

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

RESPECT!

People respect you when you speak correctly.

COMMUNICATION!

People understand you when you speak correctly. It is easier to get what you need when people understand you.



Writing is important too. People respect you when you write correctly.

How can you become a better speaker and writer? By reading more!

This class is set up to help you read, write, and speak better. This will help you get more of what you want in life.

The Game: Put a check (✓) if reading, writing, and speaking correctly help you do these things:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> get a job | <input type="checkbox"/> make a doctor's appointment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> write a letter | <input type="checkbox"/> fish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ride a bus | <input type="checkbox"/> eat a hamburger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> read a map | <input type="checkbox"/> write a song |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cut your toenails | <input type="checkbox"/> dig a hole |

WHEN IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Reading, writing, and speaking are important at these times:

- ✓ You need or want something.
- ✓ You want to tell your ideas.

Reading, writing, and speaking correctly help us get what we want in life.

An example:

The CD you got at the store doesn't work. You paid \$15! How can you get your money back?

You say to the manager, "Sir, can you help me? This CD is broken and I need to get a new one or get my money back."

Now the manager can help you get what you want, a good CD.



The Game: Put a check (✓) if the sentence sounds correct.

- "This ain't right."
- "How are you today?"
- "Get your hair did."
- "I love pizza."
- "Yeah."

TAKING IT APART

Language is speaking, reading, and writing. All three are important for you to get what you want in life.

Language is like a car engine. There are some really important parts. Some parts are nice to have but may not be important for the engine to run.

If you know about engines, you know that when the parts work well together, the engine will run great. You will have a ride that is super!

Words are the parts that make up language. The way you put words together can make the way you write and speak sound great.



The Game: Write T for True or F for False.

1. Language is speaking, reading, and writing. _____
2. Language is made up of car parts. _____
3. Writing well can help you get what you need in life. _____
4. A fine car is like a good sentence. _____
5. You want to ride a sentence. _____



Why do you want to speak correctly?

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

Language is like an outfit. You take the time to wear things that look good on you. You make sure they match. You don't want to look goofy.

You don't want to sound goofy when you write or talk. You want your words to look and sound great! It is a good idea to consider how words go together. That is an easy way to improve reading, writing, and spelling. Your speech improves too!



This is all about you . . . and your life. Keep reading and writing so that you will have a successful future!

The Game: Write T for True or F for False.

1. Reading is a part of life. _____
2. An easy way to improve reading is to study how words go together.

3. You always wear words on your feet. _____
4. Always wear goofy hats. _____
5. Speaking correctly can help you sound great! _____



You just over read 150 words!

TELL THE "A, E, I, O, U" STORY

Fill in the blanks with the correct vowels to tell the story.

The Life of a Tiger

The t_ger is the largest c_t in the c_t family. Tig_rs are very str_ng and beautiful.

A male t_ger weighs more than two m_n, and its body is over nine feet l_ng. Its coat is y_llow or orange with bl_ck stripes.

Tigers like to h_nt at night. They hunt anim_ls, such as deer, wild p_gs, and cows. They have even k_lled humans! Most tigers would rather eat fr_gs and monkeys than people.

A t_ger cub is helpless when it is born, but it soon becomes as playful as a k_tten. C_bs stay with their mothers for about two years.

There are many tigers in zoos. Sometimes a tiger will mate with a lion in a z_o. The baby is called a "liger" or a "tigon." A tig_r lives for about twenty years.



Guess what? You just read over 150 words!

TRICKY SILENT LETTERS

Break It Down: You do not hear silent letters when you say the word, but they are there when you write the word. They are oddballs!

Here are some examples of words with tricky silent letters.



