

**Content Standards for California Public Schools
correlated to
Merit Software Writing Mechanics - Grammar Programs**

The *English-Language Arts Content Standards for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve* represents a strong consensus on the skills, knowledge, and abilities that all students should be able to master in language arts at specific grade levels during 13 years in the California public school system. Each standard describes the content students need to master by the end of each grade level (kindergarten through grade eight) or cluster of grade levels (grades nine and ten and grades eleven and twelve). In accordance with *Education Code* Section 60603, as added by Assembly Bill 265 (Chapter 975, Statutes of 1995), the Leroy Greene California Assessment of Academic Achievement Act, there will be performance standards that "define various levels of competence at each grade level . . . [and] gauge the degree to which a student has met the content standards."

Merit's Writing Mechanics - Grammar programs address the following California Language Arts standards:

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Grade 3

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Written and Oral English Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.1 Understand and be able to use complete and correct declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences in writing and speaking.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading, Grammar Fitness Set 1
Written and Oral English Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.2 Identify subjects and verbs that are in agreement and identify and use pronouns, adjectives, compound words, and articles correctly in writing and speaking.	Grammar Fitness Set 1

Written and Oral English Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.3 Identify and use past, present, and future verb tenses properly in writing and speaking.	Grammar Fitness Set 1
Written and Oral English Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.4 Identify and use subjects and verbs correctly in speaking and writing simple sentences.	Grammar Fitness Set 1

Grade 4

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	1.0 Writing Strategies Students write clear, coherent sentences and paragraphs that develop a central idea. Their writing shows they consider the audience and purpose. Students progress through the stages of the writing process (e.g., prewriting, drafting, revising, editing successive versions).	1.10 Edit and revise selected drafts to improve coherence and progression by adding, deleting, consolidating, and rearranging text.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading, Grammar Fitness Set 1
Written and Oral English Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.1 Use simple and compound sentences in writing and speaking.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading, Grammar Fitness Set 1
Written and Oral English Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.1 Use simple and compound sentences in writing and speaking.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading, Grammar Fitness Set 1
Written and Oral English Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.2 Combine short, related sentences with appositives, participial phrases, adjectives, ad-verbs, and prepositional phrases.	Grammar Fitness Set 1

Written and Oral English Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.3 Identify and use regular and irregular verbs, adverbs, prepositions, and coordinating conjunctions in writing and speaking.	Grammar Fitness Set 1
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Grade 5

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	1.0 Writing Strategies Students write clear, coherent, and focused essays. The writing exhibits the students' awareness of the audience and purpose. Essays contain formal introductions, supporting evidence, and conclusions. Students progress through the stages of the writing process as needed.	1.6 Edit and revise manuscripts to improve the meaning and focus of writing by adding, deleting, consolidating, clarifying, and rearranging words and sentences.	Starter Paragraph Punch, Paragraph Punch, Writing About Reading, Grammar Fitness, Set 1
Written and Oral English Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.1 Identify and correctly use prepositional phrases, appositives, and independent and dependent clauses; use transitions and conjunctions to connect ideas.	Grammar Fitness, Set 1
Written and Oral English Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.2 Identify and correctly use verbs that are often misused (e.g., lie/ lay, sit/ set, rise/ raise), modifiers, and pronouns.	Grammar Fitness, Set 1
Written and Oral English Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.4. Use correct capitalization.	Grammar Fitness, Set 1
Written and Oral English Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.5 Spell roots, suffixes, prefixes, contractions, and syllable constructions correctly.	Grammar Fitness, Set 1; Vocabulary Stretch, Set 1 Vocabulary Fitness, Set 1

Grade 6

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Written and Oral English Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.2 Identify and properly use indefinite pronouns and present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect verb tenses; ensure that verbs agree with compound subjects.	Grammar Fitness, Set 2
Written and Oral English Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.3 Use colons after the salutation in business letters, semicolons to connect independent clauses, and commas when linking two clauses with a conjunction in compound sentences.	Grammar Fitness, Set 1; Grammar Fitness, Set 2
Written and Oral English Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.4. Use correct capitalization.	Grammar Fitness, Set 1

Grade 7

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Written and Oral Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.1 Place modifiers properly and use the active voice.	Grammar Fitness Set 1 & 4, Write it Right Set 1
Written and Oral Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.2 Identify and use infinitives and participles and make clear references between pronouns and antecedents.	Grammar Fitness Set 1 & 2
Written and Oral Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.3 Identify all parts of speech and types and structure of sentences.	Grammar Fitness Set 3

Written and Oral Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.4 Demonstrate the mechanics of writing (e.g., quotation marks, commas at end of dependent clauses) and appropriate English usage (e.g., pronoun reference).	Grammar Fitness Set 1, 2 & 4, Write it Right Set 1
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Grade 8

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Written and Oral Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.2 Identify and use parallelism, including similar grammatical forms, in all written discourse to present items in a series and items juxtaposed for emphasis.	Grammar Fitness Set 1-4
Written and Oral Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.5 Use correct punctuation and capitalization.	Grammar Fitness Set 1-4, Write it Right Set 1
Written and Oral Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.6 Use correct spelling conventions.	Grammar Fitness Sets 2 & 3

Grades 9-10

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Writing	1.0 Writing Strategies Students write coherent and focused essays that convey a well-defined perspective and tightly reasoned argument. The writing demonstrates students' awareness of the audience and purpose. Students progress through the stages of the writing process as needed.	1.2 Use precise language, action verbs, sensory details, appropriate modifiers, and the active rather than the passive voice.	Grammar Fitness Set 3 & 4, Write it Right Set 2
Written and Oral Language Skills	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions.	1.1 Identify and correctly use clauses (e.g., main and subordinate), phrases (e.g., gerund, infinitive, and participial), and mechanics of punctuation (e.g., semicolons, colons, ellipses, hyphens).	Grammar Fitness Set 3 & 4, Write it Right Set 2, Business English Fitness

Written and Oral Language Skills	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions.	1.2 Understand sentence construction (e.g., parallel structure, subordination, proper placement of modifiers) and proper English usage (e.g., consistency of verb tenses).	Grammar Fitness Set 3 & 4, Write it Right Set 2, Business English Fitness
Written and Oral Language Skills	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions.	1.3 Demonstrate an understanding of proper English usage and control of grammar, paragraph and sentence structure, diction, and syntax.	Grammar Fitness Set 3 & 4, Write it Right Set 2, Business English Fitness
Written and Oral Language Skills	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions.	1.4 Produce legible work that shows accurate spelling and correct use of the conventions of punctuation and capitalization.	Grammar Fitness Set 3

Grades 11-12

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Written and Oral English Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions.	1.1 Demonstrate control of grammar, diction, and paragraph and sentence structure and an understanding of English usage.	Write it Right Set 2, Business English Fitness