

LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
English Language Arts Learning Expectations: Grade 7

Massachusetts
Standards

Strand:
Language

Students will be able
to:

Demonstrate command
of the conventions of
standard English
grammar and usage
when writing or
speaking.
(Standard 1)

Big Ideas

- Through the study of English grammar and word usage, students gain more control over their writing and speaking allowing them to deliver more precise messages.
- The English language varies in formality and regional, cultural, and social dialects.
- Words are learned through immersion in word-rich environments, reading across texts and genres, and explicit instruction.

Key Outcomes

Students will demonstrate an understanding of **language** by:

- Demonstrating a command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. *(Standard 2)*
- Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. *(Standard 3)*
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 7 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. *(Standard 4)*
- Acquiring and using accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression. *(Standard 6)*

Essential Knowledge and Skills

Students will:

- Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences.
- Choose among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas.
- Use a comma to separate coordinate adjectives (*e.g., It was a fascinating, enjoyable movie but not He wore an old[,] green shirt*).
- Spell correctly
- Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely,

recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy.

- 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.
- Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (*e.g., belligerent, bellicose, rebel*).
- 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 or its part of speech.
- 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*).
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. (*Standard 5*)
- Interpret figures of speech (*e.g., literary, biblical, and mythological allusions*) in context.
- Use the relationship between particular words (*e.g., synonym/antonym, analogy*) to better understand each of the words.
- Distinguish among the connotations (*associations*) of words with similar denotations (*definitions*) (*e.g., refined, respectful, polite, diplomatic, condescending*).