

THE LEARNING WALL

C - D

The 3 – 5 ELA Concept Learning Bricks packet is organized alphabetically, with each concept explanation (concept, question, answer, gesture, and examples) listed first and the Concept Learning Brick visual listed behind the explanation. This section contains **25** Concept Learning Bricks from the C and D sections. Please refer to The Learning Wall Introduction and Explanation at www.PEPnonprofit.org for details on how to implement these items in your classroom.

Cc

capitalized words, cause and effect, characters, chapter heading, chronological order, closing of a letter, colon, comma in a series, comparative adjective, comparison, complex sentence, compound sentence, compound word, conclusion, conflict, conjunction, contraction, contrast

Dd

date of a letter, declarative, dependent clause, derivation, descriptive, dictionary, drama

Capitalized Words

Question: What are capitalized words?



Answer: Capitalized words are words in which the first letter is upper case, or capitalized. The first word of a sentence, days of the week, months of the year, a person's name, the word I, and titles need to be capitalized.

Gesture: Hold your hand high above your head to represent a capitalized letter or an upper case letter each time you name the things that need to be capitalized.

Examples: Write the following on the whiteboard: my cat is asleep on my chair. tuesday, august jennifer, i, dr., the store is closed. sunday, june, maggie, i'm, mr.

Make each one capitalized as you discuss what they are and why they need the capital letter.

A sentence starts with a capital.

Tuesday

December

HELLO
my name is

I

Nola

Dr.

capitalized words

Cause and Effect

Question: What is cause and effect?



Answer: A cause is something that makes something else happen. An effect is what happens as a result of the cause.

Gesture: Pretend to knock down a domino. With both hands move all of your fingers to represent the other dominos falling.

Examples: Write the following causes and effects on the board. Have the kids match the corresponding connections.

Sally studied hard for a test.	Sally earned an A on her test.
Joe became really tired.	The ball flew in the air.
The boy kicked the ball.	The cat growled and hissed.
The girl teased the cat.	Joe went to sleep early.



cause and effect



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Characters

Question: What are characters?



Answer: Characters are people, animals, or things in a story.

Gesture: Use two fingers to walk through air to represent people. Use hand to make rabbit ears or a dog barking to represent animals. Pretend to pick up an object to represent things.

Examples: Ask the following questions about characters: Could a character in a story be an animal? Could a character in a story be a little girl? Do all stories have characters? Could a character in a story be a talking pencil?



characters

Chapter Heading

Question: What is a chapter heading?

	Bats	
→	What Bats Look Like	p11
→	Where Bats Live	p17
	chapter heading	

Answer: A chapter heading tells the reader the topic of each section or chapter.

Gesture: Hold up your index fingers on both hands to make an 11 and then pretend to flip open a book to page 11.

Examples: Pick the best Chapter Heading for this paragraph. Bats can be found almost everywhere in the world. The only continent they don't live on is Antarctica. They prefer warm climates. **What Bats Eat or Where Bats Live**

Pick the best Chapter Heading for this paragraph. Most bats eat fruit. Some bats eat insects, fish, and frogs. Bats are nocturnal and hunt for their food at night. **Insects and Bugs or What Bats Eat**



Bats

- What Bats Look Like p11
- Where Bats Live p17

chapter heading

Chronological Order

Question: What is chronological order?



Answer: Chronological order is the order in which events happen, first to last.

Gesture: Tap an imaginary watch on your wrist (symbolizing that chronological order is determined by time) and then hold up fingers from one to two to three to four and finally to five.

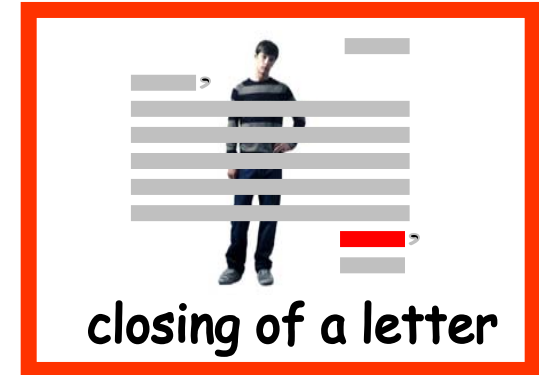
Examples: Write your daily schedule on the board, but out of order. Instead of having attendance first, have it fourth and so on. Explain the definition of chronological order and then have the students rearrange the daily schedule with it in proper order with what you do first all the way to the end of the day.



chronological order

Closing of a Letter

Question: What is the closing of a letter?



