

# Grammar Lessons

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My Reading Coach introduces and develops reading comprehension using the systematic presentation of grammar combined with Jim Larrabee's Read Like You Talk™ strategies. Students understand verbal communication. The trick to understanding written communication is pairing the verbal comprehension skills they already have with the decoding skills taught in the program. When both skill sets are combined, students understand what they read. Beginning with simple nouns, the program adds parts of speech to build and expand sentences the students learn to visualize when reading. They are also encouraged to read with inflection and pause appropriately. These skills help students understand what they read. Knowing when to pause is determined by a basic understanding of grammar and sentence formation.

Students begin grammar at lesson 7 (English Language Learner students begin after lesson 33) and continue on each odd-numbered lesson until mastering all 24 grammar lessons. Two worksheets are available for each grammar lesson. One provides practice on the lesson content and the other expands the lesson into writing: beginning with words, then advancing to sentences, and then paragraphs.

## Grammar Lessons

### Nouns

Initially nouns are presented as concrete objects (things we can touch). Students are asked to correctly read a noun, make a mental picture, and select the appropriate graphic.

### Adjectives

Students are shown that adjectives help clarify our mental picture. For example, a thin man makes a different picture than a fat man. Adjectives add information about a noun and increase comprehension.

### Articles

The three articles: "the," "an," and "a" are introduced, along with an explanation of how and when each word should be used.

### Verbs and Linking Verbs

Most verbs show how a noun moves, but some verbs do not. Students are introduced to moving and linking verbs.

### Helping Verbs

Sometimes a second verb is used to add information to help clarify another verb.

**Punctuation**

Students are taught that a sentence must have a subject and a verb. They are instructed in the use of a period and simple uses for the comma.

**Question and Word Order**

Students are taught how to change a simple sentence into a question by changing the word order and using a question mark.

**Proper Nouns**

Students learn the uses of proper nouns and are taught to capitalize them so that they stand out in a sentence.

**Pronouns**

The student learns to substitute a pronoun for a noun in order to make what they write more interesting. They are cautioned to use pronouns carefully and to make sure that the meaning in the sentence is clear.

**Prepositions**

The student learns that a preposition shows position or relationship, and that misreading one of these simple words can change the meaning of the sentence. They are instructed to pause briefly before a preposition and make a clear mental picture before adding more information to the sentence.

**Interrogative Pronouns**

Who, what, where, when, how, and why are pronouns that often are used to ask a question. They can be used as regular pronouns.

**Conjunctions**

When we write, we sometimes use the conjunctions "and," "but," and "or" to add interest to join two short sentences into a more complex and interesting sentence.

**Abstract Nouns**

The student is introduced to nouns that we can't touch, such as an emotion, a feeling, or an idea.

**Double Duty Pronouns**

Sometimes a word can be used as more than one part of speech. Pronouns are introduced that can do the job of a pronoun or an adjective.

**Possessive Pronouns**

These pronouns show us who owns something. They can be used as a regular pronoun or as an adjective.

**Subject / Predicate**

Students are taught how to divide a sentence into the complete subject and the complete predicate. Both are needed to make a complete sentence.

**Objects**

Many sentences have objects that complete our thoughts. They often answer the question: Subject, verb, what or who? Students are taught to identify objects in a sentence.

**Pronouns as Subjects & Objects**

Students are taught that there are two groups of pronouns. The subject pronouns are used as subjects of the sentence or after linking verbs. The object pronouns are used as objects or following a preposition.

**Verb Tenses**

Students are taught that verbs tell us whether something has already happened, is happening now, or will happen in the future. Simple past, present and future tenses are explained and practiced.

**Adverbs**

Students are taught that we describe nouns with adjectives, but we describe verbs (and sometimes adjectives) with adverbs. Most, but not all, adverbs end in -ly.

**Contractions**

Often when we speak, we blend two words together to make speaking more efficient. When we write these contracted words, we use an apostrophe to show where the letters are missing.

**Talking on Paper (Quotes)**

Students are taught that conversations are written using quotation marks around what is said. They are taught when and where to use them.

**Gerunds**

Students are shown that sometimes the -ing form of a verb can be used as a noun.

**Interjections**

Students learn that interjections express excitement or other strong emotions. They are told how and when to use an exclamation point.