

TFB1 Program Content

(*****active links to see the [resource list](#) for each part of speech)

Welcome to the Flock and Taking Flight Book 1!

This is mastery-based program designed to develop a keen “Word Sense” among both teachers and students. What is Word Sense? It is a deep, conceptual understanding of the underlying patterns in the English language, that provide the framework for purposefully and creatively employing the eight parts of speech in order to communicate effectively and increase reading comprehension.

Word Sense Practices

- Demonstrate the use of precise language when discussing language concepts.
- Strategically employ the eight parts of speech while understanding the underlying structure of the English language in all content areas.
- Demonstrate the ability to express the same thoughts and ideas in a variety of ways depending on audience and purpose.
- Demonstrate an understanding that words can be used to make an impact on others in the world in which we live.
- Demonstrate an ability to construct effective arguments using a variety of rhetorical strategies and respond to the arguments of others.
- Demonstrate an enjoyment in the ability to effectively express thoughts in both the written and spoken word.

Program Order and Program Length

Estimated Days: 86

Sentence Introduction Length of Unit: about 2 days

Nouns Length of Unit: about 15 days

Verbs Length of Unit: about 16 days

Adjectives Length of Unit: about 12 days

Adverbs Length of Unit: about 9 days

Prepositions Length of Unit: about 7 days

Pronouns Length of Unit: about 12 days

Conjunctions Length of Unit: about 8 days

Interjections: Length of Unit: about 5 days

Sentences Introduction

Length of Unit: about 2 days

Average Lesson Length: 15–20 minutes

Sentences: Lesson Plans

Sentences: Resource List *****

Sentence Unit Overview

A sentence is a group of words that has a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought. A sentence also includes a predicate, which includes the verb and any other words that explain what the subject is or what the subject is doing. It's important to remember that every sentence starts with a capital letter and ends with a punctuation mark.

Sentences are how we communicate in the English language. At this level, we will focus on simple sentences and the basic parts of speech that make up these sentences. As students continue to grow and master the definition of a sentence, understand the basic sentence patterns, and how the parts of speech work within those patterns, they develop the knowledge and skills necessary to become both proficient writers and readers.

Sentence Unit Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit, students will be able to

- Define a sentence
- Demonstrate the definition of a sentence
- Associate Norm the Noun and the color blue with subjects
- Associate Vern the Verb and the color orange with verbs

Nouns

Length of Unit: about 15 days

Average Lesson Length: 15–20 minutes

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Nouns: [Lesson Plans](#)

Nouns: [Resource List](#) *****

Nouns Overview

Nouns are words that represent people, places, things, and ideas. They are the essential building blocks of language and serve as naming words in sentences. The term “noun” originates from the Latin word “nomen”, which means “name.” Understanding nouns and their functions is crucial for developing readers and writers.

In this unit, we delve into the various aspects of nouns. We’ll review their different types (person, place, thing, idea), review forms (singular, plural, common, proper), and introduce new forms (compound and collective). Through engaging movement, lessons, and activities, students will develop a comprehensive understanding of nouns and their significance in language while also developing strong vocabulary and sight-word skills. The activities identified in this unit should be constantly revisited and reviewed throughout the entirety of the school year.

Noun Unit Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit students will be able to...

- Define a noun as a person, place, thing, or idea
- Categorize nouns as people, places, things, and ideas
- Recognize the difference between singular and plural nouns
- Define a compound noun as a noun made up of two individual nouns

Verbs

Length of Unit: about 16 days

Average Lesson Length: 15–20 minutes

Verbs: [Lesson Plans](#)

Verbs: [Resource List](#) *****

Verb Unit Overview

A verb is a word that expresses an action or state of being. It is the anchor of the predicate and explains the subject’s state of being or the action in a sentence. This unit is the heart of the whole program! This is the longest and most in-depth section of the entire course. When students understand how verbs function, they can understand the sentence structures within

the English language. At this level, students will review what a verb is and the difference between action and state of being or linking verbs.

Students will be introduced to verb tenses and the sentence patterns that are used throughout the rest of the program. Once students have mastered the nouns and verbs material, everything else starts to fall into place. Understanding verbs in simple sentences makes the transition to both reading and writing complex texts seamless and sets students up for success in later grades, especially as they make the transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn!”

Verb Unit Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit students will be able to

- Define a verb as an action or state of being
- Differentiate between verb tenses
- Identify verbs showing a state of being
- Use predicate adjectives to describe the subject
- Use predicate nouns to rename the subject

Adjectives

Length of Unit: about 12 days

Length of Lesson: 15–20 minutes

Adjectives: [Lesson Plans](#)

Adjectives: [Resource List](#) *****

Adjective Unit Overview

An adjective is a word that modifies or describes a noun or pronoun. It gives more information about a noun’s size, shape, color, purpose, etc. An adjective often comes before the noun in a sentence and gives details to our writing. Adjectives typically answer the following four questions: Which one? What kind? How many? Whose?

Developing an understanding of the four questions that adjectives answer at this basic level prepares students to more readily identify phrases and clauses that act as adjectives as they progress in both reading and writing. Adding adjectives to our writing can help the reader better understand the characters, setting, and events in the story. Understanding how

adjectives work allows students to be descriptive and creative when they are learning to express themselves.