Silent B	thumb, lamb, crumb, climb, bomb, comb, debt
Silent D	edge, hedge, Wednesday, handsome, badge
Silent G	gnarl, gnome, sign, design, foreigner
Silent H	ghost, honest, hour
Silent K	knife, knee, knot, knitting, know, knob, knock, knight
Silent L	yolk, calf, talk, chalk, walk, folk
Silent N	autumn, hymn
Silent P	psychology, pneumonia
Silent T	witch, castle, butcher, listen, scratch, match, watch, Christmas
Silent U	guest, guitar, guard, building, tongue, biscuit
Silent W	wrestle, wriggle, whole, two, wrong, wrap, write, wreck, sword

The Game: Read the clue. Find the word in this list:

lamb witch Wednesday Christmas knife

1. It is a day of the week. _____
2. It is a mean woman in a fairy tale. _____
3. This is a baby sheep. _____
4. This is used for cutting. _____
5. It is a holiday. _____

WATCH OUT FOR OPPOSITES

Clear communication is an important skill. If you mix up your antonyms, what you mean to say and what you really say will not be the same!



The Game: John mixed up his opposites! Read the story.

Joe DiMaggio was one of the worst outfielders in baseball history. He was a terrible batter. He played his entire career with the New York Yankees. He missed 361 home runs in 1,736 games. DiMaggio lost 10 World Series and 11 All-Star games. He was voted the American League's most rotten player in 1939, 1941, and 1947. DiMaggio was expelled from the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1955.

Write antonyms in the blanks so the story is correct. Choose from this list:

hit admitted best fantastic won valuable

Joe DiMaggio was one of the _____ outfielders in baseball history. He was a _____ batter. He played his entire career with the New York Yankees. He _____ 361 home runs in 1,736 games. DiMaggio _____ 10 World Series and 11 All-Star games. He was voted the American League's most _____ player in 1939, 1941, and 1947. DiMaggio was _____ to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1955.

A SMART CLUE!

What can you do if you don't know the word you want to read? Looking at the **base word** can help you! Base words are also called root words.

Break It Down: Base words are words from which many other words are formed. The base word tells you what the word means.



For example: catcher

CATCH + ER = CATCHER

Catch is the base word.

What is the meaning of catcher? A **catcher** is the person who catches the ball.

The Game: Write the base words.

1. running _____
2. talker _____
3. fastest _____
4. patted _____
5. cats _____



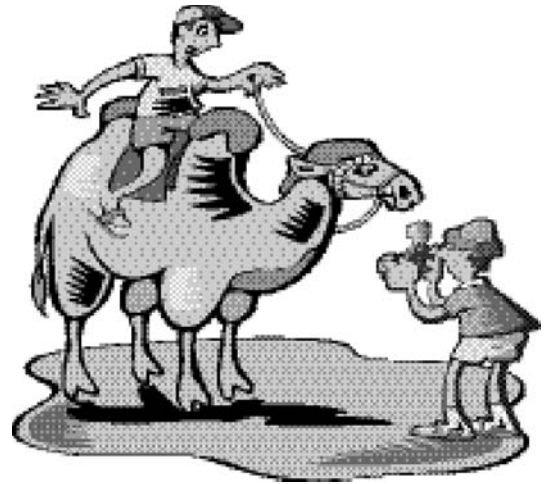
What was the message?

THE THING IS . . .

Break It Down: A noun is a person, place, or thing.

Helpful hint: Sometimes you can take a picture of a noun. Examples of nouns in this picture:

- camel
- humps
- dirt
- ears
- Max the photographer



The Game: Look at the picture. List ten more nouns in the picture.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |



What are nouns?

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS AND PRONOUNS

Break It Down: Why are pronouns like substitute teachers? Because they take the place of a noun when the noun isn't there!



The underlined word in these examples is the noun. The word in **bold** is the pronoun.

- Becky is my sister. **She** is older than me.
- Leo and I went to the fair. **We** had a lot of fun.
- The joke was funny. My friend told **it**.
- Jake and Mandy went to the store. **They** went to get ice.

The Game: Underline the pronouns in the second sentence of each pair. The number at the end of the sentence tells you how many pronouns are in each sentence.

Example:

The elephant raised her trunk. She blew water out of it. (2)

1. Pam is in a math class. She likes learning new things. (1)

2. The car is new. It sounds fine. (1)

3. Mark is painting the room. He is painting it blue. (2)

4. Kim and Jill work at the ice cream shop. They like working together. (1)

5. I walk the dog every day. We walk to the park and then back. (1)



What are pronouns like?

WRITE IT!

Break It Down: Even simple sentences have a subject noun and verb. This is called a noun-verb pattern.

