

HIGH-INTEREST

LANGUAGE ARTS SKILLS & STRATEGIES

Acronyms simile & Metaphor
Plural Possessive Nouns semicolons
Active & Passive Voice Complex Sentences



LEVEL

7

100 plus + REPRODUCIBLE ACTIVITIES

CAPITALIZING NAMES OF EVENTS AND PERIODS OF TIME

The names of many events and periods of time are capitalized.

the Roaring 20s

World War I

Directions: The letters of each of the following events and periods of time have been scrambled. Rearrange the letters to form the name and write it on the line, being sure to capitalize correctly. Read the clues for help.

1. lvici arw _____ (blue versus gray)
2. zajz gea _____ (hot times for music)
3. rhecfn elonotviru _____ (Marie Antoinette lost her head)
4. sacurjsi iredop _____ (age of the giants)
5. ycmsiolp _____ (ancient games)
6. lgdo shur _____ (strike it rich in California)
7. dimdel esag _____ (time of castles and knights)
8. cynkkeut rybed _____ (a horse race)
9. soonbt eta rypta _____ (protesting the King's taxes)
10. nceareisans _____ (cultural "rebirth" of the 15th and 16th century)
11. trialdsuin vureotiIn _____ (the age of machinery)
12. snichee wen reya _____ (parades with dragons)
13. drami agsr _____ (New Orleans's big day)
14. heart yda _____ (celebrating the planet)
15. prues olbw _____ (a day for armchair quarterbacks)



Name: _____

Date: _____

CAPITALIZING A FRIENDLY LETTER

When you write a letter to someone you know well, you are writing a friendly letter. The greeting of a letter should be capitalized. In the body of the letter, the first letter of every sentence should be capitalized. Capitalize the first word and any proper names in the closing of the letter.

You may choose to add a P. S. to your letter as well. P. S. stands for “post” (after) and “script” (writing). Capitalize both letters of this abbreviation and follow each with a period.

Directions: The letter below is not capitalized correctly. Correct the capitalization errors by crossing out each error and writing the correction above it.

1312 union st.

scottsdale, az 55555

august 25, 2006

dear sam,

i'm so proud of you for winning the talent show contest. i'll bet you impressed them all with your saxophone playing. your mother says you are getting very good and that you're actually practicing on a regular basis! good for you!

how is molly doing? is she planning on going out for basketball again this year? and how about you? will you be going out for any sports now that you're in middle school? also, are you planning on joining band? i certainly hope so! with the talent show out of the way, you're probably getting ready for the new school year. here's hoping you have a very successful one!

warmest regards,

aunt rita

ps

keep up the practicing. it sounds like it's paying off!

Name: _____

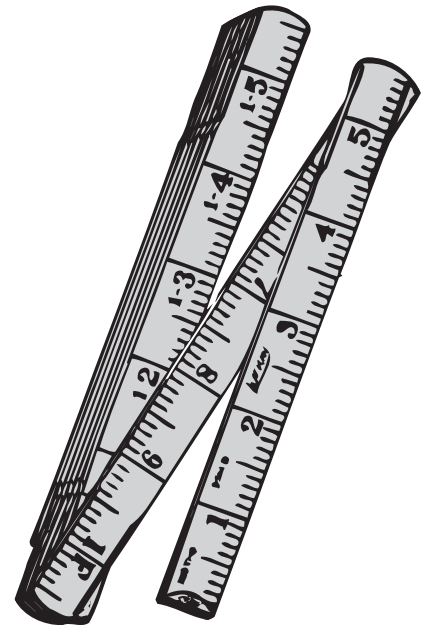
Date: _____

MORE USING ABBREVIATIONS

Directions: Write the abbreviation from the box that goes with each item.

Pkwy.	BBC	Fri.	CD	IRA	MN	NOW	NCAA	
MO	NASA	USO	NC	CEO	VIP	ft	CBS	USC
WW II	CPA	hp	Aug.	UNICEF	CIA			

1. National Organization for Women _____
2. Central Broadcasting System _____
3. compact disc _____
4. North Carolina _____
5. Certified Public Accountant _____
6. National Aeronautics and Space Administration _____
7. National Collegiate Athletic Association _____
8. University of Southern California _____
9. Parkway _____
10. Second World War _____
11. Minnesota _____
12. Missouri _____
13. Central Intelligence Agency _____
14. individual retirement account _____
15. August _____
16. Friday _____
17. United Nations Children's Fund _____
18. very important person _____
19. United Service Organizations _____
20. horsepower _____
21. British Broadcasting Corporation _____
22. Chief Executive Officer _____
23. foot _____

**Name:** _____**Date:** _____

Every sentence must have an end mark. End marks are signals. They tell readers that they have reached the end of an idea. End marks also tell readers how to read sentences.

