



Grades
4, 5, 6, 7, and 8
Assessment-
based Programs

Grammar, Mechanics,
Spelling, and Vocabulary

Teaching the Language Strand

Diagnostic Mechanics Assessment

Directions for Preparation, Administration, Correction, and Recording the Data

The purpose of this whole class assessment is to determine which of the previous Common Core grade-level mechanics Standards have and have not been mastered.

Preparation

This two-page assessment should be copied back-to-back for each student.

Administration

Inform students that this is a test on punctuation and capitalization. Tell them to read each set of directions as they take the test—especially the **boldface** directions. Read the first set of directions aloud to get them started. Remind students to print neatly.

The assessment is given “whole class” and is un-timed. Most students finish in 10–15 minutes.

Correction

Grade the assessment according to the directions on the Diagnostic Mechanics Assessment Answers page.

Recording the Data

Write the names of your students in alphabetical order on the matrix. Record the mechanics deficits for each student in numerical order on the Diagnostic Mechanics Assessment Mastery Matrix. Mark a / for each error in the student’s row on the matrix and assign that Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet for remediation. Ignore errors unrelated to the targeted assessment items.

Diagnostic Mechanics Assessment

Directions: Rewrite each of the following with correct punctuation and capitalization. Do not add, remove, or switch around any words. Carefully proofread your work when finished.

1. a friend named john said I am glad I dont need any help on my homework

2. that new student paula is from south africa she told me she had never seen the star wars movie in that country **Note: Don't place a comma or a period after "africa."**

3. she saw pictures of the costumes robots and ship models in the newsweek article the one that featured space camp **Note: Don't place a comma or colon after "article."**

4. yes you should listen to that song called the one monsters howl sometime before halloween

5. bring both girls best dresses to atlanta georgia to see the play titled fiddler on the roof

Diagnostic Mechanics Assessment

Directions: Rewrite each of the following with correct punctuation and capitalization. Do not add, remove, or switch around any words. Carefully proofread your work when finished.

6. joe please read these chapters knots and cooking to prepare for the boy scouts meeting tonight

7. mr wong put on his glasses and then he read the magazine article titled my dog spoke english

8. dear mary

 what a complete surprise no one had read the short story titled yankees and rebels
 about the civil war the whole messy story was sad depressing and true

 yours truly

 amy

Diagnostic Mechanics Assessment Answers

Directions: Each problem has the numbered diagnostic items in enlarged **boldface**. If the student misses an item, mark a / in the same number column on the TLS Diagnostic Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Assessment Mastery Matrix.

- 55 46 69 (needs both) 70
1. a friend named **J**ohn said, “I am glad I don’t need any help on my homework”
- 47 (needs both) 56 (needs both) 71 62
2. that new student, paula, is from **S**outh **A**frica; she told me she had never seen the star wars movie in that country
- 48 (needs both) 63
3. she saw pictures of the costumes, robots, and ship models in the newsweek article
72 (needs both) 57 (needs both)
(the one that featured **S**pace **C**amp)
- 49 64 (needs both) 73 58
4. yes, you should listen to that song called “the one monster’s howl” before **H**alloween
- 74 50 65
5. bring both girls’ best dresses to atlanta, georgia to see the play titled fiddler on the roof
- 51 75 66 (needs both sets) 59 (needs both)
6. joe, please read these chapters: “knots” and “cooking” to prepare for the **B**oy **S**couts meeting tonight
- 76 52 67 (needs both)
7. mr. wong put on his glasses, and then he read the magazine article titled “my dog spoke
60
English”
- 53 (needs both greeting and closing)
8. dear mary, 77 68 (needs both)
- what a complete surprise! no one had read the short story titled “yankees and
54 (no commas with whole messy story; needs both commas)
61 (needs both) with sad, depressing,)
rebels” about the **C**ivil **W**ar the whole messy story was sad, depressing, and true
yours truly,
amy

[illegible]

Diagnostic Mechanics Assessment Mastery Matrix

Categories:	Underlining (Italics) / Quotation Marks									Other Punctuation						
Worksheet #s	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
Teacher _____	Movie / Television Titles	Magazine / Website / Book / Newspaper Titles	Play / Work of Art Titles	Song / Poem Titles	Book Chapter Titles	Article Titles	Short Story / Document Titles	Direct Quotations	Apostrophes (Contractions)	Semicolons	Parentheses / Dashes	Apostrophes (Singular Possessives)	Apostrophes (Plural Possessives)	Colons	Periods (Abbreviations / Initials / Acronyms)	Exclamation Points
Class _____																
Student Names																
Totals																

NOTES