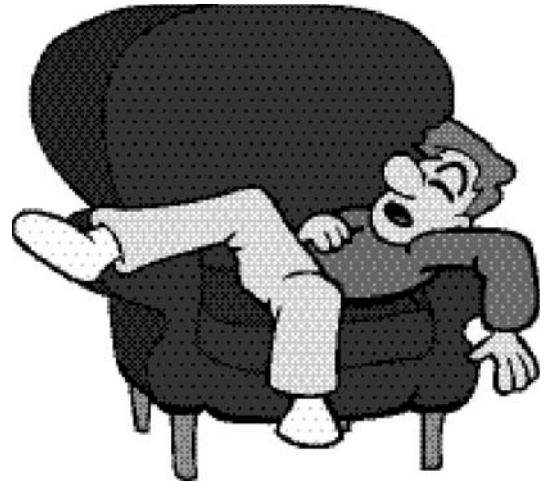
Here is an example of a short, simple sentence with a noun-verb pattern:

The boy snored.

Boy is the noun. **Snored** is the verb.

The noun-verb pattern is **boy snored**.

It can be easy and fun to write your own!



The Game: Write your own verb in the blanks. Use helping verbs if you need them!

Example: Lee is sleeping.

1. The door _____.
2. A baby _____.
3. The lion _____.
4. My friend _____.
5. The joke _____.



A sentence must have a noun and a _____.

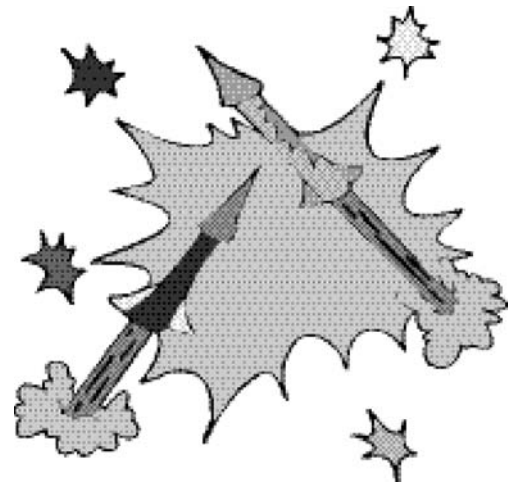
JAZZ IT UP!

There are many ways to say the same thing.

Some are boring.

Many times there is a better way.

Read these sentences. Which sentence gives you a clearer idea of how long the fireworks display lasted? Check the best sentence.



- The fireworks display lasted a long time.
- The fireworks display lasted two hours!

The Game: Fill in the blanks. Use the word that gives the clearest meaning to the sentence.

1. I write with _____. (something / a pen)
2. Joe needs _____ hamburgers. (seven / many)
3. My friend eats _____. (food / fruit)
4. The score was _____. (zero / low)
5. Zoe reads _____ books. (interesting / good)



*What is an interesting synonym for **good**?*

TALK ABOUT YOURSELF

Break It Down: I is the word you use to talk about yourself. The verb **am** is used only with **I**.

I am + an **adjective** tells who I am, what kind of person I am, what I look like, or how I feel. Examples:

- I am tall.
- I am hungry.
- I am excited.
- I am American.



The Game: Write five "I am" sentences using these adjectives:

healthy smart sleepy young funny

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

The Game: "I am" can also be written "I'm." Write five "I'm" sentences using these adjectives:

quick Mexican-American happy awake clean

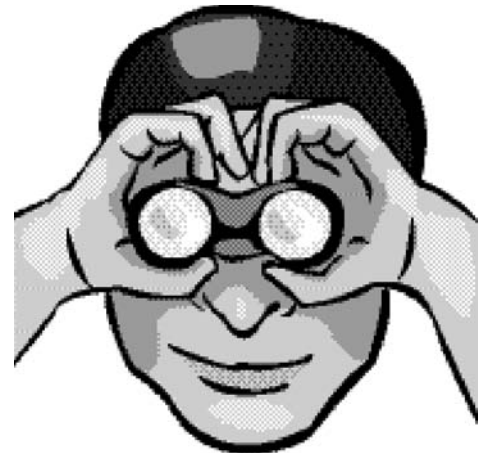
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Score yourself! Give yourself one point if you capitalized the I and one point if you put a period at the end of each sentence. What is your score? _____

TELL ABOUT YOURSELF

Break It Down: I am + a **verb** that ends with **-ing** tells what I am doing at this moment. Examples:

- I am looking.
- I am batting.
- I am eating.
- I am running.



