

Language Standards

The Language Standards include the essential “rules” of standard written and spoken English, but they also approach language as a matter of craft and informed choice among alternatives. The vocabulary standards focus on understanding words and phrases and their nuances and relationships, and on acquiring new vocabulary, particularly general academic and domain-specific words and phrases. Students advancing through the levels are expected to meet each level’s specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understanding mastered in preceding levels.⁹

Language Strand

Key: The citation at the end of each standard in the following chart identifies the CCSS strand, grade, and number (or standard number and letter, where applicable).

For example, L.9-10.1 stands for Language, Grade 9-10, Standard 1.

L: Language

A	B	C	D	E
CCR Anchor 1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.				
<p>Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.</p> <p>a. Print all upper- and lowercase letters.</p> <p>b. Use common, proper, and possessive nouns.</p> <p>c. Use singular and plural nouns with matching verbs in basic sentences (e.g., <i>He hops; We hop</i>).</p> <p>d. Use personal, possessive, and indefinite pronouns (e.g., <i>I, me, my; they, them, their; anyone, everything</i>).</p>	<p>Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.</p> <p>a. Use collective nouns (e.g., <i>group</i>).</p> <p>b. Explain the function of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs in general and their functions in particular sentences.</p> <p>c. Form and use regular and irregular plural nouns.</p> <p>d. Use reflexive pronouns (e.g., <i>myself, ourselves</i>).</p> <p>e. Form and use the past tense</p>	<p>Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.</p> <p>a. Explain the function of conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections in general and their function in particular sentences.</p> <p>b. Use relative pronouns (<i>who, whose, whom, which, that</i>) and relative adverbs (<i>where, when, why</i>).</p> <p>c. Form and use the progressive (e.g., <i>I was walking; I am walking; I will be walking</i>) verb tenses.</p>	<p>Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.</p> <p>a. Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case (subjective, objective, possessive).</p> <p>b. Use intensive pronouns.</p> <p>c. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.</p> <p>d. Recognize and correct vague or unclear pronouns.</p> <p>e. Recognize variations from standard English in their own</p>	<p>Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.</p> <p>a. Use parallel structure.</p> <p>b. Use various types of phrases (noun, verb, adjectival, adverbial, participial, prepositional, absolute) and clauses (independent, dependent; noun, relative, adverbial) to convey specific meanings and add variety and interest to writing or presentations. (L.9-10.1)</p>

⁹ NGA (2010a), p. 8.

A	B	C	D	E
CCR Anchor 1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.				
<p>e. Use verbs to convey a sense of past, present, and future (e.g., <i>Yesterday I walked home; Today I walk home; Tomorrow I will walk home</i>).</p> <p>f. Use frequently occurring adjectives.</p> <p>g. Use frequently occurring nouns and verbs.</p> <p>h. Use frequently occurring conjunctions (e.g., <i>and, but, or, so, because</i>).</p> <p>i. Use determiners (e.g., articles, demonstratives).</p> <p>j. Use frequently occurring prepositions (e.g., <i>during, beyond, toward</i>).</p> <p>k. Understand and use question words (interrogatives) (e.g., <i>who, what, where, when, why, how</i>).</p> <p>l. Produce and expand complete simple and compound declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences in response to prompts. (L.K.1 and 1.1 merge)¹⁰</p>	<p>of frequently occurring irregular verbs (e.g., <i>sat, hid, told</i>).</p> <p>f. Use abstract nouns (e.g., <i>childhood</i>).</p> <p>g. Form and use regular and irregular verbs.</p> <p>h. Form and use the simple (e.g., <i>I walked; I walk; I will walk</i>) verb tenses.</p> <p>i. Ensure subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement.</p> <p>j. Form and use comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs, and choose between them depending on what is to be modified.</p> <p>k. Use coordinating and subordinating conjunctions.</p> <p>l. Produce simple, compound, and complex sentences.</p> <p>m. Produce, expand, and rearrange complete simple and compound sentences (e.g., <i>The boy watched the movie; The little boy watched the movie; The action movie was watched by the little boy</i>). (L.2.1 and 3.1 merge)</p>	<p>d. Use modal auxiliaries (e.g., <i>can, may, must</i>) to convey various conditions.</p> <p>e. Form and use the perfect (e.g., <i>I had walked; I have walked; I will have walked</i>) verb tenses.</p> <p>f. Use verb tense to convey various times, sequences, states, and conditions.</p> <p>g. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense.</p> <p>h. Order adjectives within sentences according to conventional patterns (e.g., <i>a small red bag</i> rather than <i>a red small bag</i>).</p> <p>i. Form and use prepositional phrases.</p> <p>j. Use correlative conjunctions (e.g., <i>either/or, neither/nor</i>).</p> <p>k. Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-ons.</p> <p>l. Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., <i>to, too, two; there, their</i>). (L.4.1 and 5.1 merge)</p>	<p>and others' writing and speaking, and identify and use strategies to improve expression in conventional language.</p> <p>f. Explain the function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences.</p> <p>g. Form and use verbs in the active and passive voice.</p> <p>h. Form and use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood.</p> <p>i. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood.</p> <p>j. Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences.</p> <p>k. Choose among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas.</p> <p>l. Place phrases and clauses within a sentence, recognizing and correcting misplaced and dangling modifiers. (L.6.1 through 8.1 merge)</p>	

