



5th Grade English Curriculum Sample

A Grade Ahead will challenge your students and help them achieve their goals!

Beginning in June 2020, our 5th graders will be participating in A Grade Ahead Online, a blended learning program that integrates both traditional and electronic methods to teach students.

Our students begin the week learning a lesson and answering practice questions with paper and pencil in our monthly lesson booklets. Then they go online to a website to complete three days of online activities to master the topic of the week.

Here's how it works:



Monthly Blended Learning Lesson Booklet

Students receive a lesson booklet each month that is broken in to four weeks. Every week, students are introduced to a new topic with explanations and examples followed by student practice questions.

At the end of this document, you will find a full sample of one week's lesson and practice problems from A Grade Ahead's 5th Grade English curriculum.

A. Word List 7

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---|
| 1. ability | (n.) | a skill; the power to do something |
| 2. animation | (n.) | excitement; a movie made from a series of drawings, photographs |
| 3. boast | (v.) | to brag; to talk about something in a proud way |
| 4. competitive | (adj.) | wanting and trying to win or to compete with people |

Step 1: 1st Sentence

The first sentence should state your position. First, you want to end the first sentence with phrases like "for example" or "because." If the prompt is a "yes" or "no" question, be sure to answer "yes" or "no."



Example: Are gorilla families like human families?

"Yes, gorilla families are like human families in many ways."

Step 2: 2nd-10th Sentences



A Grade Ahead Online Activities

After learning the lesson and practicing problems with a traditional approach, students continue learning online through activities at online.ajgradeahead.com. Every week, students have three days of homework activities to practice vocabulary, grammar, and comprehension.

A Grade Ahead Online offers many benefits to students and parents, including

- **Interactive and colorful questions** with formats like matching, drag and drop, fill in the blank, multiple choice, and more.
- **Automatic grading** that saves times for parents and provides immediate feedback for students. They know whether they got a question right or wrong as they are going through the homework, so they can make adjustments if necessary.
- **A rationale for every online question** that explains the correct answer, so students can learn from their mistakes immediately.
- **Student progress reports** that are easily accessible without parents needing to upload any data. In fact, a parent has access to raw data from all of his or her student's online work.
- **Adaptive learning paths** that provide more challenging questions to students who perform well on the first set of activities.

Here is a peek at a few of our online exercises:

Week 10 • Activity #1

1 2 3 4 5

Drag and sort the following items into the Venn Diagram below to compare and contrast the two passages. *This page is worth 9 points.*

Erin and the Library Comparisons Tommy and the Video Game

reading happiness racing excitement new item video games friend's house
library wilderness

Expand Passage 1 Expand Passage 2

Week 10 • Activity #1 1 2 3 **4** 5 6

This page is worth 2 points.

Stop looking at me like a begging puppy.

Simile

Metaphor

My little sister is like an angel; she never does anything wrong.

Simile

Metaphor

Week 10 • Activity #2 1 2 3 4 5

On pages 1-5, select the word that best completes the statement in relation to the vocabulary word.
This page is worth 2 points.

Civilize: When I think of this word, I feel...

- ...content. I feel happy with the outcome.
- ...water. I feel myself swimming up for air before diving back down.
- ...confused. I don't quite understand an idea.
- ...very proper. I feel very refined.

Considerable: When I think of this word, I see...

- ...the zoo. I see furry animals that are cute to look at.
- ...a large amount. I see something big and important.
- ...beautiful scenery. I see scenic nature.
- ...my dog. I see her running to catch the ball I just threw.

Register online today!

Once you have reviewed our attached documents, we hope you are ready to challenge your student today! Visit agradeahead.com or call **866.628.4628** to get started.



Lesson Booklet Sample
5th Grade English



5th Grade • Month 3

ENGLISH

BLENDED LEARNING LESSON BOOKLET

NAME _____



A. Word List 7

1. ability	(n.)	a skill; the power to do something
2. animation	(n.)	excitement; a movie made with a series of drawings, pictures, or graphics
3. boast	(v.)	to brag; to talk about something in a proud way
4. competitive	(adj.)	wanting and trying to win; able to compete with people
5. eruption	(n.)	an explosion; the breaking out of one thing from another thing
6. fantasy	(n.)	from the imagination; not real; a book or movie that deals with imaginative things
7. isolated	(adj.)	alone; separate from others; happening only one time
8. motivation	(n.)	an event or force that gives the desire to do something
9. scenic	(adj.)	pleasant or beautiful in terms of scenery (forests, fields, etc.)
10. strategic	(adj.)	having a plan to achieve a goal

Student Goals:

- ✓ I will know the difference between fact and opinion.
- ✓ I will learn how to write effective prose constructed response.



