

## Grade 4 Writing and Language

Teacher At-Home Activity Packet 3

This At-Home Activity Packet is organized as a series of journal entries. Each entry has two parts. In part 1, the student writes in response to a prompt. In part 2, the student completes a Language Handbook lesson and practices the skill in the context of their writing from part 1. We recommend that the student completes one part each day.

Most lessons can be completed independently. However, there are some lessons that would benefit from the support of an adult. If there is not an adult available to help, don't worry! Just skip those lessons.

Although we are providing an Answer Key, we would like to emphasize that it is effort that matters most, and not how many questions a student gets right or wrong. Encourage the student to do the best they can with this content. The most important thing is that they continue to work on their writing and language skills.

#### **Directions for this packet:**

#### Part 1:

- Read the writing prompt.
- If needed, use the sentence frames to help you get started writing.

#### Part 2:

- Complete Guided Practice.
- Complete Independent Practice.
- Complete the Try It prompt.

Flip to see the Grade 4 Writing and Language activities included in this packet!



Entry	Writing Prompt	Resource	Answer Key	Page
1	Part 1  Journal Intry 1  The American part of the Control Cont	Part 2  Grade 4 Ready Language Handbook Lesson 10  Capitalizing Names of Places and Things   Type of Things  T	Guided Practice 1. Fourth; July 2. Kinsman Drive 3. July; Monday 4. Eagle Creek Park Independent Practice 1. A 2. C 3. D 4. B	7
2	Part 1  Journal Entry 2  Assume the strong train, but you priviley such did by the strong train and the strong trains to the strong tra	Part 2  Grade 4 Ready Language Handbook Lesson 11  Punctuating Direct Quotations	Guided Practice  1. "I'm almost ready to go!" exclaimed Kris.  2. Mr. Mendez said, "Before we go, we need to learn about the Washington Monument."  3. "Why did they build the monument?" Alva asked.  4. Kris replied, "It was built to honor George Washington."  5. "The monument is a symbol of his leadership," wrote author Rachel White.  Independent Practice  1. D  2. A  3. B	10



Entry	Writing Prompt	Resource	Answer Key	Page
3	Part 1  Journal Brity 3  To man and a state of the state	Part 2  Grade 4 Ready Language Handbook Lesson 5  Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases  Figure 1 Preposition and Phrases  Figure 2 Preposition and Phrases  Figure 3 Preposition and Phrases  Figure 4 Prepositi	Guided Practice  1. behind the house  2. in its branches  3. During dinner,  4. after school  5. Sample: for them  6. Sample: on a Saturday Independent Practice  1. D  2. C  3. A  4. B  5. A	13
4	Part 1	Part 2  Grade 4 Ready Language Handbook Lesson 7  Run-On Sentences   The Control of Cont	Guided Practice  1. correct  2. run-on; We hope to keep it a surprise, so we will have to be careful.  3. run-on; The party will be at Stella's house, and her parents will help.  4. correct Independent Practice  1. C  2. A  3. B  4. C	16



Entry	Writing Prompt	Resource	Answer Key	Page
5	Part 1  Journal Entry 5  Was assumed to two replaced for a first to be the date of the control o	Part 2  Grade 4 Ready Language Handbook Lesson 8  Commonly Confused Words   Vortes  Vo	Guided Practice  1. know  2. would  3. new  4. it's  5. right  6. Their  Independent Practice  1. A  2. B  3. D  4. B  5. C	19
6	Part 1  Journal Entry 6  What a sea and and have been and the sea are sea and the sea and	Part 2  Grade 4 Ready Language Handbook Lesson 13  Precise Words and Phrases  Precise Words and Phrase  Precise Words and phrases  Precise Words and phrases	Guided Practice 1. a majority 2. white-sand 3. stretch 4. clear blue 5. Towering Independent Practice 1. D 2. C 3. D 4. D	22



