

ADVANTAGE Grammar

Grade

8

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Introduction

The **Advantage Grammar** series for grades 3-8 offers instruction and practice in key writing skills, including

- grammar and usage
- capitalization and punctuation
- spelling
- writing good sentences
- writing good paragraphs
- editing your work

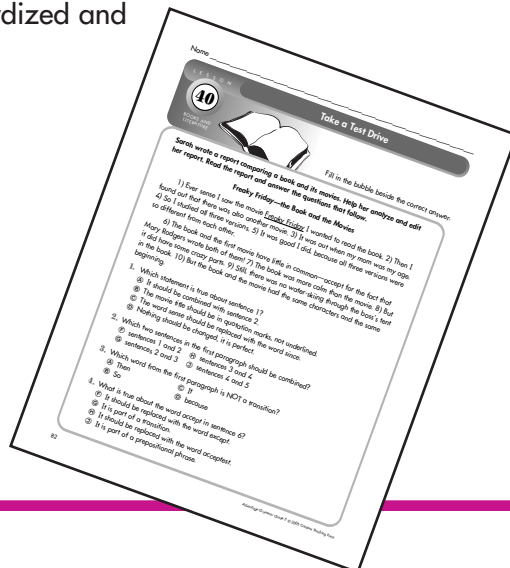
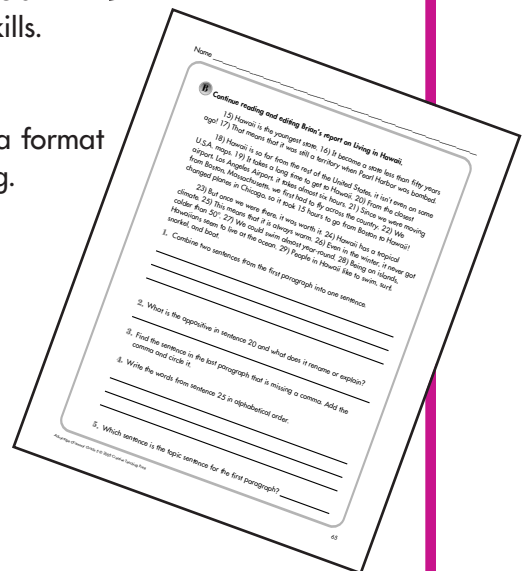
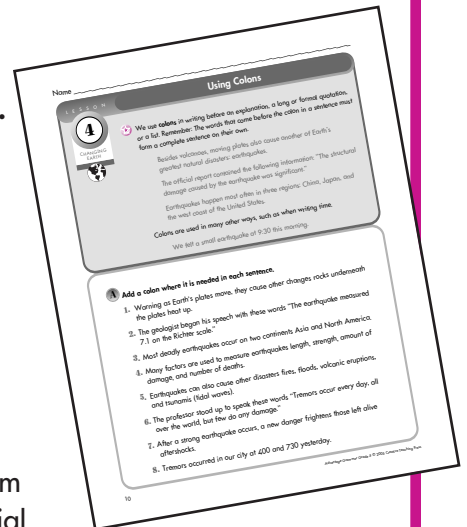
Take a look at all the advantages this grammar series offers . . .

Strong Skill Instruction

- The teaching component at the top of each lesson provides the support students need to work through the book independently.
- Plenty of skill practice pages will ensure students master essential skills they need to become competent writers.
- Examples, models, and practice activities use content from across the curriculum so students are learning about social studies, science, and literature as they master writing skills.

Editing Your Work pages provide for mixed practice of skills in a format that supports today's process approach to the teaching of writing.

Take a Test Drive pages provide practice using a test-taking format such as those included in national standardized and proficiency tests.



LESSON

Using Participles to Modify and Describe

1

THE MEN BEHIND
THE LEGENDS:
JEFFERSON,
FRANKLIN, AND
ADAMS



- ★ Participles are forms of verbs that can act as adjectives. They describe the words they modify by conveying a sense of action or a way of being.

The flag flutters in the breeze. The fluttering flag is red, white, and blue.

The confused student read Benjamin Franklin's *Pennsylvania Gazette*.

Present participles end in **-ing** to convey current time.

When the student reads Franklin's *Pennsylvania Gazette*, he says, "It is **confusing**."

Past participles usually end in **-ed** to convey past time.

The **frustrated** student read Franklin's *Pennsylvania Gazette* again.

Perfect participles are formed by combining present and past participles to convey action taken over a length of time in the past.

