

Sixth Grade Skills- The Year-Long Plan

Skill instruction in the area of conventions is based on two elements: direct instruction by the classroom teacher on the new focus skill(s) each week, and the use of DLI editing and proofreading tasks to provide guided practice and assessment for those skills. During 30 weeks, this combination will effectively introduce new skills below and provide review and practice.

Capitals

Introduce: titles of people, brand names, historical events, nationalities and languages, titles of magazines/songs etc.

Review and Practice

- * proper adjectives
- * first word of a sentence in a direct quotations
- * titles of books
- * proper nouns for each word in the name of a building, store, company
- * titles of organizations

Hold Accountable

- * first word of every sentence
- * the pronoun I
- * in friendly letters
- * proper nouns for names of the following: people; streets, cities, states, countries; holidays, days of the week, months; rivers, lakes, mountains, continents

Commas

Introduce: commas for 4 types of sentence combining: compound sentences, combining by creating appositives, combining by using a colon for a list, and a series of ideas

Review and Practice

- * phrases in a series, appositives
- * in geographical locations (London, England)
- * words in a series (I ate eggs, bacon, and pancakes.)
- * after Yes, No, and other introductory words (First, take out a pan.)
- * to separate a direct address (Mario, we are ready to go.)
- * in conversation to separate the quote (Jason said, "I am eleven.")

Hold Accountable

- * between city and state * between day and year
- * after greeting and closing on a friendly letter

Apostrophes

Review and Practice: apostrophes in singular/plural possessives

Hold Accountable: apostrophes in contractions

Colon/ Semi-colon

Introduce: colon for a list when combining sentences
semicolon to join compound sentences

Review and Practice: after salutation in a business letter (Dear Sir:)

Hold Accountable: in writing time (9:00)

Citing Sources

Introduce: MLA formats for print, electronic, and on-line sources

New Paragraphs:

Introduce- new paragraph in conversation for a new speaker

Review and Practice

- * new ¶s for changes in time, scene (location), subject

End marks

Review and Practice

- * recognizing the end of one sentence /beginning of another

Hold Accountable

- * question mark after a direct question
- * exclamation mark after a sentence showing strong feeling
- * period at the end of a statement
- * periods after abbreviations and initials

Punctuate, capitalize, and paragraph dialogue correctly

Review and Practice

- * quotation marks to surround the quote
- * capitalize the first word of a direct quote
- * correct positioning of end marks and commas
- * comma to separate the quote from 'the tag'
- * paragraphing conversation

Spelling

Review and Practice

- * correct use of singular possessives/plurals/ plural possessives
- * correct spelling of plurals
- * common homonyms / homophones

Hold Accountable:

- * contractions/monitoring own work for high frequency words

Identify parts of speech

Introduce: verb phrases, conjunctions, prepositions

Review and Practice: adjectives, adverbs

- * pronouns, correct usage (of I / me), correct order (Tom and I)
- * consistent verb tense

Hold Accountable: nouns, verbs

Use of modifiers

Introduce: correct order for adjectives

Review and Practice:

- * form comparative and superlative adjectives
- * use an -ly ending if a word is used as an adverb
- * identification and correct placement of adjectives and adverbs

Use correct subject-verb agreement

Review and Practice:

- * with collective nouns (The children is / are in the lunch line.)
- * with compound subjects (Megan and Stephanie is / are in choir.)
- * with verb tenses (Yesterday, I go / went to the store.)

Recognize parts of a sentence

Introduce: independent clauses/compound sentences

Review and Practice:

- * recognize simple/compound subject and predicate

Figurative Language: introduce similes, metaphors, personification