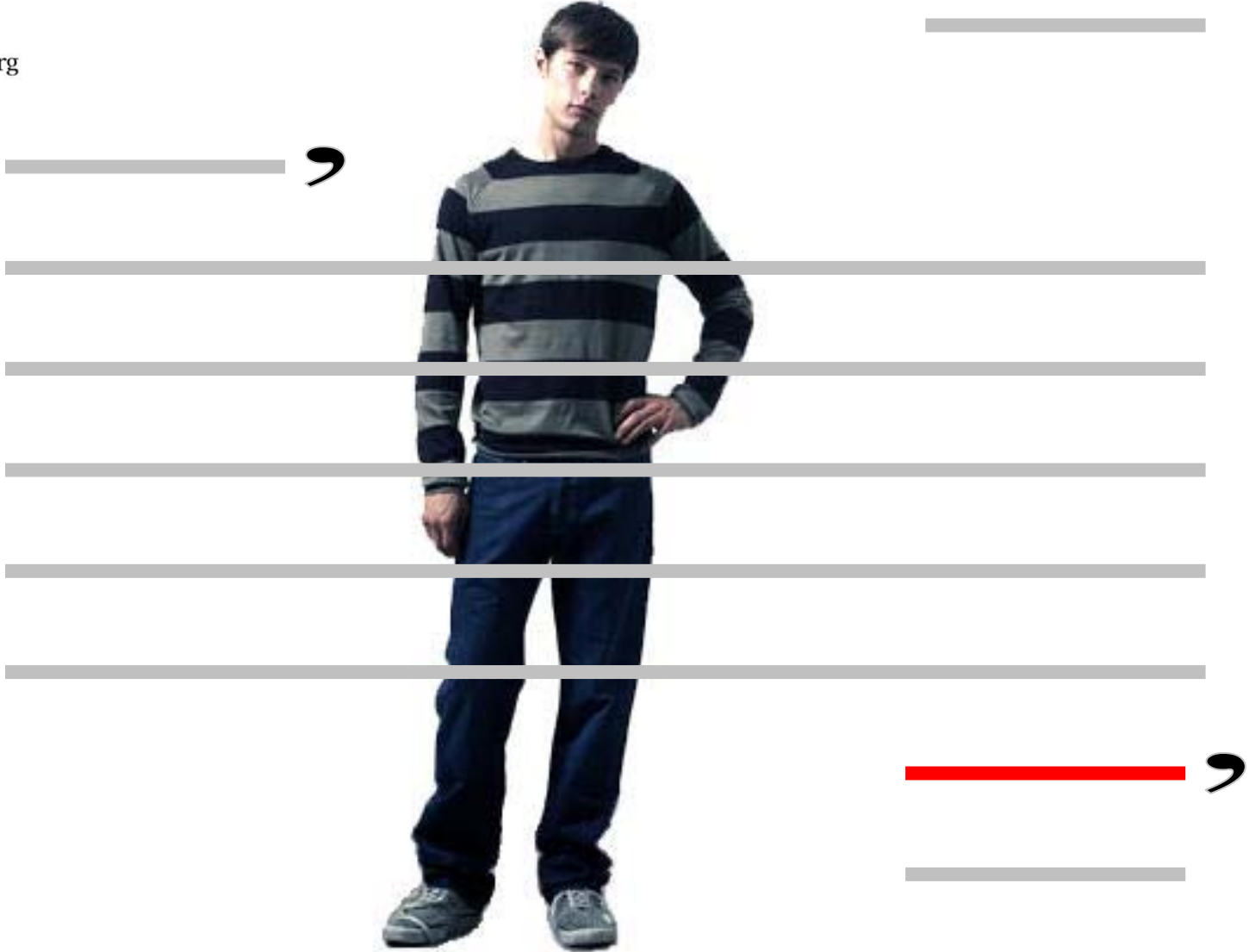
Answer: The closing of a letter is a phrase saying goodbye and ends with a comma.

Gesture: Wave goodbye and then use your finger to make a comma in the air.

Examples: Project or write a friendly letter on your screen or whiteboard. Point to different sections of the letter and ask the class if this is the closing of the letter. Point to the greeting, date, closing, signature, etc.