Having published the *Pennsylvania Gazette* for many years, Benjamin Franklin retired.

Although they act as adjectives, participles are still verb forms and can be used with adverbs and objects, and they can form phrases.

Moving aggressively, Franklin wrote about current issues in his *Gazette*.
Seizing the moment, Franklin wrote about controversies.

Tips: When you use participles, you add expression and depth to your writing. You also help clarify your meaning, thereby enhancing your reader's ability to understand you.

A Draw a line from the underlined participle to the noun or pronoun it describes or modifies.

1. Experimenting with science, Franklin created the lightening rod.
2. Franklin, participating as a delegate at the Constitutional Convention, did not agree with many of the others' stated ideas.
3. Advocating for a presidential committee instead of a single executive, Franklin voiced his opinion.

B Complete the sentences with the present or past participle of the verb in italics.

1. The work *exhausted* Franklin and the delegates. It was _____ work.
2. The delegates were *exhausted*. The _____ delegates kept working.
3. The news of Washington's election *surprised* Franklin. It was _____ news.

C Complete the sentence with the present or past participle of the verb in parentheses.

- 1) My father was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in the (thrive) _____ city of Philadelphia.
- 2) I traveled with my (excite) _____ mother and father to the great city, and my father was able to get us into the hall.
- 3) I watched quietly, (thrill) _____ to see famous men like Franklin.
- 4) As the (preside) _____ officer, George Washington was popular.
- 5) In school, my teacher read to us from Franklin's (interest) _____ work, *Poor Richard's Almanack*.
- 6) He is certainly a (fascinate) _____ and (respect) _____ man!

D Rewrite the sentence so that the word that is modified comes right after the participle phrase.

1. Challenging to all of us, we were awed by Franklin's words.

LESSON

Compound Subject/Verb Agreement

2

THE MEN BEHIND
THE LEGENDS:
JEFFERSON,
FRANKLIN, AND
ADAMS



★ For subjects joined by **and**, use a plural verb.

Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams **are** founding fathers.

For subjects joined by **or** and **nor**, the verb agrees with the subject closest to it.

John Adams or Thomas Jefferson **is** worthy of further study.

A representative or delegates **are** eligible to speak at the Constitutional Convention.

For subjects joined by **either...or** and **neither...nor**

- if the compound subject is created with **singular words**, use a singular verb.

Neither Benjamin Franklin nor Thomas Jefferson **is** alive today.

- if a compound subject is created with **plural words**, use a plural verb.

Either visitors or students **are** able to access their speeches.

- if a compound subject is created with both singular and plural words, the verb must agree with the subject closest to it.

Neither the teacher nor the students **are** free to attend the workshop.

Either the students or the teacher **is** free to attend the workshop.

Insider's Tips

- When **each**, **every**, **many a**, or **many an** come before subjects joined by **and**, use a singular verb.
- **As well as**, **together with**, **in addition to**, **besides**, **including**, and **along with** are not conjunctions. They are modifiers—they do not connect, and they do not create compound subjects.
- Don't be confused by phrases or clauses inserted between your subject and verb!

A Circle the correct form of the verb for each sentence.

1. History, law, literature, architecture, science, and philosophy (was were) of interest to Thomas Jefferson.

2. Neither his aristocratic background nor his European travels (explain explains) Jefferson's development as a revolutionary.
3. His parents and his professors at the College of William and Mary (play plays) a role in his growth and outlook, too.
4. The Enlightenment and the French Revolution (need needs) to be added to the list of philosophies and events that had an impact on Jefferson.
5. Neither his writing nor his presidency (express expresses) the true measure of the man.
6. His interest in the American West and his American-French relations (prompt prompts) his purchase of vast lands from France.
7. With Jefferson's blessing, William Clark and Meriwether Lewis (set sets) out to explore these lands west of the Mississippi.
8. Each explorer and leader (predict predicts) a successful journey, but neither Clark nor Lewis (speak speaks) about the trials they will face.
9. Foreign policy and a long-term relationship with a slave (taint taints) Jefferson's legacy.
10. Worship and belief (was were) sponsored by the state until Jefferson's Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom became law.

B Select the proper form of the verb and complete the sentence.

1. Neither Franklin nor Jefferson (promote promotes) _____

2. Either the senator or the mayors (travel travels) _____

3. Adams and Jefferson (believe believes) _____

4. Jefferson as well as Franklin (draft drafts) _____

5. Many a rumor and a myth (destroy destroys) _____
