



Elements of Shurley English

All the elements of Shurley English come together to give your child the concrete steps necessary to relate a definition to a concept, a concept to a skill practice, and a skill practice to writing and editing. Competent writing begins with sentence structure and expands to paragraphs, essays, letters, and reports. Truly good writing skills result in enjoyment and satisfaction in all writing areas. Children feel a sense of accomplishment when they know they can do a good job at whatever they attempt.

A bonus feature of this unique program is the consistency of the terminology and skill-practice exercises for all levels. This consistent teaching method helps your child gain a solid foundation as additional skills are added at each level.



Jingles

The first element of Shurley English is the use of jingles. Your child begins learning the parts of speech by learning definitions in jingle form. These rhythmic definitions are chanted or sung to help your child initially remember the role of each part of speech.

SENTENCE JINGLE

A sentence, sentence, sentence
Is complete, complete, complete
When 5 simple rules
It meets, meets, meets.

It has a subject, subject, subject
And a verb, verb, verb.
It makes sense, sense, sense
With every word, word, word.

Add a capital letter, letter
And an end mark, mark.
Now, we're finished, and aren't we smart!
Now, our sentence has all its parts!

REMEMBER
Subject, Verb, Com-plete sense,
Capital letter, and an end mark, too.
That's what a sentence is all about!

VERB JINGLE

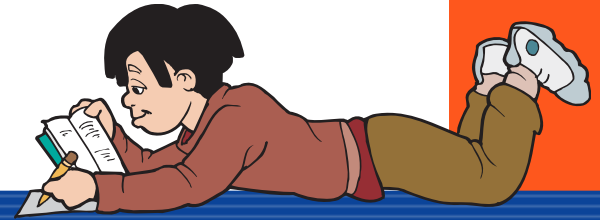
A verb shows action,
There's no doubt!
It tells what the
subject does,
Like sing and shout.

Action verbs are fun to do.
Now, it's time to name a few.
So, clap your hands
And join our rhyme;
Say those verbs in record time!

Wiggle, jiggle, turn around;
Raise your arms
And stomp the ground.
Shake your finger and
wink your eye;
Wave those action verbs
good-bye.

Question & Answer Flow

In the Question & Answer Flow, a series of oral questions and answers determines the role each word plays in the sentence being analyzed. This is an activity in which you either lead or supervise while your child leads. By using questions for every word in the sentence, your child is able to completely analyze the sentence. The difficulty level of the sentences increases during the course of the year.

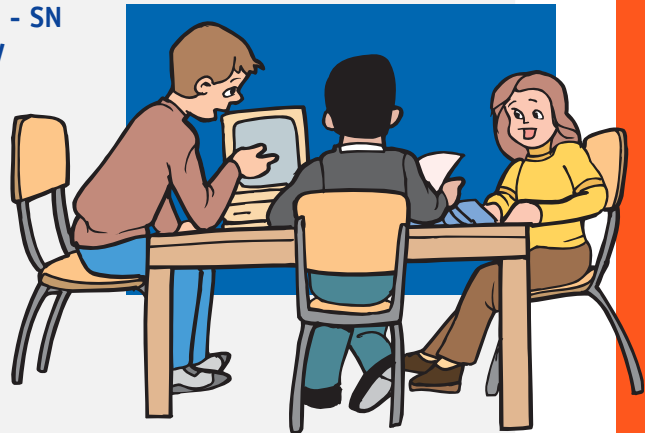


*I LOVE THIS CURRICULUM!!!
I can't believe how much my children love sentences and how much they have learned in such a short amount of time.*

SAMPLE QUESTION & ANSWER FLOW

Question & Answer Flow: The three bear cubs played enthusiastically in the snow.