- **Periods** close statements or commands: *Curling became an Olympic sport in 1998.*

When an abbreviation falls at the end of a statement or command, an additional period is not necessary: *The Olympic curling team met every morning at 6:30 A.M.*

- **Question marks** close sentences that ask direct questions: *How did curling get its name?*
- **Exclamation points** close sentences that show surprise or strong emotion: *Wow! The women's curling team from Scotland won a gold medal!*

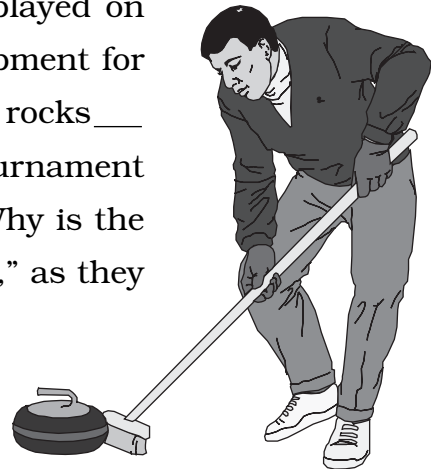
Directions: Supply end marks for each sentence in the following passage.

Mention the sport of curling, and most people scratch their heads and ask, "Is that a sport___" Curling, which is played on ice, originated in Scotland in the 16th century___ Equipment for the game includes brooms—yes, brooms and granite rocks___ The rocks weigh a whopping 42 pounds___ A curling tournament consists of 10 "ends," similar to baseball's innings___ Why is the sport called curling___ The rocks tend to curve, or "curl," as they slide towards the target___

A curling team consists of four players___ During an "end" each player will slide two rocks towards a target___ The target is a twelve-foot circle 130 feet away___ After all the rocks have been thrown, the score is tallied up___ One point is awarded for each rock that is closest to the center of the target___

Where do the brooms come in___ Oddly enough, the brooms are used not to push the rocks, but to sweep the ice in front of them as they glide toward the target___ The idea is to create enough friction on the ice to form a thin layer of moisture between the ice and the rock___ Amazingly, this simple trick can help the rock slide an additional 15 feet___

Approximately 15,000 curlers live in the United States, with the majority being from Wisconsin and Minnesota___ Canada has almost 1.2 million of the estimated 1.5 million curlers in the world___ That's a lot of curlers___



Name: _____

Date: _____

USING COMMAS IN APPOSITIVES

An appositive is a word or phrase that defines or explains a noun in a sentence. Appositives must follow the noun they define and must be set off with commas.

Kelly, a basketball player, has size 12 feet.

Kelly buys his shoes at Monson's, a shoe store downtown.

Directions: Find the appositive in each sentence. Add commas where needed.

1. Lianna my best friend moved away last year.
2. Carmen and Jeremy joined Rock the Vote an organization of young voters.
3. Parker is taking lessons on the vibraphone an instrument related to the xylophone.
4. The ring was set with a large cubic zirconia an artificial diamond.
5. This sandwich comes with two kinds of cheese cheddar and Monterey jack.
6. Today in art class we learned about Camille Claudel a French sculptress.
7. Marcus's car a convertible is black with red flames painted on it.
8. It is easy to grow arugula a salad green with a peppery bite.
9. Today's special a club sandwich comes with a cup of soup and a small salad.
10. Rachel asked Miss Chen her favorite babysitter to play a game with her.



Directions: Rewrite each sentence, adding an appositive.

11. Jason and Sam went to lunch at Sandy's Subs.

12. Sam ordered the Big Kahuna.

13. Jason could eat only half of his Heavy Hitter.

14. Later, the boys walked down West Avenue to the science museum.

15. Mr. Fallon had suggested they see the new exhibit.

Name: _____

Date: _____

USING PUNCTUATION WITH INTERJECTIONS AND INTRODUCTORY WORDS

Interjections are words that show emotion. An interjections that shows a strong feeling may stand alone and end with an exclamation point. An interjection that shows a milder feeling may appear at the beginning of a sentence, followed by a comma.

Hey! My notebook is missing! Oh, it's here in my backpack.

COMMON INTERJECTIONS

Hurray	Aha	Brr	Whew
Good grief	Oh	Grr	Wow
Hey	Oh, no	Oops	Ugh
Ah	Uh-oh	Ouch	Yuck

Introductory words such as *yes*, *no*, and *well* are often used at the beginning of a sentence. They should be followed by a comma.

Yes, I would like to go to the movie with you.

Well, what time does it start?

Directions: Add the correct punctuation after each interjection or introductory word.

1. Oh___ what a beautiful night for taking a stroll.
2. Ouch___ I got a paper cut from that magazine.
3. Aha___ We've finally discovered the solution to our problem.
4. Oh, no___ I spilled my drink on my art project, and now it's ruined!
5. Hey___ what's the name of that band you like so much?

Directions: Complete each sentence by adding an appropriate interjection or introductory word and punctuation.