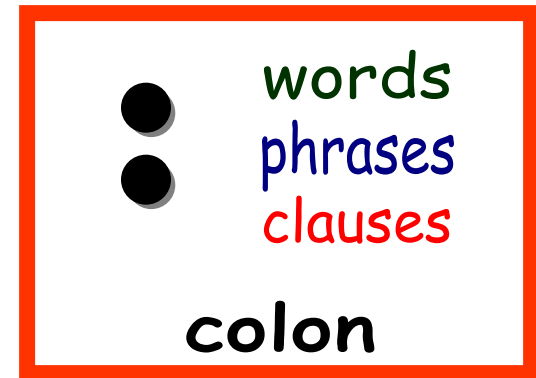
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closing of a letter

Colon

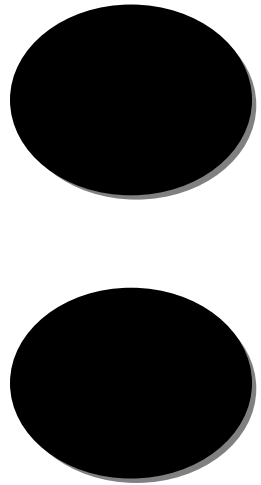
Question: What is a colon?



Answer: A colon is a signal to the reader that a series of words, phrases, or clauses follows a complete sentence.

Gesture: Make both hands into fists and hold them up parallel to each other.

Examples: Write these examples on the board. Some are correct and some are not. I have three sisters: Catherine, Sarah, and Mary. Two words that kids everywhere love to hear...no: homework. I love to eat strawberries, oranges, grapes, and: apples. To whom it may concern: There are three sides to every story: my side, your side, or the truth. 11:34



words

phrases

clauses

colon

Comma in a Series

Question: What is a comma in a series?



Answer: Use commas to separate **three or more** words, phrases, or clauses in a series.

Gesture: Hold up three fingers and then use one finger to tap lips (pause) and draw a comma in the air.

Examples: Write some sentences on the board that use commas with words, phrases, and clauses in a series. My mother bought a new couch, table, a bed for our house. This morning I woke up, got dressed, brushed my teeth, and ate breakfast. The bus was full of people who got dressed, who brushed their teeth, and who ate breakfast this morning. Chris, Jeff, and Maddy all like to eat hamburgers, pizza, and tacos.



comma in a series

Comparative Adjective

Question: What is a comparative adjective?



Answer: A comparative adjective is when two objects or persons are being compared. The comparative form of most adjectives is formed by adding the suffix **-er**.

Gesture: Make your fingers walk slower or faster as you say snail and cheetah.

Examples: Be sure to show all of the ways to make an adjective comparative.

Only one syllable, with more than one vowel or more than one consonant at the end (light). Add -er: lighter

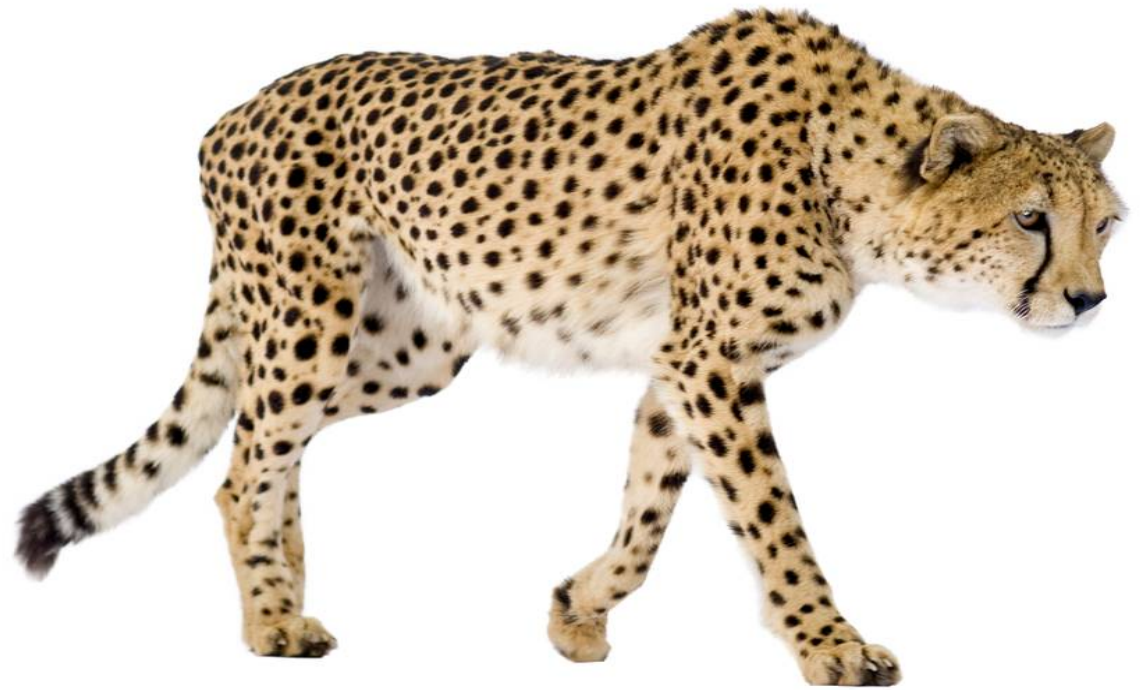
Only one syllable, ending in E (fine). Add -r: finer

