



Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know at what level to start my child?

The level selected usually depends upon three things: (1) Grade levels, (2) Reading and comprehension levels, and (3) Maturity level. Shurley English is a little more advanced than most curricula, but we normally recommend starting children in their appropriate grade levels.

How do I know if my child is in the right level?

If Shurley English is new to the parent and the child, it may be difficult to determine whether the child is in the right level during the first few weeks. As a general guideline, after approximately six to eight weeks, the child should begin to show more consistency and proficiency during the lessons. Remember, with practice and persistence, mastery develops over a period of time.

Do I need to start in Level 1 if my child has never used Shurley English?

No, not unless your child is reading on a first-grade level.

I have several children. How do I teach several grades together? Can I combine my children into one grade?

To combine children, you must consider maturity and reading/comprehension levels. You can usually combine children if they are only one grade apart (5th and 6th, 3rd and 4th, etc.).

Maturity is a big factor when you try to combine younger children with older children. Here are some ideas that might work for you.

1. Do jingle time together to make it a fun learning experience for all your children.
2. Have your older children do the lessons with your younger children using a kit that is appropriate for the younger child.
3. Assign seatwork for the younger ones while you teach your older children their lessons.
You will learn to make the necessary adjustments if you choose to combine grade levels.

What do I do if I start Shurley English in the middle of the year and don't finish the level before our school year ends?

You continue the level that you did not finish until it is complete. Then, you start the next level immediately.

Is this a full-year curriculum? What do I do if we finish before the end of the year?

Each level provides enough lessons for the entire school year. If you finish early, provide children with opportunities to sharpen their sensory perceptions and to incorporate those into various creative-writing assignments.

Do all the grade levels come in one kit? Do I need to purchase a kit each year?

All the grade levels do **not** come in one kit. There is a kit for each grade. You must purchase a kit for each year your child is in Shurley English because each kit contains the complete curriculum for that grade level.

How long will it take to teach each lesson?

Each lesson will usually take between 20 to 45 minutes. It may take a little longer at the beginning because your child is learning the jingles. If you have a lesson that seems too long, teach part of the lesson one day and teach the rest of the lesson the next day. This curriculum allows you a lot of flexibility.

How do I prepare for each lesson?

You need to stay a lesson ahead of your children. Read each lesson the day before you teach it. After several weeks, it will be easier to prepare and teach a lesson. Parents teaching the first four chapters in Level 1 will need more preparation time. These readiness chapters teach grouping skills, which involve gathering additional materials from newspapers, magazines, books, brochures, etc.

How many days should I spend on each lesson?

Each lesson is designed to be taught in one day. You may make some modifications, but, in general, to get the best results from this curriculum, it must be taught every day.

How do I begin?

When you first look at the teacher's manual, it can be overwhelming; therefore, focus on one lesson at a time. Read each lesson just like you would read a storybook. If you read every word in every lesson, you will understand how to teach this program. Do not skip lessons. Every lesson is built upon the previous lessons. Just get started. Remember, read each lesson word-for-word, step-by-step, and page-by-page. Do exactly what it says.

If my child does not catch on to the Shurley English level that I have, can I return the kit and purchase a lower level?

We have a thirty-day return policy. Although we do not exchange material, kits may be returned for credit within thirty days of the purchase date provided the material is received in new condition. The customer is responsible for all shipping charges and any restocking fees. Contact our Customer Service Department if you need additional information. Note: You may consider keeping the higher level for the next school year.



Can we use our own sentences for extra practice?

Yes, you can use your own sentences for extra practice. Be very careful to follow the patterns that are being taught. Do not expect your children to be able to classify sentences that have concepts in them that have not been taught. You could also classify the Practice and Improved Sentences that your children write as long as the children follow the sentence patterns. **Note:** Because of the volume of calls, we do not classify sentences that are not included in the Shurley English curriculum.

Can I teach jingles from a higher level to children in a lower level?

Yes.

What is the Question & Answer Flow?

The Question & Answer Flow is a concrete set of questions and answers that gives children the ability to determine how each word is used within a sentence. The rhythmic Q & A Flow is done in an energized manner to enhance learning and to ensure enjoyment. By using the Q & A Flow, children are able to completely analyze a sentence. The difficulty level increases during the course of the year.