1. What played enthusiastically in the snow? **cubs - SN**
2. What is being said about cubs? **cubs played - V**
3. Played how? **enthusiastically - Adv**
4. In - **P**
5. In what? **snow - OP**
6. **The - A**
7. What kind of cubs? **bear - Adj**
8. How many cubs? **three - Adj**
9. **The - A**
10. **SN V P1 Check**
11. (In the snow) - **Prepositional phrase**
12. **Period, statement, declarative sentence**
13. **Go back to the verb - divide the complete subject from the complete predicate.**



Classified Sentence: $\frac{SN}{P1} \frac{V}{}$ $\frac{A}{}$ $\frac{Adj}{}$ $\frac{Adj}{}$ $\frac{SN}{}$ $\frac{V}{}$ $\frac{Adv}{}$ $\frac{P}{}$ $\frac{A}{}$ $\frac{OP}{}$ The three bear cubs / played enthusiastically (in the snow). **D**

The effectiveness of the Question & Answer Flow as a teaching technique is based upon several key strategies:

1. Each part of speech is analyzed within the context of the whole sentence. Parts of speech are not studied in isolated units.
2. Once a concept is introduced, it is not left behind. As each concept is learned, it is repeatedly applied in daily exercises throughout the year.
3. This approach uses the visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learning styles. When your child can see, hear, and say his/her answers, retention increases dramatically.



Sentence Building

Shurley English uses grammar to teach your child the structure and design of the written language.

Grammar is the vocabulary of writing, and it is the foundation of sentence construction. Writing good sentences is reinforced when your child is taught how to use grammar labels (A-article adjective, Adj-

adjective, SN-subject noun, V-verb, Adv-adverb, etc.) to write a variety of basic and advanced sentences. These sentences, written from grammar labels, are called Practice Sentences. Your child also learns to expand his/her vocabulary by using synonyms, antonyms, and complete-word changes to improve different parts of the practice sentence.

Practice and Improved Sentences

Labels: **A** **Adj** **Adj** **SN** **V** **Adv** **P** **A** **Adj** **OP**

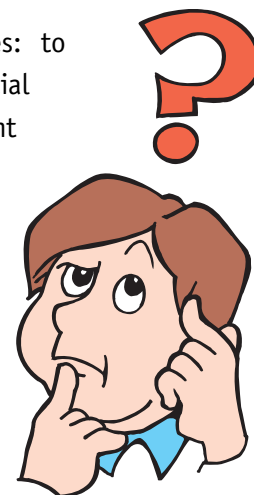
Practice: A big black snake crawled slowly over the rotten log.

Improved: The enormous poisonous copperhead slithered rapidly under the decayed log.

The Writing Process

Learning to write begins with an understanding of sentence structure, expands to paragraphs, and results in well-written essays, reports, letters, and the enjoyment and satisfaction that come from successful writing.

In the writing process, your child is taught to write for different purposes: to persuade, to explain, to describe, to narrate, and to write letters and social notes. After your child knows the purpose of the writing, he/she is taught to organize the writing according to its purpose. Your child learns not only to keep focused on the topic, but also to revise and edit rough drafts and to write a final paper. As your child progresses in Shurley English year after year, applying knowledge of skills to editing and writing becomes second nature. As a result, you can then spend less time laying basic foundations and more time introducing advanced writing concepts. Shurley English provides writing instruction and practice in several different writing areas. The writing areas covered depend on the grade level of your child.



Different Types of Writing

Expository: Expository writing is informational because its purpose is to inform, give facts, give directions, explain, or define something. By its very definition, expository writing should be organized and to the point. Shurley English introduces the two- and three-point paragraphs to teach expository writing. In this type of writing, your child not only learns to organize sentences into paragraphs, but also how to write the types of sentences needed for effective communication.

Persuasive: Persuasive writing expresses an opinion and tries to convince the reader that this opinion is correct. In this type of writing, your child not only learns how to state and support opinions, but also how to write the type of sentences needed for effective persuasive communication.

Narrative: Narrative writing is simply the telling of a story. In this type of writing, your child learns the story elements necessary for story writing and how to use them effectively.