6. _____ I've never seen such a big truck!
7. _____ It's absolutely freezing in here.
8. _____ Justin forgot to take his lunch again.
9. _____ it feels so good when you scratch my back.
10. _____ I'm so mad at this computer!
11. _____ It's snowing!
12. _____ I don't feel like raking the yard right now.
13. _____ I'm so relieved that I found my lost keys.
14. _____ something smells funny in here.
15. _____ I have discovered a clue to the mystery!



Name: _____

Date: _____

QUOTATION MARKS AND COMMAS IN DIRECT QUOTATIONS

When you write a speaker's exact words, you are writing a direct quotation. Begin a direct quotation with a capital letter. If it comes at the end of a sentence, introduce it with a comma. Put the end mark inside the last quotation marks.

DeShaun asked, "What was that strange sound?"

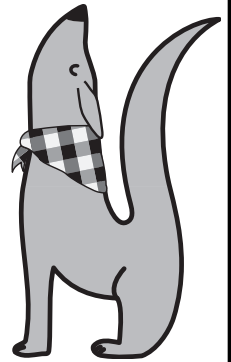
The rules are different when a direct quotation comes at the beginning of a sentence. If the quotation is an exclamation or a question, put the end mark inside the quotation marks. If it is a statement or a command, use a comma instead.

Statement: "It sounded like somebody snoring," said Cody.

Command: "Make sure the door is locked," ordered Sam.

Question: "Isn't that your dog, DeShaun?" Tessa asked.

Exclamation: "What a bunch of sillies we are!" Jennifer exclaimed.



Directions: Each sentence contains a direct quotation. Rewrite each sentence, adding commas, capital letters, and quotation marks.

1. Who left their shoes on the stairs Toya asked.

2. Jennifer answered it wasn't me!

3. Maybe it was John Michael said.

4. He never puts anything away Jennifer exclaimed.

5. Yeah, and he left his bike in the driveway yesterday continued Michael.

6. What a lazybones exclaimed Jennifer.

7. Michael observed these shoes are pink and red.

8. Toya asked does John wear pink shoes?

9. I seriously doubt it replied Michael.

10. Oh, they're mine Jennifer said sheepishly.

Name: _____

Date: _____

QUOTATION MARKS AND COMMAS IN DIVIDED DIRECT QUOTATIONS

Sometimes a direct quotation is divided in two parts. Each part should be in quotation marks. If the second part of the quotation is part of the same sentence, begin it with a small letter. Set a comma after the word that comes directly before the second part.

“Well, well,” said Hannah, “look who finally decided to show up.”

If the second part of the quotation starts a new sentence, begin it with a capital letter.

“I’m so sorry I’m late,” said Amy, blushing. “Have you been waiting long?”



Directions: Rewrite the groups of words as one or two sentences with direct quotations, adding commas, periods, question marks, capital letters, and quotation marks where needed.

1. For your information Hannah replied about an hour. (one sentence)

2. I’m sorry Amy said are you mad at me? (two sentences)

3. How would you feel Hannah snapped if I made you wait that long? (one sentence)

4. It really shows a lack of respect continued Hannah are my feelings not important to you? (two sentences)

5. You’re right, Hannah said Amy how can I make it up to you? (two sentences)

Directions: Continue the dialogue between Hannah and Amy. Punctuate according to the above guidelines.

Name: _____

Date: _____

USING COLONS

In some cases, a colon can be used to introduce a list. Use a colon after phrases such as *the following*, *the following things*, *these*, and *these things* when they introduce a list. The list may consist of one or more items. The items may be nouns, adjectives, phrases, or clauses.

In the last 20 years, technology has brought consumers many new products: VCR's, desktop computers, and video games, to name a few.



Use a colon **ONLY** after a clause that can stand on its own as a sentence.

Incorrect: In the last 20 years, technology has brought consumers: VCR's, desktop computers, and video games, to name a few.

Directions: Insert a colon between the list of items and the word or words that introduce the list in each sentence.

EXAMPLE: This shirt is available in four colors: red, blue, purple, and brown.

1. I have three favorite books The Borrowers, My Side of the Mountain, and Old Yeller.
2. This report covers two subjects the music of India and Indian folk dances.
3. This movie has it all a love story, a car chase, and a happy ending.
4. After being a camp counselor for three summers in a row, Kiki made an important decision she would study child psychology in college.
5. On the first day of school, students are expected to have the following supplies three notebooks, pens and pencils, and a three-ring binder.
6. "In my opinion," Chad said, "the only game worth playing is this chess."
7. Before Lana left for Brazil, she bought several articles of clothing a lightweight jacket, hiking shoes, and cargo pants.
8. When choosing a pet, it is important to keep in mind the following the size of your home and how much time you will have to play with the pet.
9. The note from the office read, "The following students should report to Mrs. McRoberts Robert Johnson, Treena Horn, Eric Shea, and Carla Barnes."
10. The teacher advised Lynell to pay more attention to these problem areas punctuation and paragraphing.

BONUS: Write a sentence to introduce this list.

low, medium, and high

Name: _____

Date: _____