Use It! Don’t Lose It!

LANGUAGE
Daily Skills Practice
Grade 9

by Amy Carlon and Jill Norris
Don’t let those language skills get lost or rusty!

As a teacher you work hard to teach language skills to your students. Your students work hard to master them. Do you worry that your students will forget the material as you move on to the next concept?

If so, here’s a plan for you and your students—one that will keep those skills sharp. **Use It! Don’t Lose It!** provides daily language practice for all the basic skills. There are five language problems a day, every day for 36 weeks. The skills are correlated to national and state standards.

Students practice all the ninth-grade skills, concepts, and processes in a spiraling sequence. The plan starts with the basic level of ninth-grade skills, progressing gradually to higher-level tasks, as it continually circles around and back to the same skills at a little higher level, again and again. Each time a skill shows up, it has a new context—requiring students to dig into their memories, recall what they know, and apply it to another situation.

### The Weekly Plan—Five Problems a Day for 36 Weeks

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MONDAY WEEK 1 ______________________________________   LANGUAGE PRACTICE

1. Circle the letters that should be capitalized.
   apollo, athena, and poseidon are a few of the
   familiar gods and goddesses associated with
   greek mythology; but, zeus was the god held
   in highest regard by the ancient greeks.

2. What is the meaning of the underlined word?
   Odysseus, who built a giant hollow horse so
   that he and his men could surprise the Trojans,
   used his clever tactics to win the Trojan War.

3. Which sentence is a compound sentence?
   a. The Greeks and Romans believed in gods
      and goddesses.
   b. The Sirens were renowned for their beautiful
      singing; however, their songs lured many
      sailors to their demise.

4. Circle the synonyms for abdicate.
   resign seize usurp cede relinquish

TUESDAY WEEK 1 ______________________________________   LANGUAGE PRACTICE

1. Choose the term that best describes the statement.
   I’ve got my eye on you!
   ○ cliché ○ jargon ○ idiom

2. Which sentence uses riding as a verb?
   a. Odysseus, riding inside the massive
      horse, was able to hide himself well.
   b. I think riding on Pegasus would
      be exhilarating.
   c. All the gods were riding white horses.

3. Choose the best word for the sentence.
   The gods and goddesses were __________
   when the mortals did not do as they asked.
   ○ begrudged ○ amused ○ enraged

4. Circle the prefixes that mean against.
   contradict antiwar expel
   postpone oppose suffice

5. Read the passage below. Write a
   sentence to summarize the differences
   between a myth and a legend.

Although the difference between a myth and a legend is slight, there
is a difference. A myth involves
gods and goddesses and originates
from archaic folklore. It attempts to
explain the origin of life or some of
the strange happenings that occur
in the world. On the other hand, a
legend involves human actions and
is handed down from generation to
generation. A legend may be
considered true even though
it is usually a mixture of
fact and fiction.
1. Write three definitions of the word *hit*. Include one definition that is traditional and two that have evolved in recent years.

2. Add correct punctuation to the passage. Indicate words that should be capitalized.

   the most powerful greek gods lived atop mount olympus there on the mountaintop the gods renewed their immortality watched the games of mortal men and discussed their concerns

3. Circle the correctly spelled words.

   peice calender fiery foreign guarantee

4. What kind of mood does this sentence convey?

   The black night, a carefully knitted blanket shielding against all threatened dangers, protected the men as they began their journey.

5. Paraphrase the passage below.

   Poseidon, the god of water, was angry with his brother Zeus for exiling him from Mount Olympus. Poseidon flooded the land to kill the people who held Zeus in high esteem. As Poseidon unleashed the waters, Zeus heard his people cry and called upon Hephaestus, the god of fire, to help. Hephaestus designed a three-dimensional cone. He placed molten rock inside the cone.

   Zeus squeezed the cone, and it spewed forth liquid rock. The rock cooled quickly in the water and made land for Zeus' people. Zeus named this contraption a volcano.

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1. Change the nouns to make them possessive.

   Pegasus

   Athena and Medusa

   horse

2. Circle the abstract nouns.

   sword love chariot monster

   wisdom sandal courage map

3. Which sentence uses *farther* correctly?

   • Odysseus traveled farther than anyone else to get to Ithaca.

   • Zeus’ power was farther advanced than Hera’s.

4. Choose the reference you would use to locate Athens, Greece.

   ○ dictionary  ○ atlas  ○ almanac

5. Write three gerund phrases that describe the journey of Helios, the sun, as he galloped across the sky.
When Atalanta was born, she was taken into the woods and left to die. Saved by a mother bear, the tiny girl grew up with cubs as siblings. Years later, a band of hunters found Atalanta living in the bear’s cave. The astonished men claimed her and taught her all the skills of the hunt. Each of the hunters viewed her as his own daughter. By the time she was a teenager, Atalanta was more skillful with a bow and arrow than any of her fathers.