Entry	Writing Prompt	Resource	Answer Key	Page
7	Part 1	Part 2  Grade 4 Ready Language Handbook Lesson 14  Punctuation for Effect    Very   Ve	Guided Practice Sample answers: 1. Do we all have to wear lifejackets? 2. Is kayaking hard/easy to learn? 3. Look out for the rocks ahead! 4. Wow, do I enjoy kayaking! Independent Practice 1. B 2. C 3. B	25
8	Part 1	Part 2  Grade 4 Ready Language Handbook Lesson 20 Idioms   The state of the state o	Guided Practice  1. talk my ear off: talk a long time  2. fly off the handle: get angry  3. in the doghouse: in trouble  4. rock the boat: cause problems  5. rained cats and dogs: rained heavily  6. make tracks: hurry  Independent Practice  1. C  2. D  3. A  4. C  5. B	28



Entry	Writing Prompt	Resource	Answer Key	Page
9	Part 1  Journal Entry 9  Framework of the control o	Part 2  Grade 4 Ready Language Handbook Lesson 22  Synonyms and Antonyms	Guided Practice  1. S; A  2. A; S  3. A; S  4. A; S  Independent Practice  1. B  2. D  3. B  4. A  5. C	31
10	Part 1	Part 2  Grade 4 Ready Language Handbook Lesson 24  Precise Words for Actions and Feelings	Guided Practice 1. crawl 2. Bewildered 3. Caring 4. deserts 5. construct Independent Practice 1. B 2. B 3. A 4. A 5. D	34



Think about a place in your city or town that is currently closed. Imagine you could spend the day at this place. What would you do? Who would you bring?	
If I could spend the day atI would	



# Capitalizing Names of Places and Things

Introduction You know that a common noun names *any* person, place, or thing. A **proper noun** names a *particular* person, place, or thing. Remember to capitalize proper nouns. When a proper noun contains more than one word, begin each important word with a capital letter.

Places	Things
West Park Avenue	Veterans Day
Durham	Pen and Pencil Company, Inc.
Hanging Rock State Park	Green Bay Packers
United States of America	Saturday
Asia	February

### **₩** Guided Practice

Write each sentence correctly. Add capital letters where they are needed.

**HINT** When you write the name of a place or thing, do not capitalize small words, such as *a*, *and*, or *of*.

1	We have a big party in our town on the fourth of july.
2	Before the holiday, people put up flags along kinsman drive.
3	This july, the event will begin on monday afternoon.
4	There will be fireworks that night in eagle creek park.

#### For numbers 1-4, in which sentence are capital letters used correctly?

- **1** A In the United States, Thanksgiving is celebrated in November.
  - **B** In the united states, Thanksgiving is celebrated in november.
  - **C** In the United States, Thanksgiving is celebrated in november.
  - **D** In the united states, thanksgiving is celebrated in November.
- A A similar holiday is celebrated in Canada on the second monday of october.
  - **B** A similar holiday is celebrated in Canada on the second Monday of october.
  - **C** A similar holiday is celebrated in Canada on the second Monday of October.
  - **D** A similar holiday is celebrated in Canada on the second monday of October.
- **A** In north america, families give thanks as their ancestors from Europe did.
  - **B** In North america, families give thanks as their ancestors from europe did.
  - **C** In north America, families give thanks as their ancestors from Europe did.
  - **D** In North America, families give thanks as their ancestors from Europe did.
- **A** Last year we went to my aunt's house on scudder st. in Amarillo.
  - **B** Last year we went to my aunt's house on Scudder St. in Amarillo.
  - **C** Last year we went to my aunt's house on scudder St. in Amarillo.
  - **D** Last year we went to my aunt's house on Scudder st. in amarillo.

**Try It** Reread what you wrote in Part 1 and underline the names of places. Then, check to see if any of the places are proper nouns. Did you capitalize those places? Remember, a proper noun is a particular person, place, or thing.



rou awake from a strange dream. You near your pets talking to each other. The crazy thing is that you can understand what they are saying. Write a dialogue between your pets.