Descriptive: Descriptive writing demands a command of words: vivid verbs to enliven writing and sensory details to make descriptions more effective. In this type of writing, your child learns how to give a detailed word picture of a person, place, thing, or idea.



Reports: Writing a report helps your child learn to summarize information about a topic. In this type of writing, your child learns the skills necessary to write a report. Your child learns to narrow a topic, skim sources, make bibliography cards, take notes, organize note cards, write an outline, write a rough draft, revise and edit the rough draft, and write a final report.

Creative: Creative writing uses imagination and fantasy in different forms of writing. In this type of writing, your child is free to be expressive in a variety of artistic writing forms, including poems, stories, and plays.

Letters: Letter writing teaches your child how to write a friendly letter and a business letter, how to address an envelope, and how to write thank-you notes and invitations. Your child also learns the correct forms of different types of letters.

Journals: Journal writing is an independent writing activity that gives your child an opportunity to express thoughts and opinions in a non-threatening way. Journal writing helps develop self-expression in written form. It will help your child to feel more comfortable with writing in a non-graded environment.



Paragraph Construction

After your child learns to construct a variety of good basic sentences, the next step is to learn to write different kinds of paragraphs. In a two-point expository paragraph, your child easily learns how to write a paragraph by using topic sentences, supporting sentences, and concluding sentences. Two- and three-point paragraphs make it easy for your child to learn how to organize the parts of a paragraph and to develop these parts into effective paragraph writing. A sample two-point expository paragraph is given in the box below.

MY FAVORITE FLOWERS

I have two favorite flowers. These flowers are pansies and petunias. My first favorite flower is the pansy. I especially like pansies because they give me color through the winter months when everything else is drab. My second favorite flower is the petunia. In summer, petunias weather the hot, dry months well and keep me in color until the killing frost. With pansies and petunias, I have color all year long.

Essay Writing

The essay is a written discussion of one idea and is made up of several paragraphs. The essay has four parts: (1) **Title**, (2) **Introduction**, (3) **Body**, and (4) **Conclusion**. Knowing how to write paragraphs makes it easier for your child to expand different paragraph parts into an essay. The example below shows how the two-point expository paragraph can be expanded into a four-paragraph expository essay.

RAINBOWS ALL YEAR LONG

I have two favorite flowers. These flowers are pansies and petunias. Since pansies are winter flowers and petunias are summer flowers, I have color all year long.

Pansies are my favorite winter flowers. For one thing, they are frost-resistant and can withstand temperatures below freezing. Secondly, they come in a rainbow of colors, and I can enjoy reds, blues, yellows, and purples all winter long. Believe me, a rainbow of colors in winter can offset the severest of winter doldrums.

My other favorite flowers are petunias. Petunias are heat-resistant and can withstand days and weeks of extreme heat. Furthermore, they also come in assorted colors and bloom all summer long. Petunias give me a summer with rainbows of colors. To add to my enjoyment of summer, I plant, without fail, dozens of petunias every April.

Knowing that colors affect our moods, I plant flowers in both spring and fall so that I can have color all year round. Pansies and petunias are not the only flowers I plant, but they are indeed my favorites.

Activities Around the Home

Several levels of Shurley English have activities that are geared for the home environment. This provides a fun way of reinforcing skills. Before each new chapter, parents need to look ahead and get familiar with the activities. Several levels also contain Bible-related activities in various writing assignments. These are generally in the teacher's manual as an optional bonus activity.

The first four chapters in Level 1 are devoted to readiness skills. Level 1 contains activities that are more preparation-intensive than at any other level. Level 1 grouping activities usually require a combination of pictures and/or real objects from around the house. Pictures can usually be collected from newspapers, brochures, magazines, catalogs, old books, etc. These classifying activities strengthen a child's ability to comprehend and apply information quickly and easily. Learning to classify or group things makes it easier for children to compare, analyze, and evaluate new information.

Maybe grammar is boring with some programs, but Shurley English is fun, easy to learn, easy to teach, and has made schooling easier for us.