Only one syllable, with one vowel and one consonant at the end (big). Double the consonant, and add -er: bigger

Two syllables, ending in Y (silly). Change y to i, then add -er: sillier

Two syllables or more, not ending in Y (interesting). Use more before the adjective: more interesting





comparative adjective

Comparison

Question: What is a comparison?



Answer: A comparison is examining the similarities and differences of things.

Gesture: Hold up both hands and look back and forth from one hand to the other.

Examples: Using the Learning Concept Brick, have the kids list any comparisons they can between the live cat and the toy tiger.



comparison

Complex Sentence

Question: What is a complex sentence?

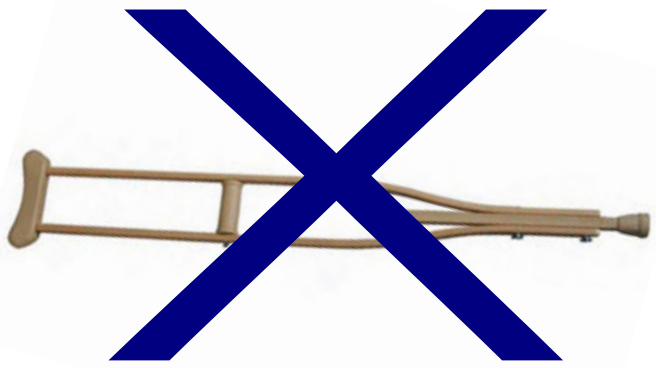


Answer: A complex sentence is a sentence with one independent clause and at least one dependent clause.

Gesture: Hold up one finger for independent clause. Gesture for independent clause: Hold one arm up with the opposite hand, then let go with the hand to show the arm can still stand up on its own. Hold up one finger for dependent clause. Gesture for dependent clause: Hold one arm up with the opposite hand, then let go with the hand and have both arms collapse to show the arms are dependent on each other.

Examples: **I ate breakfast before I went to work.** *I ate breakfast* is an independent clause, and *before I went to work* is a dependent clause, meaning it cannot stand alone as a sentence.

I was scared, but I didn't run away. Both clauses are independent. Therefore, this is a compound sentence but not a complex sentence.



independent clause



dependent clause

complex sentence

Compound Sentence

Question: What is a compound sentence?

The problem was difficult,
but
I finally found the answer.

compound sentence

Answer: A compound sentence shows that two thoughts are connected and of equal importance. The two thoughts (independent clauses) are usually connected by a conjunction ("and", "but", "for", "or", "nor", "yet", or "so").

Gesture: Hold out right arm straight from your side as you say a sentence, make a comma in the air, hold both hands together in front of your chest and say a conjunction "but", then hold out your left arm straight from your side as you say a second sentence.

Examples:

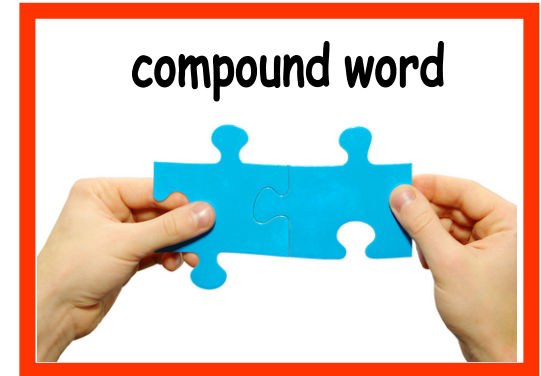
- A. I tried to speak Spanish, **and** my friend tried to speak English.
- B. Alejandro played football, **so** Maria went shopping.
- C. Alejandro played football, **because** Maria went shopping.