## Punctuating Direct Quotations

Introduction Using a direct quotation, or a person's exact words, can help make your writing come alive. You can write the exact words of a character in a story, or you can write what someone in real life has said or written. Use quotation marks ("") before and after the exact words of a speaker or author.

• A direct quotation can come at the beginning of a sentence.

"I can't wait to see the Washington Monument!" said Elena.

• A direct quotation can also come at the end of a sentence. Use a **comma** (,) to separate the beginning of the sentence from the quotation.

Author Rachel White wrote, "The Washington Monument is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the United States."

• Use quotation marks only when you are showing a person's exact words, not when you are explaining what the person said.

Nathan said, "I look forward to the trip to Washington."

Nathan said that he looks forward to the trip to Washington.

#### Guided Practice

Add the correct punctuation where it is needed in each sentence.

**HINT** Be sure the end punctuation after a speaker's words is inside the quotation marks.

#### **Example:**

Len asked, "Where have you been?" "I've been right here!" I shouted.

- I'm almost ready to go! exclaimed Kris.
- 2 Mr. Mendez said Before we go, we need to learn about the Washington Monument.
- Why did they build the monument? Alva asked.
- Kris replied It was built to honor George Washington.
- The monument is a symbol of his leadership wrote author Rachel White.



#### For numbers 1–3, which sentence in each group uses the correct punctuation?

- The Washington Monument is huge!" Anna exclaimed.
  - В "The Washington Monument is huge! Anna exclaimed.
  - C "The Washington Monument is huge"! Anna exclaimed.
  - D "The Washington Monument is huge!" Anna exclaimed.
- 2 The tour guide said, "The monument is more than 555 feet tall."
  - В The tour guide said "The monument is more than 555 feet tall."
  - C The tour guide said, The monument is more than 555 feet tall.
  - D The tour guide, said "The monument is more than 555 feet tall."
- 3 Α Author Carter Bailey wrote, More than 500,000 visitors go to the top of the monument in most years."
  - В Author Carter Bailey wrote, "More than 500,000 visitors go to the top of the monument in most years."
  - Author Carter Bailey wrote "More than 500,000 visitors go to the top of the monument in most years."
  - Author Carter Bailey wrote More than 500,000 visitors go to the top of the monument in most years.

**Try It** Review the dialogue you wrote between your pets in Part 1. Look for the correct punctuation and the use of quotation marks. If you left any punctuation or quotation marks off, add them in.



ur town is building a treehouse. You and several friends have been asked to p. Write about the experience of building a treehouse for your community. Be e to tell how you felt.	
Building a treehouse for our	)
community was	/

## Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases

- Introduction A preposition is a word that shows the relationship between other words in a sentence. Words such as *about*, *after*, *at*, *behind*, *by*, *during*, *for*, *in*, *on*, and *under* are prepositions.
  - A **prepositional phrase** includes a preposition, a noun or pronoun that is the object of the preposition, and any words in between.

preposition			object of preposition		
Myka looked	at	the large	tree].		

• A prepositional phrase can describe a noun or a verb. It sometimes describes by telling *how, when, where,* or *what kind*.

Examples	What They Tell
Myka and Lily went outside after lunch.	when they went
They sat under the oak tree.	where they sat
It was a good spot for a tree house.	what kind of spot
Lily showed Myka a book about tree houses.	what kind of book
They <i>could build</i> a tree house <b>by</b> themselves.	how they could build

### **Guided Practice**

Underline each prepositional phrase, and circle the preposition. Then finish the last two sentences by adding a prepositional phrase to each.

#### HINT

A prepositional phrase can come at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of a sentence.

