favorite author or actor. Use at least six common and six proper nouns correctly.

Lesson 1.2 Collective and Abstract Nouns

Collective nouns are used to describe groups of specific animals, people, or things.

A group of birds is a *flock*.
 A group of ships is a *fleet*.
 A group of judges is a *panel*.

A collective noun refers to a single group, so it acts as a singular noun. When a collective noun is plural (refers to more than one group), it acts as a plural noun.

Incorrect: The *flock fly* south for the winter.
 Correct: The *flock flies* south for the winter.
 Correct: The *flocks fly* south for the winter.

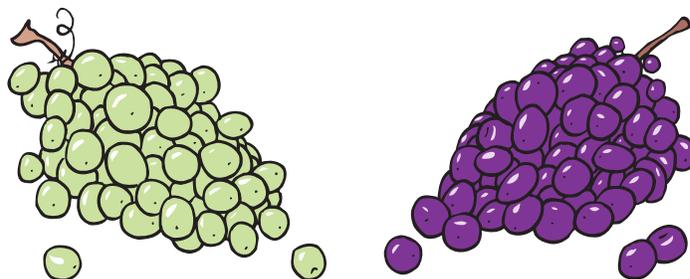
Abstract nouns describe ideas rather than people, places, or things that can be perceived with the five senses.

pleasure grumpiness inability contentment

Complete It

Circle the verb in each sentence that correctly completes the sentence.

1. Next week, the committee (decide, decides) whether to approve the new bike lane.
2. A swarm of bees (chase, chases) a foolish young cub that wanted their honey.
3. Bunches of grapes (rot, rots) inside a misplaced crate.
4. This pair of shoes (hurts, hurt) my feet and (needs, need) to be returned to the store.
5. My staff (enjoys, enjoy) our weekly outings to a nearby restaurant for lunch.
6. The huge bouquets of daisies (fill, fills) the room with a bright, fresh scent.
7. A team of oxen (wait, waits) inside the barn, ready to be hitched to the wagon.
8. A pack of wolves (startle, startles) the sheep.
9. The panel of judges (award, awards) blue ribbons to the top performers.
10. Whenever the National Anthem begins, the audiences (stand, stands) at attention.
11. The fleet of ships (leave, leaves) at dawn.
12. Swarms of flies (cloud, clouds) the air above the pig sty.



Lesson 1.2 Collective and Abstract Nouns

Identify It

Circle the abstract nouns in the sentences below.

1. My uncle is convinced that the key to happiness is eating good food.
2. Louis plans to major in agriculture at the University of Minnesota.
3. Early childhood is often a time of freedom and exploration.
4. Your mathematical capabilities never cease to amaze me.
5. Can intelligence be measured accurately by testing?
6. Sometimes the truth is harder to believe than the reality.
7. The process of learning how to program a computer may be daunting.
8. What type of shoes do I need to buy for ballet class?
9. Mr. Thompson's greatest pleasure is spending the afternoon reading.
10. As the students continued to misbehave, Ms. Yang's patience was tested.
11. Imagine my delight when Grandpa Hennessy finally arrived from Ireland.
12. Never ignore the opportunity to help someone who is in trouble.
13. Hiro's dedication was recognized with an award given at the banquet.
14. My fear of snakes kept me from attending the most recent field trip.
15. Yoko demonstrated her maturity by being the first to apologize.

Try It

Collective nouns for specific animals are often unusual. Use a dictionary or the Internet to look up the collective noun for each type of animal and use it in a sentence.

1. crows: _____

2. baboons: _____

3. vultures: _____

4. stingrays: _____

5. raccoons: _____

6. foxes: _____

7. emus: _____

8. eagles: _____

Lesson 1.3 Plurals and Possessives

Although plural and possessive nouns often sound similar, they are spelled differently and have different meanings.

Plural noun: The *novelists* gathered in Chicago for a conference.

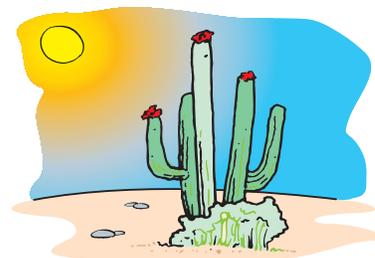
Singular possessive noun: The *novelist's* main character traveled to Chicago.

Plural possessive noun: The *novelists'* meeting was postponed until next month.

Proof It

Use proofreaders' marks to correct the mistakes in plural and possessive nouns in the sentences below.

