

# Language Grades 6-8

## Grade 6

### Word work

Sixth-graders learn to use Latinate morphemes to read, spell, and understand words. For example, they break the word prediction into the prefix pre-, the root -dict-, and the suffix -ion.

### Spelling

Sixth-graders concentrate on common Latinate words of four syllables, such as independent and occasional. They also review simpler word patterns and preview more complex ones.

### Conventions

Sixth-graders learn the MLA style of formatting. They review the punctuation and capitalization rules learned in previous years.

### Grammar

Sixth-graders acquire an more sophisticated understanding of how English sentences work, preparing them to use and punctuate these structures in their own writing and providing them with the background to master the grammar of a second language.

### Composition

Sixth-graders practice narrative, persuasive, and informational writing with the help of set “plans” for handling daunting assignments. They practice applying their knowledge of spelling, grammar, and conventions to their compositions.

## Grade 7

### Word work

Seventh-graders study the most common Latin verb, noun, and adjective roots and practice using them to read, spell, and understand words. They review prefixes and suffixes and use them to form derivatives.

### Spelling

Seventh-graders concentrate on common Latinate words of five syllables, such as independently and informational. They also review simpler word patterns and preview more complex ones.

### Conventions

Seventh-graders learn to use commas with complex structures such as appositives and independent elements. They review MLA format and the punctuation and capitalization rules learned in previous years.

### Grammar

Seventh-graders study advanced grammatical structures such as relative clauses, gerunds, and appositions. This study prepares them to use and punctuate these structures in their own writing and provides them with the background to master the grammar of a second language.

### Composition

Seventh-graders practice narrative, persuasive, and informational writing with the help of set “plans” for handling daunting assignments. They practice applying their knowledge of spelling, grammar, and conventions to their compositions.

## Grade 8

### Word work

Eighth-graders review Latinate morphology in English. They are expected to achieve a fuller mastery of the material than in previous years.

### Spelling

Eighth-graders study Latinate words of more than five syllables, such as responsibility and incomprehensible, and words of foreign origin, such as apostrophe and cliché. They also review simpler word patterns.

### Conventions

Eighth-graders have already encountered the basic conventions of written English. This year they review them and practice incorporating them into their writing.

### Grammar

Eighth-graders review the complex grammatical structures studied in previous years, and apply their learning to improve their composition.

### Composition

Eighth-graders practice narrative, persuasive, and informational writing. They still have set writing “plans” to guide them, but are increasingly independent. They continue applying their knowledge of spelling, grammar, and conventions to their compositions.