- The tall oak tree was behind the house.
- 2 Myka and Lily would build their tree house in its branches.
- 3 During dinner, they discussed different ideas.
- 4 "Should we draw our plans after school?" Myka asked.
- 5 Their dad could buy wood and nails \_\_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 Myka and Lily decided to start building \_\_\_\_\_



#### For numbers 1–3, identify the prepositional phrase in each sentence.

- The girls used solid wood planks for the tree house floor.
  - used solid wood
  - В planks for
  - C The girls used
  - D for the tree house floor
- Lily made a small window in one wall.
  - Α one wall
  - В Lily made
  - C in one wall
  - D a small window
- Myka put curtains over the window.
  - over the window
  - В put curtains
  - C Myka put
  - the window

#### For numbers 4 and 5, what does the underlined prepositional phrase tell?

- Myka and Lily hung a "Members Only" sign on the door.
  - when they hung the sign
  - where they hung the sign В
  - what kind of sign they hung
  - how they hung the sign D
- Then the girls had a discussion about safety rules.
  - what kind of discussion
  - when the discussion took place
  - C where the discussion took place
  - how the discussion started
- **Try It** Reread what you wrote in Part 1. Underline the prepositional phrases you used in your writing. Circle the prepositions. If you haven't used any prepositional phrases, add one to a sentence.



Write about the best things you have done while school is closed. Be sure to include lots of details in your writing.		
	\	
The best things I have done are		
I have done are		

## **Run-on Sentences**

Introduction You know that a sentence is a group of words that tells a complete thought. A run-on sentence is two or more sentences that run together with a comma between them or with no punctuation at all.

Run-on: Julia is always helping other people she hardly has time for herself.

**Run-on:** She tutors kids after school, she volunteers at a food pantry on weekends.

• One way to fix a run-on sentence is to split it into two sentences.

**Correct:** Julia is always helping other people. She hardly has time for herself.

• Another way to fix a run-on sentence is to use a conjunction, such as and, but, so, because, or while, to join the two thoughts.

**Correct:** She tutors kids after school, and she volunteers at a food pantry on weekends.

#### **™** Guided Practice

Read each sentence. Write R for run-on sentence or C for correct. Fix the run-on sentences by adding a conjunction or by dividing the thoughts into two sentences.

**HINT** When you use the conjunction and, or, so, or but to combine two sentences, put a comma before the conjunction. Do not use a comma before the conjunction because.

1	My friends and I want to have a party for Julia's birthday

2	We hope to keep it a surprise, we will have to be careful	

3	The party will be at Stella's house her parents will help.	
	. ,	

4 Stella will invite Julia over for a nice lunch that day	
---	--

#### For numbers 1 and 2, which choice is a run-on sentence?

- My friends and I admire Julia, but we worry about how busy she is.
  - She doesn't have time for sports or movies.
  - Donica and I decided that we could help Julia, we could take turns tutoring after school.
  - **D** I could tutor on Tuesdays, and Donica could tutor on Thursdays.
- Julia could still tutor on Mondays, there is no tutoring on Fridays.
  - Julia needs a break so she can have В more time to see friends.
  - C Donica and I will talk to Julia and ask for her opinion.
  - We know that she enjoys her D volunteer work, and we don't want her to stop doing it.

#### For numbers 3 and 4, what is the best way to fix each run-on sentence?

- Julia agreed to our plan she was happy to have the help.
  - Julia agreed to our plan, she, was happy to have the help.
  - В Julia agreed to our plan. She was happy to have the help.
  - Julia agreed to our plan, she was happy to have the help.
  - Julia agreed to our plan, She was happy to have the help.
- I enjoyed tutoring I decided to sign up for more days.
  - I enjoyed tutoring, I decided to sign up for more days.
  - I enjoyed tutoring but, I decided to sign up for more days.
  - I enjoyed tutoring, so I decided to sign up for more days.
  - I enjoyed tutoring and, I decided to sign up for more days.