¹⁰ "Merge" signifies panelists selected all of the standards from the two grades indicated. In the merge, any repetition in content grade-to-grade was deleted; occasionally where similar content was covered grade-to-grade a single standard was edited, combining the text of both standards, to include the demands of both grades.

A	B	C	D	E
CCR Anchor 2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.				
<p>Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Capitalize the first word in a sentence and the pronoun <i>I</i>. b. Capitalize dates and names of people. c. Recognize and name end punctuation. d. Use end punctuation for sentences. e. Use commas in dates and to separate single words in a series. f. Write a letter or letters for most consonant and short-vowel sounds (phonemes). g. Spell simple words phonetically, drawing on knowledge of sound-letter relationships. h. Use conventional spelling for words with common spelling patterns and for frequently occurring irregular words. i. Spell untaught words phonetically, drawing on phonemic awareness and spelling conventions. (L.K.2 and 1.2 merge) 	<p>Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Capitalize holidays, product names, and geographic names. b. Capitalize appropriate words in titles. c. Use commas in greetings and closings of letters. d. Use commas in addresses. e. Use commas and quotation marks in dialogue. f. Use an apostrophe to form contractions and frequently occurring possessives. g. Form and use possessives. h. Use conventional spelling for high-frequency and other studied words and for adding suffixes to base words (e.g., <i>sitting, smiled, cries, happiness</i>). i. Generalize learned spelling patterns when writing words (e.g., <i>cage</i> → <i>badge</i>; <i>boy</i> → <i>boil</i>). j. Use spelling patterns and generalizations (e.g., word families, position-based spellings, syllable patterns, ending rules, meaningful word parts) in 	<p>Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use correct capitalization. b. Use commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text. c. Use punctuation to separate items in a series. d. Use a comma to separate an introductory element from the rest of the sentence. e. Use a comma to set off the words <i>yes</i> and <i>no</i> (e.g., <i>Yes, thank you</i>), to set off a tag question from the rest of the sentence (e.g., <i>It's true, isn't it?</i>), and to indicate direct address (e.g., <i>Is that you, Steve?</i>). f. Use underlining, quotation marks, or italics to indicate titles of works. g. Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence. h. Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed. (L.4.2 and 5.2 merge) 	<p>Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, ellipsis, dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements. b. Use a comma to separate coordinate adjectives (e.g., <i>It was a fascinating, enjoyable movie</i> but not <i>He wore an old[,] green shirt</i>). c. Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission. d. Spell correctly. (L.6.2 through 8.2 merge) 	<p>Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use a semicolon (and perhaps a conjunctive adverb) to link two or more closely related independent clauses. b. Use a colon to introduce a list or quotation. c. Spell correctly. (L.9-10.2)

A	B	C	D	E
CCR Anchor 2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.				
	writing words. k. Consult reference materials, including beginning dictionaries, as needed to check and correct spellings. (L.2.2 and 3.2 merge)			
CCR Anchor 3: Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.				
Note: This standard does not begin until grade 2 in the Common Core State Standards.	Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. a. Choose words and phrases for effect. b. Recognize and observe differences between the conventions of spoken and written standard English. (L.3.3)	Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. a. Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely. b. Choose punctuation for effect. c. Differentiate between contexts that call for formal English (e.g., presenting ideas) and situations where informal discourse is appropriate (e.g., small-group discussion). d. Expand, combine, and reduce sentences for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style. e. Compare and contrast the varieties of English (e.g., dialects, registers) used in stories, dramas, or poems. (L.4.3 and 5.3 merge)	Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. a. Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style. b. Maintain consistency in style and tone. c. Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy. (L.6.3 and 7.3 merge)	