1. Deserts' cover about 20 percent of Earths surfaces.
2. Harsh conditions mean that deserts are home to animals with special adaptations.
3. Deserts inhabitant's include lizards, snakes, fennec foxes, and scorpions.
4. Our planets largest habitat is the marine biome.
5. Biomes relationships are vital to Earth's well-being.
6. Hippo's, rhino's, and lion's make their homes in grassland biomes.
7. The tundras extreme cold makes it a poor place for vegetation to flourish.
8. One reason that forest biomes' are important to Earth is tree's ability to absorb carbon dioxide.
9. Hot, semiarid, coastal, and cold are the four types of desert's.
10. Mosquitoes ability to live in a tundra biome surprises many people.
11. Tropical forest's, such as rain forests, produce plants that are not found anywhere else in the world.
12. A coral reefs many structures provide homes to countless sea creature's.
13. The worlds youngest biome is the Arctic tundra.
14. An invasive animals' behavior can eventually affect more than one biome.



Lesson 1.3 Plurals and Possessives

Rewrite It

Rewrite each phrase below to make it a plural, a singular possessive, or a plural possessive.

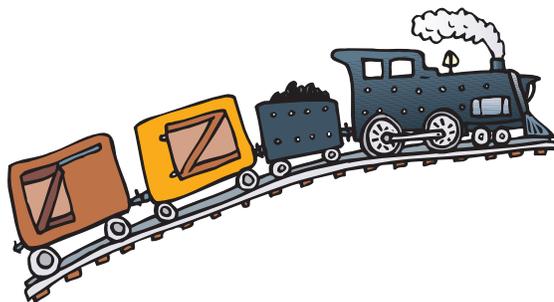
1. the backpacks belonging to the girls _____
2. the tail of the raccoon _____
3. the experiment belonging to the scientists _____
4. the baseball glove of Roberto _____
5. more than one sweater _____
6. the cat belonging to the Browns _____
7. the covers of the books _____
8. the painting of Charles _____
9. more than one strawberry _____
10. the moon belonging to the planet _____
11. the leaves of the trees _____
12. the buttons of the remote control _____

Try It

Write a sentence for each word in the box.

trains	train's	trains'	birds	bird's	birds'
--------	---------	---------	-------	--------	--------

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____



Lesson 1.4 Appositives

An **appositive** is a noun or phrase that renames another noun in a sentence. The appositive offers more information about the noun.

Lucille, my great aunt in Texas, owns a small art gallery.

The phrase *my great aunt in Texas* is an appositive that renames *Lucille*.

When the appositive is nonessential, or not necessary to the sentence, it should have a comma before and after it. In the example above, you can remove the appositive, and the sentence still makes sense.

When the appositive is essential to the meaning of the sentence, do not set it off with commas. In the following sentence, removing the appositive *Jane Austen* would make the sentence much less clear.

The author *Jane Austen* wrote six novels.

Identify It

In each sentence below, underline the appositive. On the line, write **E** if it is essential and **NE** if it is nonessential.

1. China, one of the world's most populated countries, is one of Earth's oldest civilizations. _____
2. Beijing, China's capital city, is also known as Peking. _____
3. Mount Everest, Earth's tallest mountain, lies on the border of China and neighboring Nepal. _____
4. The bicycle, China's main form of transportation, is a speedy and energy-efficient way to travel. _____
5. China is home to the giant panda, an animal that survives primarily on bamboo. _____
6. China's neighbor Mongolia shares the Gobi Desert with China. _____
7. Students around the world are currently learning China's official language, Mandarin Chinese. _____
8. China, a country whose history is divided into dynasties, has a communist government today. _____
9. The Chinese, talented inventors, created things like paper, compasses, porcelain, and silk. _____
10. The Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung was instrumental in China's shift to a communist government. _____

Lesson 1.4 Appositives

Complete It

There is an appositive in each sentence below. On the line, write **E** if it is essential and **NE** if it is nonessential, and add commas where necessary.

1. Ian my brother's best friend is moving to California in the fall. _____
2. Families from all over the county will be attending the summer's best entertainment the Highland County Fair. _____
3. Russian my mother's first language is difficult to learn because it uses a different alphabet. _____
4. Some athletes increase the amount of complex carbohydrates or starches they consume before an event. _____
5. An undersea earthquake can cause tsunamis or massive waves. _____
6. The artist Claude Monet was especially known for his paintings of water lilies. _____
7. Alina whistled for Peter her new Jack Russell terrier and fed him his dinner. _____
8. Next weekend, we'll be going to my cousin Josh's bar mitzvah the Jewish ceremony in which a boy becomes a man. _____
9. The library does not have any available copies of Darren's favorite book, *Al Capone Does My Shirts*. _____
10. The dream that Quinn had since she was a little girl to meet tennis legend Venus Williams in person was finally coming true. _____
11. The British doctor Edward Jenner created the smallpox vaccine and saved many lives. _____
12. Each Halloween Mia loves to read the chilling stories of horror writer Edgar Allan Poe. _____

Try It

Write four sentences that contain appositives. Write **E** or **NE** after each to tell whether you used an essential or nonessential appositive.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Lesson 1.5 Personal Pronouns

A **pronoun** is a word used in place of a noun. A **subject pronoun** can be used as the subject of a sentence. It can be singular (*I, you, he, she, it*) or plural (*we, you, they*).