**Try It** Reread your writing from Part 1. Look for run-on sentences. If you find any, cross them out and revise them.



Your community has many helpers that are there to help out during emergencies. Sometimes it may be a neighbor that helps out. Other times it night be a paramedic. Write about someone in the community who has helped you or someone you know.		
The community helper was		
The community helper helped		

## **Commonly Confused Words**

- **Introduction** Homophones are words that sound alike but have different meanings and spellings. Homophones are easy to confuse because they sound the same!
  - Watch out for the homophones *two*, *too*, and *to* in your writing. The homophones there, their, and they're are also easy to confuse.

Word	Meaning	Example
two	"a number"	Kira is excited about two things.
too	"also"	She loves swimming, but she loves writing, too.
to	"in a certain direction"	She goes to the pool almost every day.
there	"in that place"	The swim team practices there.
their	"belonging to them"	They try to improve their speed.
they're	"contraction for they are"	Next week they're having a big meet.

• Learn the spellings and meanings of these homophones, too!

no	"opposite of yes"	
know	"to be aware of"	
it's	"contraction for it is"	
its "belonging to it"		
hours	"units of time"	
ours	"belonging to us"	

right "correct" or "opposite of left"	
write "to put down on paper"	
would "under a certain condition"	
wood "part of a tree"	
new "opposite of old"	
knew "past tense of know"	

### Guided Practice

#### Circle the correct homophone in parentheses ().

**HINT** If you're not sure which spelling to use for a homophone, check the different spellings and their meanings in a dictionary.

- Not many people (know, no) how fast Kira is.
- They (wood, would) not want to compete against her if they did!
- She has a (knew, new) coach who is helping her train.
- He thinks (it's, its) possible for her to be on the Olympic team.
- Kira is working hard to prove him (write, right).
- (Their, There, They're) goal is for Kira to beat her own time.

#### For numbers 1-5, in which sentences are the underlined homophones spelled correctly?

- Kira spends at least two hours at the pool every day.
  - В Kira spends at least too hours at the pool every day.
  - C Kira spends at least to ours at the pool every day.
  - Kira spends at least two ours at the D pool every day.
- Her teammates practice with their team, to.
  - В Her teammates practice with their team, too.
  - C Her teammates practice with there team, too.
  - D Her teammates practice with they're team, two.
- Its not easy to be there each day after school.
  - В Its not easy to be their each day after school.
  - It's not easy to be they're each day after school.
  - It's not easy to be there each day D after school.

- Α Kira new she would have less time for writing.
  - В Kira knew she would have less time for writing.
  - C Kira knew she wood have less time for writing.
  - D Kira new she wood have less time for writing.
- 5 Α "I know I will right about my swimming someday," she says.
  - "I no I will write about my В swimming someday," she says.
  - "I know I will write about my C swimming someday," she says.
  - D "I no I will right about my swimming someday," she says.
- **Try It** Reread what you wrote in Part 1. Look for words that you may have misspelled because they are homophones, or words that sound the same. Check your spelling carefully. Revise any words that you misspelled.



What is the most prized object that you own? Write about it. Be sure to write details so others who read your writing will understand what your prized object is and how much it means to you.		
My prized object is		
	/	

## Precise Words and Phrases

Introduction What is the difference between a dog and a puppy? Maybe 10 years! If you just used the term dog, a reader would never know you meant a brown bulldog puppy. It is important to choose words and phrases that tell **precisely** the meaning you wish to convey.

• Using precise words helps to convey your ideas exactly as you intended.

Vague: Parts of Hawaii have been	Precise: Wetlands of Hawaii have
disappearing.	been disappearing.

• Using precise phrases will help readers picture and understand what you mean.

Vague: Many fruits grow in Hawaii.	<b>Precise:</b> Tropical pineapples, mangos,
	and bananas grow in Hawaii.



Read each sentence. Circle the word or phrase that conveys a more precise meaning for the vague underlined words. Tell a partner what additional information each phrase adds to the original sentence.

**HINT** Ask yourself which word or phrase best helps you to picture or understand what is being described.

Hawaii has a lot of the coral reefs in the world.