Teaching Tip: Use one of the ideas from the Vocabulary and Writing Exercises supplement to give your students an extra challenge for their vocabulary and writing practice in class. At home, students must memorize spellings and meanings.

B. Grammar**Fact and Opinion**

A **fact** is a statement that does not change from person to person. It is accurate information that is true and can be proven.



Examples: The capital of the state of Ohio is Columbus.
Everyone has a unique set of fingerprints.
Food and water are necessary for survival.

These are facts because they can be proven to be true. They are undeniable.



Note: Statements such as, “I like blue better than orange” and, “I prefer pepperoni on my pizza” are also facts. Even though these statements are beliefs that could change from person to person, the fact that they are “I” statements show that they are facts and true to the speaker.

An **opinion** is a belief that could change from person to person. It is based more on how one feels about a certain subject or statement, rather than whether or not that statement is the absolute truth for every person.



Examples: Math is the best subject in school!
Everyone likes to relax on the weekends.
Water is the most refreshing drink.

These are opinions because they cannot be proven. Not every person will agree with these statements.



Note: Adjectives like “good,” “better,” “best,” “worst,” and similar adjectives will usually indicate an opinion.



Teaching Tip: Teach students how they can add opinions in an effective, academic way to their writing in order to strengthen it. For example, instead of saying, “I think that ice cream is clearly the best dessert,” a student could say something like, “ice cream can be a refreshing dessert on a hot, summer day.” This statement is still an opinion, but it is backed up with evidence and avoids the use of the word “I.”



Student Practice

Students must answer in complete sentences.

Write two facts and two opinions about yourself.

1. Fact: _____

2. Fact: _____

3. Opinion: _____

4. Opinion: _____

C. Comprehension

Prose Constructed Response Question

A prose constructed response question is meant to help you learn to *infer* given a set of information.

The One-Paragraph Response

The one-paragraph response format is fairly strict. Remember, it is not a solution to all prose constructed response questions, but it is a good start for those who are unfamiliar with how to start a longer piece of writing.

Use the following excerpt to help you understand how to write a prose constructed response:



To **infer** is to make a conclusion based on evidence.

Gorillas are the largest mammals in the primate group. They live on land – usually in the forests of Africa – and mainly eat vegetation. They are closely related to humans. Gorillas live in large groups called “troops.” Troops usually have one male leader and several females with their offspring. Although gorillas are born into one group, they tend to move away from their original groups as they mature, in order to settle into new troops.

Step 1: 1st Sentence

The first sentence should state your position. First, it should restate the prompt; then, you might want to end the first sentence with phrases like “for many reasons” or “in many ways.” If the prompt is a “yes” or “no” question, be sure to answer “yes” or “no” first.



Example: Are gorilla families like human families?

“Yes, gorilla families are like human families in many ways.”

Step 2: 2nd-10th Sentences

Find and use three textual references that support the prompt. It is a good idea to include key words or direct quotes. Then, it is very important to explain what the quote means in your own words. Then explain why you know this quote works for the prompt. You might want to use sentences that start with phrases like “In the passage, the author states that...” and “This/That means...”



Example: “In the passage it says, ‘gorillas live in groups called troops.’ This means that gorillas live together in families. Humans also live in family groups; therefore, we know that gorillas and humans live similarly.”



Note: Direct quotes and keywords from a passage are useless as evidence without an explanation. Remember, you constantly need to defend your position. It might help to think of the question, “so what?” as you write.

Step 3: 11th-12th Sentences

If you have a personal experience or prior knowledge from your own life, you may choose to add it here. This is optional, but it strengthens your writing. Then explain how you know this to be true and related to the prompt. You might want to use sentences that begin with phrases like, “This reminds me of...”, “I learned...”, “Once when...”, and “Last year/week month...”



Example: “This reminds me of my own family. We live together, eat meals together, and have fun together, just like gorillas.”

Step 4: 13th Sentence

The final sentence should restate the prompt in another way. You might want to begin concluding sentences with phrases like “All of these examples show...”, “In conclusion...”, and “For all of the above reasons...”



Example: “In conclusion, all of these examples show that gorilla families are in fact very similar to human families.”