Adjective Unit Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit students will be able to

- Define an adjective as a word that describes a noun or pronoun
- Demonstrate knowledge of the four adjective questions
- Correctly use articles as identifiers
- Effectively use adjectives to describe nouns

Adverbs

Length of Unit: about 9 days

Average Length of Lesson: 15–20 minutes

Adverbs: [Lesson Plans](#)

Adverbs: [Resource List](#) *****

Adverb Unit Overview

Adverbs modify or describe verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. Most commonly, they modify verbs. Say adverb out loud. What do you hear? Add + verb. Adverbs add more detail to a verb. Example: slowly. The turtle moved slowly. How did the turtle move? Slowly. Many adverbs end in “ly”, like slowly. Adverbs answer the questions: How? When? Where? Why? and To what extent?

As with adjectives, adverbs allow students to be more descriptive when they are expressing themselves. While adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and adverbs, at this level we will be focusing on adverbs that modify verbs. As students develop and have a more solid foundation, the other adverb roles will be introduced and easily mastered.

Adverb Unit Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit, students will be able to

- Define an adverb as a word that modifies (describes) verbs, adjectives, and adverbs
- Demonstrate an understanding of the five adverb questions
- Create sentences using adverbs correctly modifying verbs
- Recognize the difference between adjectives and adverbs

Prepositions

Length of Unit: about 7 days

Average Lesson Length: 15–20 minutes

Prepositions: [Lesson Plans](#)

Prepositions: [Resource List](#) *****

Preposition Unit Overview

Prepositions are words that show a relationship between an object and another word in a sentence. They are often referred to as position words. Prepositions show direction, time, place, location, etc. They work like a bridge. They are placed before a noun or pronoun and connect the noun or pronoun to the rest of the sentence.

Prepositional phrases are everywhere! And while students will ultimately come to learn that prepositional phrases can act as adjectives or adverbs, a complicated concept, students at this level can easily understand that prepositions can show a relationship of location and time. In later levels, students will be introduced to prepositions of movement and then prepositional phrases.

Preposition Unit Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit, students will be able to

- Associate Patty the Preposition and the color purple with prepositions
- Define a preposition as a word that shows a relationship
- Identify and use prepositions of location

Pronouns

Length of Unit: about 12 days

Average Length of Lessons: 15–20 minutes

Pronouns: [Lesson Plans](#)

Pronouns: [Resource List](#) *****

Pronoun Unit Overview

A pronoun takes the place of a noun or a group of nouns. We use them to replace nouns when a reader or listener already knows which noun we are talking about. For example, “Mrs. Harris teaches our class music. She is a fun teacher.” By using the pronoun, she, you avoid repeating

Mrs. Harris over and over again. Pronouns are an important tool for students to understand as they develop their reading and writing skills. At this level, we will be focusing on the most basic personal pronouns acting as subjects and objects in sentences. Mastering the basics of pronoun usage in simple sentences will help transition students to reading and writing complex sentences.

Pronoun Unit Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit, students will be able to

- Define a pronoun as a word that replaces a noun
- Understand pronouns must match the words they replace.
- Define and use subject pronouns
- Define and use object pronouns

Conjunctions

Length of Unit: about 8 days

Average Length of Lesson: 15–20 minutes

Conjunctions: [Lesson Plans](#)

Conjunctions: [Resource List](#) *****

Conjunction Unit Overview

A conjunction is a vital part of speech that connects words, phrases, or clauses in a sentence. It functions as a bridge, linking related elements and creating a cohesive flow of ideas. Common conjunctions include “and”, “but”, “or”, among others. At this level, we will focus on simple sentences where conjunctions play the limited role of connecting words and phrases. Conjunctions in compound and complex sentences can be difficult for students to wrap their heads around. However, when we focus on simple sentences and the role that conjunctions play within those sentences, students become adept at looking for what specific parts of sentences conjunctions can connect. Conjunctions offers a perfect time to review everything students have learned about sentences up to this point. We suggest spending a day or two, before starting conjunctions, to refocus on subjects (nouns), verbs, adjectives, and adverbs using optional activities in those units.

Conjunction Unit Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit, students will be able to

- Associate the Coco the Conjunction and the color pink with conjunctions
- Define a conjunction as a word that connects two other words
- Use conjunctions to connect nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs

Interjections

Length of Unit: about 5 days

Average Length of Lesson: 15-20

Interjections: [Lesson Plans](#)

Interjections: [Resource List](#) *****

Interjection Unit Overview

Interjections are expressive and short exclamations that convey emotions, feelings, or reactions in a sentence. They are stand-alone words or phrases that are often punctuated with an exclamation mark but can also be followed by a comma. They add emphasis and impact to the overall expression. Common examples of interjections include: "Wow!", "Oh no!", "Yay!", and "Ouch!" which contribute to the emotional tone and color of communication. While interjections are much more common in verbal communications, they play an important role when developing reading and writing skills. Students love using interjections in their own creative writing.

Interjection Unit Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit, students will be able to

- Associate the Ishmael and the color grey with interjections
- Define an interjection as a word expressing emotion
- Recognize interjections as independent from sentence patterns
- Choose appropriate interjections based on context