#### a majority a large number

Oahu is filled with tourists who want to enjoy the island's beautiful beaches.

#### white-sand pretty

The North Shore is the ideal location to watch big-wave surfing, as waves go up more than 30 feet high.

#### stretch move

4 Hanauma Bay, with its nice waters, is popular for snorkeling.

#### clear blue pleasant

Tall mountains can be found on the "Big Island" in Hawaii.

#### High **Towering**

#### For numbers 1–3, read each sentence. Which word or phrase best replaces the underlined text in the sentence?

- Maui has good rainforests.
  - nice
  - В special
  - wide and large
  - D lush and fertile
- The big cliffs on the island of Kauai were in the movie Jurassic Park 3.
  - full
  - great
  - C steep
  - D large
- 3 One waterfall on the "Big Island" goes down into a large bowl-shaped gulch.
  - falls Α
  - jumps
  - moves
  - D plunges

#### For number 4, read the paragraph and choose the correct answer.

An inactive volcano, Diamond Head, is the most famous place on the island of Oahu. Most volcanoes, like Diamond Head, rarely erupt. But when they do, hot lava can blaze wildly.

- Choose a word to replace place that better describes what Diamond Head is.
  - area
  - spot
  - section
  - landmark
- **Try It** Reread what you wrote in Part 1. Find two places in your writing where you could add additional words or change words so that readers understand exactly what you are talking about.



metimes we don't make the best choices. Write about a time when you did ot make a good choice. What happened? How did others react to your poor oice?	
I made a po	en )
Others red	icted by

## Punctuation for Effect

Introduction You know that a sentence is a group of words that expresses a complete thought. Sentences can end with a period (,), a question mark (?), or an exclamation point (!). Using a variety of sentence types will make your writing more interesting to read.

Sentence Type	Example		
Statement	Summer is my favorite time of year.		
Question	What season do you like best?		
Exclamation	This summer, I went white-water rafting!		
Command	Tell me when you get my photos.		

• Instead of beginning a report with a statement, try beginning with a question. **Statement:** At the end of the summer, we went kayaking.

Question: Have you ever tried kayaking on a hot summer day?

• If you want to express strong emotion, consider writing an exclamation instead of a statement.

**Statement:** Kayaking is an exciting sport.

**Exclamation:** What an exciting sport kayaking is!

#### **₩** Guided Practice

Rewrite each sentence as either a question or an exclamation. Tell a partner how the change in punctuation changes the meaning of the sentence.

**HINT** Think about how the end punctuation you choose will affect the way the reader "hears" your sentences and understands your meaning.

Kayaking is easy to learn. (question)

There are rocks ahead. (exclamation)

I enjoy kayaking. (exclamation)

Read the passage on kayaking. For numbers 1-3, choose the most effective way to rewrite the sentences.

(1) I like nature and adventure. (2) Kayaking is a great way to experience both. (3) We set out on a sunny clear day. (4) It was easy paddling, and we were having a good time. (5) Someone shouted, "Rocks ahead." (6) Then I shouted back. (7) "Can you move to the left of them now?" (8) We were lucky to escape the rocks. (9) Suddenly, I saw lightning and heard a huge clap of thunder. "Oh no, we're going to be struck by lightning!"

- Which rewrite of sentence 1 makes the most engaging opening?
  - **A** You like nature, and you like adventure.
  - В Do you like nature and adventure?
  - You should like nature and adventure.
  - What about nature and adventure? D
- Which rewrite of sentence 5 shows strong emotion?
  - Someone shouted, "Rocks Ahead."
  - Someone shouted, "Rocks ahead?" В
  - C Someone shouted, "Rocks ahead!"
  - D Someone shouted that rocks were ahead.

- 3 Which rewrite of sentence 7 best gives the effect of a command, or orders?
  - "You could now move to the left of them."
  - "Move to the left of them now." B
  - C "Why not move to the left of them now?"
  - "You would now move to the left of them."
- **Try It** Reread your writing from Part 1. Revise the beginning of your writing so that you ask a question. Revise one sentence so that it conveys your strong emotions.