Teaching Tip: Allow students as much freedom and creativity in writing assignments as possible. Let this be a time where it is less about a "right" answer and more about the exchange and presentation of ideas in a clear and logical manner.



Student Practice

Students should complete as many comprehension questions as possible, but focus on writing the PCR in class.

All questions must be attempted at home.

The Hawaiian Islands are the most **isolated** group of islands in the world. The nearest land mass is 2,500 miles away. The islands were created out of volcanic **eruptions** almost 25 million years ago, and there are still two active volcanoes on the Hawaiian Islands: Kilauea and Mauna Loa. There is also a mountain, Mauna Kea, which is the highest mountain in the world if it is measured from the bottom of the ocean.

The earliest settlers of Hawaii lived on the islands between 500 and 700 A.D. It became a U.S. territory in the late nineteenth century, but it didn't become the 50th state until 1959. Because it has a **strategic** location, the U.S. has its largest naval base in Hawaii. The base, Pearl Harbor, was attacked by the Japanese in 1941, which caused the United States to enter World War II.

The Hawaiian Islands are in the Tropic of Cancer. Therefore, the weather is definitely something to **boast** about. The islands, especially in the lower altitude, experience summer all year round. The mountains are cooler and experience a sort of winter. The temperatures usually remain in the 80s with only minor variations during the winter. The tropical weather makes Hawaii a traveler's haven. It is no surprise that these islands are the world's number one visitor destination.

Visitors to the Hawaiian Islands are treated to balmy evenings, spectacular lush green golf courses, and fantastic water sports like surfing and windsurfing along the beaches. The heavy traffic of visitors has been influential in creating a wide network of hotels and motels to suit all tastes and budgets.

Hawaii has eight major islands that cover approximately 6,500 square miles. The island Oahu is home to the North Shore and its huge winter surf. It is also home to Pearl Harbor, Kailua's beach, Diamond Head summit, and Honolulu's historic downtown, which houses the only royal palace in the United States. Maui is known for whale watching, gorgeous beaches, and a winding coastal drive. The Big Island has Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Rural Waipio Valley, Akaka Falls, ancient temple ruins, and the Place of Refuge. Kauai is known for the **scenic** beauty of its mountains, the Kokee State Park, hiking and nature trails, and excellent kayaking. The longest beach in Hawaii, Papohaku, is in Molokai. Lanai is famous for its luxury resorts and Hulopoe Bay for its diving and snorkeling.

Answer the following questions about the passage.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A) the climate of Hawaii
- B) the attractions of Hawaii
- C) a history and summary of Hawaii
- D) the volcanoes of Hawaii

2-4. Describe the climate of Hawaii. Use at least three pieces of information from the passage.

5. When was Hawaii first settled?

- A) 1959 B) 500 A.D. C) nineteenth century D) 1941

6. Which of the following is the closest meaning of the word “balmy” in paragraph four?

- A) pleasant B) wet C) hot D) windy

7. What is the connection between Hawaii and the United States’ involvement in World War II?

8. According to the passage, which of the following are activities a visitor could participate in while in Hawaii? Circle all that apply.

- A) golf B) ski C) watch whales D) hike
E) visit a palace F) study G) go to the zoo H) write

9. Which of the following is the closest meaning of the word “lush” in paragraph four?

- A) dry B) flourishing C) floundering D) empty

10. What is exceptional about Honolulu’s historic downtown?

State whether each sentence, based on the passage above, is a fact (F) or an opinion (O).

11. _____ Mauna Kea is the highest mountain peak in the world.

12. _____ Hawaii has the only royal palace in the U.S.

13. _____ I think that Hawaii has spectacular golf courses.

14. _____ The Hawaiian Islands offer the best locations for whale watching.

15. _____ Hawaii is the number one visitor destination in the world.

16. _____ Everyone wants to visit Hawaii because of the weather.

CHALLENGE! 17-26. Prose Constructed Response – Write a prose constructed response that answers the following prompt. Be sure to use examples from the passage as well as your own life experiences to make sure your response is as effective as possible.

Prompt: Would you want to visit Hawaii? Why or why not?

Check your work! Did you remember to...

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restate the prompt? | <input type="checkbox"/> Relate the topic to your own experiences? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use at least three references to the passage? | <input type="checkbox"/> Restate the prompt for the conclusion? |

*The following rubric should be used to assess your child’s prose constructed response (10 points possible).