The problem was difficult,
but
I finally found the answer.

compound sentence

Compound Word

Question: What is a compound word?



Answer: A compound word is one word made of two words.

Gesture: Hold up two fingers on one hand (to represent a word) and one finger on the other hand (to represent a second word). Insert the one finger into the two fingers, showing that the two words join together (like puzzle pieces) to form a new word. Say some words as you connect them: sun shine, rattle snake, etc...

Examples: moonlight, football, railroad, rattlesnake, anybody, weatherman, throwback, skateboard

compound word



Conclusion

Question: What is a conclusion?



Answer: A conclusion is often used at the end of an essay and brings it to a logical end.

Gesture: Pretend to wrap a present and tie the bow.....wrapping all of the main points together in a neat package.

Examples: Sometimes “conclusion” words like these will help you write the conclusion of an essay. Most of the time, using the word or phrase in the middle of a sentence is better than making it the first word of the conclusion.

in fact, in conclusion, for these reasons, as a result of, in effect, altogether, indeed, surely, clearly, to sum up, overall, truly, all in all, due to, obviously, definitely, ultimately, thus, in effect, consequently



conclusion

Conflict

Question: What is conflict?



Answer: Conflict is the struggle between the opposing forces on which the action in a work of literature depends. There are four basic forms of conflict: person versus person, person versus self, person versus nature, and person versus society.

Gesture: Point your finger at a person (person), yourself (self), out the window (nature), and at the flag (society).

Examples: Have students compile a list of their top five books of all time. Then ask students to identify the most evident conflict type in each book listed.

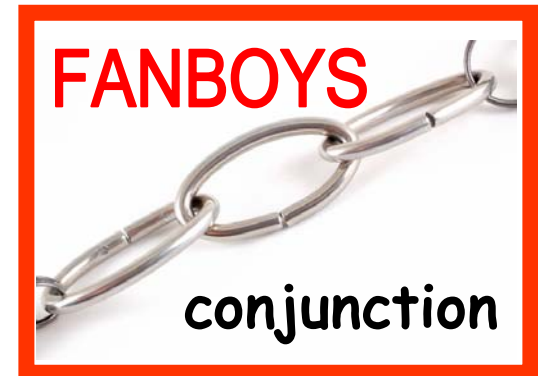
Four hands are shown pointing towards the word 'conflict'. Two hands are at the top, pointing downwards, and two hands are at the bottom, pointing upwards. The word 'conflict' is written in a large, black, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

conflict



Conjunction

Question: What is a conjunction?



Answer: A conjunction is a word that joins words or groups of words.

Gesture: Hook your index fingers together to represent two links of a chain.


Examples: You can remember them using the acronym FANBOYS.

for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so



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FANBOYS



conjunction

Contraction

Question: What is a contraction?

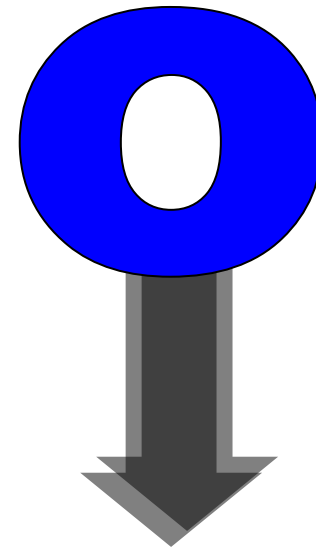


Answer: A contraction is a word formed by combining two or more words and leaving out sounds or letters.

Gesture: Hold up two fists as you say should not. Connect both fists together and make an apostrophe in the air as you say shouldn't.

Examples: I + am = I'm you + are = you're they + are = they're we + are = we're
he + had = he'd she + had = she'd would + have = would've could + have = could've

shouldn't



contraction

Contrast

Question: What is contrast?



Answer: Contrast is examining the differences of things.

Gesture: Hold up two hands, one palm up – the other a fist, and look back and forth from one hand to the other noticing the differences.

Examples: Using the Learning Concept Brick, have the kids list any difference they can between the two piggy banks.



contrast

Date of a Letter

Question: What is the date of a letter?