Have you ever changed your mind about something that you told a friend you would do together? Write about that time. Tell what happened and how your friend felt.	
One	e time I changed
( my	mind about

### Lesson 20 Idioms

Introduction Have you ever been "in hot water"? When you hear these words, you might think about taking a hot bath. Or you might think about being in trouble. Phrases in English sometimes have more than one meaning.

• An **idiom** is an expression whose meaning is different from the meaning of its individual words. The idiom up to my ears means "very busy with."

I was up to my ears in homework when my friend Mai called.

• The phrase up to my ears has a **literal** meaning, too. The meaning of the phrase is the same as the meaning of the individual words.

I was chilly, so I pulled my sweater up to my ears.

#### Guided Practice

**HINT** If an idiom doesn't make sense, use context clues to help you understand it. Sometimes you can also find the meaning of idioms in a dictionary.

Read each sentence. Underline the idiom. Then circle the correct meaning of the idiom.

- I knew Mai would talk my ear off if she had the chance. talk until my ear fell off talk a long time talk loudly
- 2 So I said, "My mom will fly off the handle if I'm on the phone and not studying."

throw a pot get angry take a trip

I explained, "I'm in the doghouse because I didn't do well on my last spelling test."

in trouble sitting in a doghouse playing with the dog

- Mai said, "I don't want to rock the boat, so come over later." throw rocks cause problems go boating
- It rained cats and dogs as I biked to Mai's house. was dark was foggy rained heavily
- I knew I had to make tracks, or I'd soon be completely wet. slow down hurry take a train

#### For numbers 1-5, read each sentence. Then choose the correct meaning of each underlined idiom.

- I was all ears when Mai shared her news.
  - Α feeling my ears grow
  - В getting a headache
  - listening carefully
  - D unable to hear
- Mai said, "I've just heard it from the horse's mouth. Our school is going to have an auction to raise money."
  - from a horse trainer
  - from an animal doctor
  - C from the mouth of a horse
  - **D** from a trustworthy person
- I held my tongue even though I knew that Mai probably found out from her mom, our school principal.
  - kept quiet
  - В grabbed my tongue
  - C stuck out my tongue
  - D made a funny face

- Mai continued, "Let's put our heads together and think of something to contribute to the auction."
  - whisper quietly
  - B sit next to one another
  - work together to make a plan
  - put our heads on the table
- Mai is head and shoulders above me at cooking. I suggested that she bake a cake to sell at the auction.
  - much taller than I am
  - much better than I am
  - standing above me
  - faster than I am
- **Try It** Look for places in your writing where you can use an idiom. Remember, idioms are unique ways of saying something, such as "hold your horses." When you say that, you really mean "wait a minute."



If you could start a new city, where would you start it? Maybe in outer space or under the ocean? Maybe in your state or in a different country? Write about your new city. Write about where it is and explain what kinds of places you can find in your new city.
My new city is The places in my
The places in my new city include



## Synonyms and Antonyms

Introduction Words in English can have meanings that are similar or different. If you know how two words are related, you can sometimes use the meaning of a word you already know to understand the meaning of an unfamiliar word.

• A **synonym** is a word that has the same or almost the same meaning as another word. The words *select* and *choose* are synonyms.

I try to **select** foods from all five food groups.

I often seem to **choose** the same foods, though.

• An **antonym** is a word that has the opposite meaning of another word. The words forget and remember are antonyms.

Sometimes I **forget** to eat different kinds of vegetables.

I need to **remember** to vary my diet.

 If you find yourself using the same word again and again, replace the repeated word with a synonym. This will make your writing more interesting.

#### Guided Practice

**HINT** You can use a thesaurus to find synonyms and antonyms for many words. Sometimes a dictionary also lists synonyms and antonyms.