They canceled the meeting because of bad weather.

An **object pronoun** is the object of a verb or a preposition. It can also be singular (*me, you, him, her, it*) or plural (*us, you, them*).

Please give *him* my thanks for the lovely bouquet.

A **possessive pronoun** shows possession. Singular possessive pronouns are *my, your, his, her, and its*, and plural possessive pronouns are *our, your, and their*.

Your teeth should be brushed at least twice a day.

Some singular and plural possessive pronouns can stand alone: *mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, theirs*.

The pickup truck was *ours*. Wilma donated *hers* to the church bazaar.

Complete It

Circle the pronouns that correctly complete the sentences.

- (Mine, My) friend Kyoko ordered butterfly eggs for (our, ours) science experiment.
- (They, Theirs) soon arrived, safely shipped inside (their, hers) sealed container.
- (We, Ours) opened (it, hers) to find the eggs lying in rows on a leaf.
- Kyoko lifted the leaf from (it, its) box and placed (it, its) inside an aquarium.
- The aquarium was (her, hers), so (I, me) prepared the sugar water.
- In just a couple of days, the caterpillars hatched and began wriggling (theirs, their) little bodies.
- (We, Our) fed (theirs, them) every day, and before long, (them, they) had grown much bigger.
- Kyoko called (me, mine) one day with exciting news: some of (they, them) had attached (theirs, their) bodies to twigs.
- (My, Mine) mother used (her, hers) camera to record the process.
- A caterpillar sheds (its, their) striped skin and hardens to form a chrysalis.
- (You, Your) would be amazed by (them, its) beauty.
- When (it, its) finally splits open, a butterfly emerges and spreads (it, its) wings.

Lesson 1.5 Personal Pronouns

Rewrite It

The sentences below contain errors in pronoun usage. Rewrite each sentence to correct the errors.

1. Mine Aunt Helga was married last week to hers best friend.

2. Frogs enlarge them vocal sacs to make sounds that will attract a mate.

3. Them shipped theirs automobile overseas so its would be waiting for they in England.

4. Henry painted yours portrait, framed it, and wrapped them as a gift.

5. The St. Louis Cardinals played they last home game yesterday.

6. Its is the largest hydroelectric dam anywhere near ours city.

7. Theirs dog stands on it front paws and, to mine amazement, takes a few steps.

8. The library stores them down in the basement, so us needs to find the stairs.

9. I handed him mine science textbook and told him to open them to page 135.

10. Yours is on the top shelf, and mines is below it on the second shelf.

Try It

Write sentences containing each type of pronoun.

1. subject pronoun: _____

2. object pronoun: _____

3. possessive pronoun that comes before a noun: _____

4. possessive pronoun that stands alone: _____

Lesson 1.6 Intensive and Reflexive Pronouns

Intensive and **reflexive pronouns** are pronouns that end in *-self* or *-selves*. The way the pronoun is used determines whether it is intensive or reflexive.

Intensive pronouns usually appear right after the subject of a sentence. They emphasize the subject.

You *yourself* will pull up the damaged sod and reseed the area.

Johan *himself* stacked the boxes and cleaned out the garage.

Reflexive pronouns appear elsewhere in the sentence and refer back to the subject.

I gave *myself* a pat on the back for completing the project.

The monkeys played among *themselves* while we watched.

Identify It

Identify whether the boldface word in each sentence is an intensive or reflexive pronoun. Write **I** on the line if it is intensive, and write **R** if it is reflexive. Then, underline the noun the pronoun refers to.

1. _____ Mr. Henkins explained that the garden **itself** would sit on a hill above the pond.
2. _____ After purchasing their tickets at the box office window, Madeline and Sonja bought **themselves** some popcorn and bottled water at the concession stand.
3. _____ For safety reasons, a roofer should always attach **himself** by rope to a well secured hook on the rooftop.
4. _____ The rocking chairs **themselves** will be hand delivered by my brother and uncle.
5. _____ The raccoon fed **itself** midstream while balanced on a rock.
6. _____ Before speaking with the principal, I reminded **myself** to take a deep breath and remain calm.
7. _____ My family and I treat **ourselves** to a pizza once in a while.
8. _____ With the day's last light illuminating its peak, the mountain presented **itself** as a lone beacon in the approaching dark.
9. _____ At tonight's meeting, Laurie **herself** will explain why the bill did not pass.
10. _____ Please allow **yourself** plenty of time to complete the project.
11. _____ Sterling **himself** would have a hard time believing the mess we've made.
12. _____ The kittens saw **themselves** in the mirror and tried to play with their reflections.