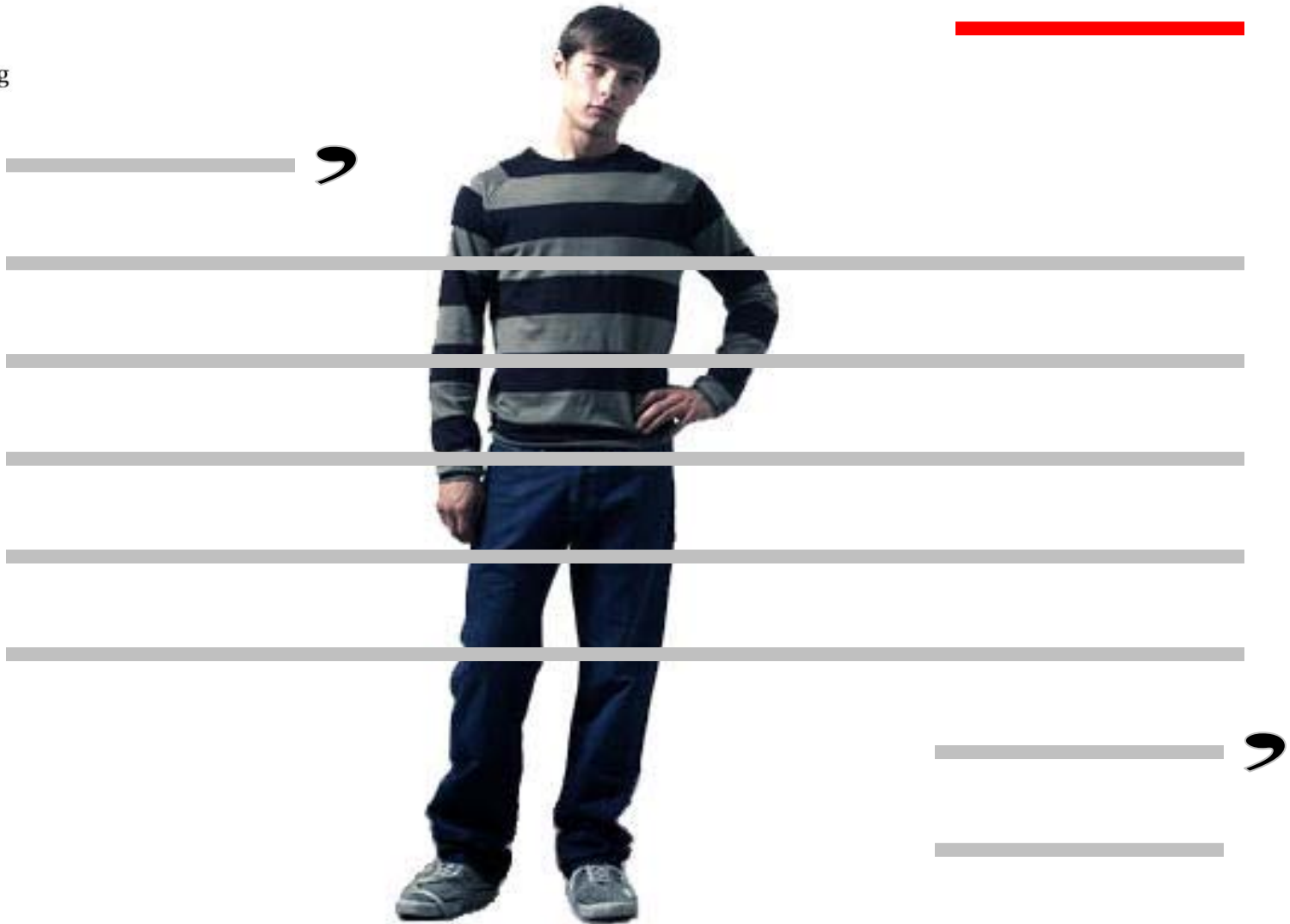
Answer: The date of a letter shows the month, day and year separated by commas and is located in the upper right hand corner.

Gesture: Hold your arms up over your head, showing the date goes ON TOP of a letter.

Examples: Write a friendly letter, but with all of the five parts in different places. For example, have the greeting in the middle of the letter, the date at the bottom, and signature on the top. Have the kids tell you where to reposition the mislabeled parts.



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date of a letter

Declarative

Question: What is a declarative sentence?