Read each sentence. Write S next to the synonym for the underlined word. Write A next to the antonym.

1	I made a <u>large</u> salad	with many	vegetables.
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enormous \_\_\_\_\_ tiny \_\_\_\_

A salad is a meal that is easy to make.

challenging \_\_\_\_\_ simple \_\_\_\_

I used vegetables that are commonly grown in our area.

unusually \_\_\_\_\_ normally \_\_\_\_\_

I bought them at our local farmer's market.

distant \_\_\_\_\_ nearby \_\_\_\_\_

## For numbers 1–3, which word is a synonym for the underlined word as it is used in each sentence?

- 1 My doctor asked me about my diet.
  - **A** answered
  - **B** questioned
  - **C** told
  - **D** informed
- 2 She said that healthy food can also be tasty.
  - **A** sweet
  - **B** sour
  - **C** enjoyable
  - **D** delicious
- 3 She gave me a few interesting recipes.
  - **A** dull
  - **B** exciting
  - **C** boring
  - **D** tiring

## For numbers 4 and 5, which word is an antonym for the underlined word as it is used in each sentence?

- Is it important to eat foods that have protein?
  - **A** unnecessary
  - **B** required
  - **C** needed
  - **D** helpful
- Can you <u>get</u> protein from meat, eggs, and fish?
  - **A** gather
  - **B** gain
  - **C** lose
  - **D** collect
- **Try It** Choose one word from your writing in Part 1 and replace it with its antonym. Then choose a different word from your writing and replace it with a synonym. Reread your story now. How do these word changes impact your story?

Think about an animal that makes you smile. Write about that animal and tell why it brings a smile to your face.		
	An animal that makes	
	me smile is because	

# Precise Words for Actions and Feelings

**Introduction** Vague words, like *went*, *mad*, and *nice*, do not often paint a picture in a reader's mind. **Precise** words, like *stumbled*, *fuming*, and *gentle*, give more information. Often, you can use a thesaurus to find the precise word you need.

• Use precise action words and phrases to tell exactly what is happening.

Vague		Precise		
ask	inquire	question	quiz	
cry	whine	weep	wail	
stop	halt	pause	wrap up	

• Use precise words and phrases to describe emotions and states of being.

Vague	Precise		
happy	content	thrilled	tickled pink
sad	grim	woeful	suffering
shy	afraid	modest	bashful

#### **Guided Practice**

Read each sentence. Circle the precise word or phrase that best replaces the underlined text.

which word or phrase creates the strongest image in your mind. Also, look for clues in the surrounding words to help you decide which words to choose.

1 Female sea turtles <u>go</u> ashore at night to lay eggs on sandy beaches.

walk move crawl

2 Confused sea turtles will not lay eggs on brightly lit beaches.

Shy Bewildered Mysterious

3 Kind people turn off their outdoor lights.

Gentle Good Caring

4 After laying eggs, a sea turtle goes away from her nest of eggs and returns to the sea.

rejects quits on deserts

5 Volunteers have to put up fences to protect nest sites.

prepare construct form

For numbers 1–5, read each sentence. Then choose the most precise word or phrase that best replaces the underlined text in the sentence.

- Many people see sea turtles hatching from their nests.
  - Α spy
  - observe
  - note
  - D eye
- 2 Volunteers protect the hatchlings by keeping overly excited visitors away from the hatchlings.
  - Α content
  - В eager
  - pleased
  - cheerful
- 3 Newly hatched sea turtles go quickly to the sea.
  - scamper
  - take off
  - C make their way
  - move on out

- Many predators, such as crabs, eat hatchlings.
  - prey on
  - B have
  - nibble
  - snack on
- 5 Pollution causes problems for sea turtles, too.
  - pains
  - questions
  - upsets
  - D endangers
- **Try It** Reread what you wrote in Part 1. Find two places where you can revise your writing to add or change your words to be more precise. Read your writing with the new words. Tell a family member how that changed your writing.