She proved her skill on one hunt when two malicious centaurs confronted her. These half-human, half-horse beasts laughed at the sight of the young girl alone in the forest. They charged into the clearing where she stood. Fearlessly Atalanta faced their thundering hooves. She calmly fitted a bronze-tipped arrow to her bow and shot it. While the first arrow was in the air, she quickly aimed and fired a second one. Then she turned and walked away. The two centaurs lay motionless behind her, each with an arrow through its heart.

Not only was Atalanta a beautiful and skilled huntress, she was also the fastest runner of all humans. News of her skill and her speed spread throughout Greece. Her true parents came forward and her father urged her to marry. Atalanta did not want to give up the freedom she enjoyed in the woods. She consented to marry only if her suitor could defeat her in a footrace. Many men challenged her, but they all failed to outpace the stunning huntress.

One young man, Hippomenes, watched in awe as Atalanta won race after race. She was as swift and graceful as a falcon. Her dark hair rippled over her white shoulders, the colored ribbons she wore fluttered in the air, and her face grew dewy pink as she ran. Hippomenes fell deeply in love. He wanted to marry Atalanta, but he knew that he could never defeat her in a footrace.

Hippomenes prayed to Aphrodite, goddess of love, to help him win Atalanta’s favor. Aphrodite answered his prayer and gave him three gleaming, golden apples. Hippomenes challenged Atalanta to a race. Atalanta admired the handsome warrior and considered letting him win the race. But as the race began, she exploded quietly into the lead. Hippomenes threw a gleaming apple to the side of the path. Atalanta stooped to retrieve it and Hippomenes pulled ahead. Twice more Hippomenes threw a sparkling treasure and caused Atalanta to slow her pace. The delay cost her the race. Hippomenes crossed the finish line just in front of Atalanta and won the right to marry her.

And so the two were married, and Atalanta fell in love with her handsome partner. The pair spent their days oblivious to the cares of the world around them. Sadly, the young lovers’ happiness was short-lived. Aphrodite, who expected tributes of gratitude from Hippomenes, decided to punish him by changing the pair into lions and yoking them to a chariot.

Write

Write a persuasive paragraph to support or disagree with the premise.

Ultimately, Atalanta was the winner of the footrace even though Hippomenes crossed the finish line first.
1. Circle the words that are antonyms for dissent.
   agree oppose concur
   rebel consent differ

2. Circle the relative pronouns
   that anyone who he
   she which all whom

3. Indicate the words that need to be capitalized.
   in 2002, 38,000 people took part in la
tomatina, the largest food fight festival ever.
at the festival participants threw over 120
tons of tomatoes.

4. Write the plural of each noun.
   asparagus squash potato
   raspberry celery bacon strip
   shrimp escargot grapefruit

5. Underline the topic sentence. Number each detail that supports it.
   Health authorities cite many reasons for maintaining a
   healthy, well-balanced diet. Eating the right foods
   increases energy. Individuals
   with well-balanced diets
   excel in sports and
   academics. Statistics show
   that when people eat
   healthy, they have a reduced
   occurrence of heart disease
   and cancer, and as a result
   live longer. Eating a healthy,
   well-balanced diet is one
   important step to living a
   long, healthy life.

1. Choose the correct word for the sentence.
   Doctors _________ people to eat vegetables
   and nuts that have unsaturated fat.
   ○ advise ○ advice

2. Which statement represents an opinion?
   a. Eating high-calorie, saturated fat
      increases the chance of heart attacks.
   b. If people eat fattening foods, it is
      their own fault if they gain weight.

3. Underline the subordinate clause.
   Peanuts, also used in the manufacturing
   of dynamite, are a good source of protein.

4. Identify the case of each pronoun.
   whom _________ their _________
   they _________ she _________

5. Combine the simple sentences to form a sequential paragraph. You may want
to combine several of the sentences to improve the readability.
   • Frankie gave Bobby some
     mouthwash.
   • Bobby ate an onion-and-peanut-
     butter sandwich for breakfast.
   • Frankie gagged at the smell of
     Bobby’s breath.
   • Bobby doesn’t eat onion-and-
     peanut-butter sandwiches
     anymore.
   • Bobby went to school without
     brushing his teeth.
   • Bobby greeted Frankie with a
     friendly, “Hi, Buddy!”