How long has Shurley English been available?

Shurley English has been available since 1989.

Can you give me the name of a home educator in my area that is using Shurley English?

No, we do not give out names, addresses, or phone numbers of home educators. We suggest you contact another Shurley English home educator through your local homeschool support group.

Can I preview the material before I buy it?

We do not send out materials to be previewed. If the kit is returned within thirty days in new condition, we will refund your money or credit your credit card. We do not accept returns after thirty days. There will be a restocking fee applied to each kit returned.

How do I place an order?

You may place an order over the telephone with a credit card, mail a check or money order to our offices, or order from one of the many retail stores throughout the United States that carry our curriculum. Please see the ordering information page on our website for further information.

What if my child cannot read sentences?

Your child needs to have achieved minimal reading skills to begin using Shurley English.

Does your curriculum teach literature, spelling, reading, or phonics?

No, it does not. However, the Shurley English Literature Selections Booklet is an excellent way to introduce literature to your child. The Literature Selections Booklet is a short study of contemporary and non-contemporary works by various authors from across the nation. Booklets are available for grade levels 1–7.

Can you recommend curriculum for other subjects?

We are not familiar enough with other curriculums to make a recommendation. You may consider consulting other home educators or homeschool magazines that evaluate curriculums.

Who can I call with questions about this curriculum?

The Shurley English office staff is trained to answer basic questions about our curriculum. Note: We do not counsel parents about teaching strategies or classify sentences that are not included in the Shurley English curriculum.

Should my child repeat a level if he/she struggles with the level he/she is working in?

First, your child needs time to adapt to a new curriculum. If you have chosen a level at or below the child's grade level, you should have no trouble making a few adjustments to get your child back on track. This curriculum gives you the flexibility to slow the lessons down at the beginning (*take two days instead of one to finish a lesson*). If your child is still struggling after eight weeks in this curriculum, you may need to choose a lower level until the child is comfortable. When you think your child is ready, you always have the option of moving him/her up to a higher level.

Trust the program. Read each lesson just like you would a storybook: word-for-word, step-by-step, and page-by-page. Remember to have fun with the jingles and the Question & Answer Flows. A positive approach by the parent is very important to the success of this curriculum.

Is it better to have more than one child participate in the Shurley English program?

This curriculum will work for an individual child as well as with a group of children. The parent determines the learning environment and makes it fun in both instances. This program provides all children with a chance to achieve success - individually or in groups.

Does my child have to write on notebook paper?

Some children write larger than others, so parts of the test and practice assignments that require more writing are done on notebook paper to accommodate for those differences. This also allows more review of skills than would otherwise be possible. Most parents just staple the notebook paper to the test or practice page to keep them together.



What do you suggest after Shurley English?

We are not familiar enough with other curriculums to make a recommendation. You may consider consulting other home educators or homeschool magazines that evaluate curriculums.

Do I need a separate writing program?

You do not need a separate writing program. The writing in Shurley English is very comprehensive. Children are taught how to write paragraphs in the four thematic patterns: expository, persuasive, narrative, and descriptive. Then, they are taught how to expand their paragraphs into essays.

Are there religious references within the text?

Bible-related activities, writing assignments, and sentences with a religious tone are found in some levels of the Shurley English Homeschool curriculum. They are optional and are intended as bonus activities.

Do I need a Practice Booklet?

A kit contains all the materials that you need to teach one child for an entire year. The practice sentences for your child are provided in the teacher's manual. However, these sentences are also available in an easy-to-use booklet. Instead of writing the sentences on the board or notebook paper, your child can easily classify the sentences in the Practice Booklet. It is a great time-saver for the child and parent.

Are the two Practice CDs the same as the introductory CD that is already in my kit?

No, the introductory CD in the kit contains the Question & Answer Flows for the Introductory Sentences and the Jingles. The Practice CDs contain the Question & Answer Flows for the Practice Sentences. The Practice CDs are a great time-saver because your child can self-check his/her Practice Sentences.

Does Shurley English provide placement tests?

We do not provide placement tests. The level selected usually depends upon three things: (1) grade level, (2) reading and comprehension level, and (3) maturity level. Shurley English is a little more advanced than most curriculums, but we normally recommend starting children at their appropriate grade levels.