Answer: A declarative sentence is a sentence in the form of a statement and ends with a period.

Gesture: Hold your hand out in front of you as if motioning to stop, then make it a fist (period).

Examples: Which of these sentences are declarative sentences?

The dog took a nap in the shade. (yes) Billy slept until lunchtime. (yes)

Can I go to the movies with Esme? (no) Sit down and wait for me to call on you. (no)

It was a very hot day today. (yes) Why can't I eat chocolate cake for breakfast? (no)



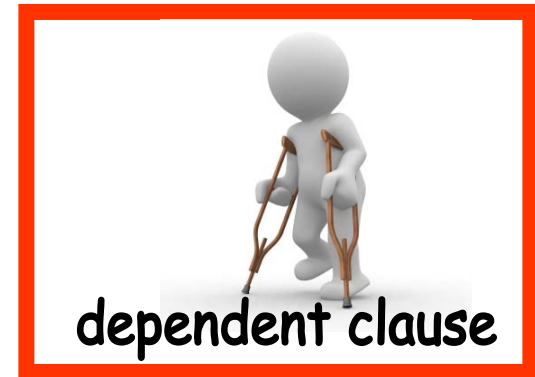
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declarative

Dependent Clause

Question: What is a dependent clause?



Answer: A dependent clause is a clause that cannot stand alone as a full sentence.

Gesture: Hold one arm up with the opposite hand, then let go with the hand and have both arms collapse to show the arms are dependent on each other.

Examples: Here are some examples of dependent clauses:
running for the bus that was turning the corner
the man with the large, black briefcase
while we waited during the rainstorm
in the afternoon before the meeting



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dependent clause

Derivation

Question: What is a derivation?



Answer: A derivation is the process of creating a new word out of one or more old words, either by adding a prefix or suffix or by compounding.

Gesture: Hold out two fingers. Shake your hand and then hold out four fingers. Shaking represents the creating a new word (four fingers) out of the old word (two original fingers). Making something new, a shelf, out of old skateboards.

Examples: *patient: **out**patient; group: **sub**group; trial: **re**trial; adjective--dark: **darkness**;*
*verb--agree: **agree**ment; noun--friend: **friendship***



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derivation

Description

Question: What is description?



Answer: Description is a detailed account of certain aspects, characteristics, or features of something seen, heard, or experienced.

Gesture: Touch your eyes, ears, and then wave your hands (experienced).

Examples: Put an item in a brown paper bag. Give descriptions of the item and have the kids try to guess what it is. Be sure to give descriptions on how it feels and some things you can do with it.

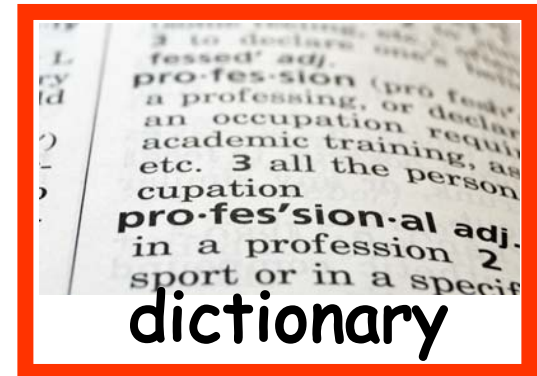


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description

Dictionary



Question: What is a dictionary?

Answer: A dictionary is a book that tells you 5 things about a word: spelling, syllables, pronunciation, part of speech, and definition.

Gesture: Hold up your hand to show five things, folding down one finger as you say each thing. Making writing motion for spelling. Clapping for syllables. Pulling words out of your mouth for pronunciation. Gesture for noun (point yourself, point to the room, and point to your shirt) for part of speech. Make hand a fist to show all of those are part of the word and the definition is the length of your arm.

Examples: Introduce a word for the kids to find in their dictionaries. Have them find the five pieces of information: spelling, how to syllabicate, how to pronounce, the part of speech, and definition.



dictionary



Drama

Question: What is drama?



Answer: Drama is the specific mode of fiction represented in performance and comes from a Greek word meaning "action"

Gesture: Clap your arms together the way one would when they say "action."

Examples: As you read a story, each person finds his own personal space in the room. There will be no interaction between the children--each is in his own story. As you read the story, each person "acts it out." Each student simply goes through the physical movements of protagonist of the story, and concentrates on the five senses--on really "experiencing" the character's adventures.

drama

