In every level, you will ...

- Work with Vocabulary
- Build Sentences
- Grasp Grammar and Usage
- Craft and Compose
- Develop Research Skills

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Table of Contents

Work with Vocabulary
Section Opener ....................................................... 5
1. Use a Similar Word
   Synonyms ................................................... 6
2. Use the Opposite Word
   Antonyms .................................................... 7
3. Choose the Correct Spelling
   Homophones .................................................. 8
4. Spell Long Words
   Base Words ................................................ 9
5. Understand Word Beginnings
   Prefixes ..................................................... 10
6. Understand Word Endings
   Suffixes ...................................................... 11
7. Combine Two Words
   Contractions ............................................. 12
8. Combine Two Words
   Compound Words ...................................... 13
9. Be Specific
   Nouns and Verbs ........................................... 15
10. Compare Two Things
    Similes ..................................................... 17
Section Review ................................................... 18

Build Sentences
Section Opener ..................................................... 22
11. Identify Sentence Parts
    Subjects and Predicates .................................. 23
12. Write a Complete Thought
    Simple Sentences ........................................ 24
13. Understand Sentence Types
    Commands and Exclamations ......................... 25
14. Understand Sentence Types
    Statements and Questions ............................ 26
15. Change Sentence Types
    Statements and Questions ............................ 27
16. Use Short and Long Sentences
    Varying Sentence Length ................................ 28
17. Combine Sentences
    Compound Sentences .................................... 29
18. Write Who or What
    Simple Subjects .......................................... 31
19. Describe the Subject
    Simple Predicates ......................................... 32
Section Review ................................................... 33

Know Capitalization and Punctuation
Section Opener ..................................................... 37
20. Begin Sentences
    Capitalization ............................................. 38
21. Write Names
    Capitalization ............................................. 40
22. Write Days and Months
    Capitalization ............................................. 41
23. Write Names of Places
    Capitalization ............................................. 42
24. Write Abbreviations
    Capitalization ............................................. 43
25. Write Historical Events
    Capitalization ............................................. 44
26. Write Titles for Books and Poems
    Capitalization ............................................. 45
27. Shorten Dates and Addresses
    Abbreviations ............................................. 46
28. Shorten Measurements
    Abbreviations ............................................. 47
29. End Sentences
    End Punctuation ........................................... 48
30. Break Words into Groups
    Commas ...................................................... 50
31. Separate Items in Lists
    Commas ...................................................... 51
32. Separate Compound Sentences
    Commas ...................................................... 52
33. Punctuate Speech
    Commas ...................................................... 53
34. Show What Someone Says
    Quotation Marks ......................................... 54
35. Show Ownership
    Apostrophes ............................................... 55
36. Show a Range
    Dashes ...................................................... 56
Section Review ................................................... 57

Grasp Grammar and Usage
Section Opener ..................................................... 61
37. Name the Person, Place, or Thing
    Nouns ....................................................... 62
38. Give Exact Details
    Common and Proper Nouns ............................ 63

Preview Material
Section Review
Section Opener
Craft and Compose

Section Opener

Craft and Compose

60. Use a Word Web
Organizing Details

62. Get Your Readers’ Attention
Strong Openings

63. Ask a Question
Strong Openings

64. Use a Word Web
Organizing Details

65. Use Your Senses
Writing Senses

66. Order by Time
Writing Details

67. Use Quotation Marks
Writing Dialogue

68. Use Linking Words
Writing Details

69. Sum Up Your Story
Strong Conclusions

70. Report What You Have Learned
Strong Conclusions

71. Catch Your Readers’ Attention
Effective Titles

72. Improve Word Choice
Revising and Editing

73. Correct Spelling and Punctuation
Revising and Editing

74. Begin Your Project
Inquiry Questions

75. Use a Dictionary
Researching Words

76. Use Alphabetical Order
Library Research

77. Search the Database
Library Research

78. Use Alphabetical Order
Encyclopedia Research

79. Decide between Fact and Opinion
Evaluating Websites

80. Ask Permission
Plagiarism

81. Create a Bibliography
Citing Research

82. Track Sources
Research Notes

83. Write Notes in Your Own Words
Paraphrasing

Index

Table of Contents
When you talk, sometimes you put two words together and leave out letters to make a new word. This new word is a contraction. A contraction is a shorter version of two words combined.

You can also use contractions when you write. Using contractions will make your writing sound more natural. When you write a contraction, use an apostrophe (') to show where you have left out one or more letters.

For example: Step 1: Combine do and not—donot.
Step 2: Leave out one or more letters—donet.
Step 3: Write an apostrophe instead of those letters—don't.

A. What letters have been left out of the contractions below? Cross out those letters in the words after the equals sign.

1. hasn’t = has not
2. you’re = you are
3. it’s = it is
4. didn’t = did not
5. he’s = he is
6. she’s = she is

B. Combine each pair of words below and write the contractions on the lines. Check that each contraction has an apostrophe.

1. should not
2. I am
3. they are
4. would not
5. we are
6. can not

C. Find a story you’ve written in the past. Did you use contractions to make your writing sound natural? Replace some words with contractions.
LESSON 3  Decide between Fact and Opinion: Evaluating Websites

The Internet is loaded with information. Some websites share facts about topics, some share opinions, and some share both. Knowing how to tell the difference between facts and opinions is very important.

A fact is something that is known to be true or real.
   For example: Water boils at 100 °C.

An opinion is what someone thinks or believes about something.
   For example: Water tastes best when it is cold.

When you do research, decide if you are looking for facts, opinions, or both.

A. Read the statements below. For each one, underline Fact or Opinion.

   1. Humans need water to live.     Fact     Opinion
   2. Tap water tastes bad.           Fact     Opinion
   3. Ice needs heat to melt.         Fact     Opinion

B. Read each research question below. Write F if you need facts to answer the question and O if you need opinions.

   1. At what temperature does water turn to ice? ____
   2. What is the cutest family pet? ____
   3. How do plants grow? ____
   4. What is the best song of the year? ____

C. Find a website that you have visited recently. Does the author share facts, opinions, or both? Write down your answer and explain how you know.