Skill Measured	4 Points	3 Points	2 Points	1 Point	0 Points
Reading Understanding of Key Ideas and Details		The student response shows a strong analysis of the text. The student understands the text explicitly and implicitly and uses clear references to the text to support the analysis.	The student response shows a mostly correct analysis of what the text says explicitly and implicitly. The student uses references to the text to support the analysis.	The student response shows a mostly incorrect analysis of what the text says explicitly and implicitly. The student may only reference the text minimally, showing a lack of understanding.	The student response shows an inaccurate analysis or no analysis of what the text says.
Writing Expression		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The student response answers the prompt in a way that shows thorough development of the topic. The student uses reasoning and details from the text. The response is appropriate for the prompt and reader. - The student response is very organized. It begins and ends in a strong way, and it is clear and unified. - The student makes a strong use of language. Language (details, transition words, vocabulary) is used effectively to strengthen and clarify. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The student response answers the prompt in a way that shows thorough development of the topic. The student uses reasoning and details from the text. The response is mostly appropriate for the prompt and reader. - The student response is organized. It has a clear beginning and ending, and it is clear and unified. - The student makes use of language (details, transition words, vocabulary) to strengthen and clarify. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The student response answers the prompt in a way that shows a lack of development of the topic. The student demonstrates little reasoning and uses few details from the text. The response is mostly inappropriate for the prompt and reader. - The student response is lacking in organization. It may or may not have a clear beginning and ending, and it is lacking in clarity and unification. - The student lacks in his or her use of language (details, transition words, vocabulary) to strengthen and clarify. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The student response is not developed. It is not appropriate to the prompt or reader. - The student response is not clear or unified. - The student does not use language (details, transition words, vocabulary) to strengthen and clarify.
Writing Language and Conventions	The student response shows a command of the English language that is in line with writing that has been thoroughly edited. There may be 1-2 errors in grammar and usage, but they should not affect the overall meaning.	The student response shows a command of the English language that is in line with writing that has been edited. There may be a few errors in grammar and usage, but they should not affect the overall meaning.	The student response shows a somewhat lacking command of the English language that is in line with writing that has been edited. There are a few consistent errors in grammar and usage that might affect understanding.	The student response shows a limited command of the English language. There are consistent errors in grammar and usage that will sometimes affect understanding.	The student response shows minimal or no command of the English language. There are many and consistent errors in grammar and usage that will commonly affect understanding.

Answers of Student Practice
B. Grammar

For numbers 1-4, answers will vary. Examples are given.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. I am the oldest of five children. | 2. I have had seven pets in my lifetime. |
| 3. Everyone should have a pet like I do. | 4. My school is the best, most successful school. |

C. Comprehension

1. C
- 2-4. **Answers will vary. An example is given.**
Hawaii has a desirable climate and has summer almost all-year round, temperatures in the 80s, and balmy evenings.
5. B
6. A
7. The United States joined World War II after Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941.
8. A, C, D, and E
9. B
10. Honolulu's historic downtown holds the only royal palace in the United States.
11. F
12. F
13. F [I statements are normally facts.]
14. O
15. O
16. O

Responses will vary. An example is given. Use the rubric in the example sheet and the checklist to grade. In the example, the main topic and conclusion are bolded, and any important phrases relevant to the answer have been underlined.

- 17-26. **I would like to visit Hawaii for many reasons.** One reason I would be interested in going there is because the passage says that it still has two active volcanoes. I am very interested in science, so this would be something I would be very excited to see. The passage also says that the tallest mountain in the world is in Hawaii. I would like to be able to say that I saw something so amazing. According to the passage, the weather in Hawaii is lovely and the surroundings are beautiful. I feel like I would be perfectly content in Hawaii's pleasing climate, and every day would be beautiful. Because of the nice weather, I would be able to make the most of my time and not have to worry too much about not getting to do things I wanted to do because of bad weather. Speaking of doing activities, the passage talks about how many attractions Hawaii has to offer. I like experiencing new things, and Hawaii has many first experiences to offer me. I would love to learn to surf and to visit ancient temple ruins. It would also be awesome to visit the only royal palace in the United States! Personally, I have friends who have visited Hawaii, and they said that I would love it there. They showed me some amazing photographs of their time there and made me want to go even more! **In conclusion, I would love to visit Hawaii, and I hope the opportunity to do so comes very soon.**



Continue your weekly practice online!