A	B	C	D	E
CCR Anchor 4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.				
<p>Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies.</p> <p>a. Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.</p> <p>b. Use frequently occurring affixes as a clue to the meaning of a word.</p> <p>c. Identify frequently occurring root words (e.g., <i>look</i>) and their inflectional forms (e.g., <i>looks, looked, looking</i>). (L.1.4)</p>	<p>Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies.</p> <p>a. Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.</p> <p>b. Determine the meaning of the new word formed when a known prefix is added to a known word (e.g., <i>happy/unhappy, tell/retell</i>).</p> <p>c. Use a known root word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root (e.g., <i>addition, additional</i>).</p> <p>d. Use knowledge of the meaning of individual words to predict the meaning of compound words (e.g., <i>birdhouse, lighthouse, housefly; bookshelf, notebook, bookmark</i>).</p> <p>e. Use glossaries and beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases. (L.2.4)</p>	<p>Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.</p> <p>a. Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, restatements, cause/effect relationships and comparisons in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.</p> <p>b. Use common, grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., <i>telegraph, autograph, photograph, photosynthesis</i>).</p> <p>c. Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases. (L.4.4 and 5.4 merge)</p>	<p>Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.</p> <p>a. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word’s position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.</p> <p>b. Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., <i>audience, auditory, audible</i>).</p> <p>c. Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.</p> <p>d. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary). (L.6.4)</p>	<p>Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.</p> <p>a. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word’s position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.</p> <p>b. Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., conceive, conception, conceivable).</p> <p>c. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, or its etymology or its standard usage.</p> <p>d. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary). (L.11-12.4)</p>

A	B	C	D	E
CCR Anchor 5: Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.				
<p>With guidance and support, demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.</p> <p>a. Sort words into categories (e.g., colors, clothing) to gain a sense of the concepts the categories represent.</p> <p>b. Define words by category and by one or more key attributes (e.g., a <i>duck</i> is a bird that swims; a <i>tiger</i> is a large cat with stripes).</p> <p>c. Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., note places at home that are <i>cozy</i>).</p> <p>d. Distinguish shades of meaning among verbs differing in manner (e.g., <i>look, peek, glance, stare, glare, scowl</i>) and adjectives differing in intensity (e.g., <i>large, gigantic</i>) by defining or choosing them or by acting out the meanings. (L.1.5)</p>	<p>Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.</p> <p>a. Distinguish the literal and non-literal meanings of words and phrases in context (e.g., <i>take steps</i>).</p> <p>b. Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., describe people who are <i>friendly</i> or <i>helpful</i>).</p> <p>c. Distinguish shades of meaning among related words that describe states of mind or degrees of certainty (e.g., <i>knew, believed, suspected, heard, wondered</i>). (L.3.5)</p>	<p>Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.</p> <p>a. Interpret figurative language, including similes and metaphors, in context.</p> <p>b. Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs.</p> <p>c. Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., synonyms, antonyms, homographs) to better understand each of the words. (L.5.5)</p>		

A	B	C	D	E
<p>CCR Anchor 6: Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.</p>				
<p>Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts, including using frequently occurring conjunctions to signal simple relationships (e.g., <i>because</i>). (L.1.6)</p>	<p>Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts, including using adjectives and adverbs to describe (e.g., <i>When other people are happy that makes me happy</i>). (L.2.6)</p> <p>Acquire and use accurately level-appropriate conversational, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal spatial and temporal relationships (e.g., <i>After dinner that night we went looking for them</i>). (L.3.6)</p>	<p>Acquire and use accurately level-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • signal precise actions, emotions, or states of being (e.g., <i>quizzed, whined, stammered</i>). • are basic to a particular topic (e.g., <i>wildlife, conservation, and endangered</i> when discussing animal preservation). • signal contrast, addition, and other logical relationships (e.g., <i>however, although, nevertheless, similarly, moreover, in addition</i>). (L.4.6 and 5.6 merge). 	<p>Acquire and use accurately level-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression. (L.8.6)</p>	<p>Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression. (L.11-12.6)</p>