The Game: Write five "I am" sentences using these verbs:
shopping sleeping snoring singing stretching

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

The Game: Write five "I'm" sentences using these verbs:
dancing yawning working biking driving

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Score yourself! Give yourself one point if you capitalized the I and one point if you put a period at the end of each sentence. What is your score? _____

A, AN, THE

Break It Down: **A**, **an**, and **the** are all noun markers. They are little words that let us know that a noun is coming.

Examples:

- I am the pitcher.
- I am a batter.
- I am the catcher.
- I am an umpire.
- I am a fan.



Nouns are words that name a person, a place, a thing, an idea, a feeling, or an action.

Important Rule: Use **A** before words beginning with a **consonant** (a batter, a fan). Use **AN** before words beginning with a **vowel** (an umpire, an egg).

The Game: Write five "I am" sentences using these noun markers:

a an

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Score yourself! Give yourself one point if you capitalized the I and one point if you put a period at the end of each sentence. What is your score? _____

THE

Break It Down: The noun marker **the** lets us know that a particular noun is coming.

Examples:

- I am **the** umpire. This tells us that I am the **only** umpire.
- I am **the** boss. This tells us that I am the **only** boss.



The Game: Write five "I am" sentences using the noun marker "the."

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Maximum points! Give yourself one point if you capitalized the I and one point if you put a period at the end of each sentence. What is your score? _____



Name the three noun markers.

ADDING ADJECTIVES

Break It Down: An adjective can appear between the noun marker and the noun.



Examples:

- I am the **best** umpire.
- I am a **terrific** batter.

The Game: Put an adjective between the noun marker and the noun.

1. I am a _____ runner.
2. I am the _____ dancer.
3. I am a _____ friend.
4. I am the _____ cook.
5. I am a _____ singer.

The Game: Put an adjective between the noun marker and the noun.

1. a _____ mountain
2. a _____ ocean
3. the _____ planet
4. the _____ storm
5. a _____ tornado
6. the _____ wind
7. a _____ rain
8. the _____ snow
9. the _____ rainbow
10. a _____ day



Which part of speech can appear between the noun marker and the noun?

GETTING IT RIGHT

Break It Down:

✓ **I am** + an **adjective** tells who I am, what kind of person I am, what I look like, or how I feel.

✓ **I am** + a **verb** that ends with **-ing** tells what I am doing at this moment.

✓ **A, an,** and **the** are all noun markers that let us know that a noun is coming.

✓ An adjective can appear between the noun marker and the noun.



The Game: Fill in the blanks using these words:

fast the athlete eating

1. I am a _____ runner.
2. I am _____.
3. I am _____ tallest student.
4. I'm an _____.

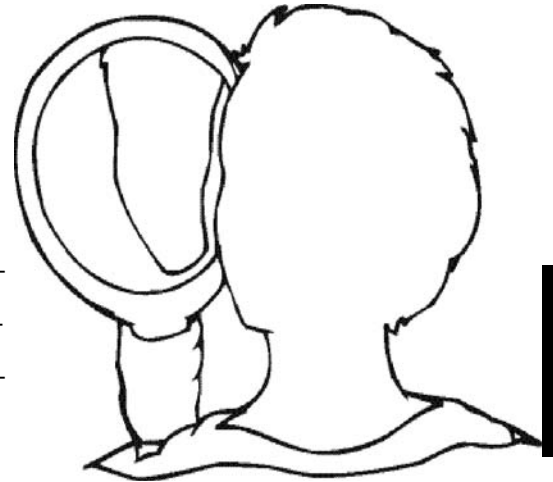
The Game: Answer these questions:

1. Which verb can only be used with I? _____
2. Which noun marker must be used if the next word begins with a vowel? _____
3. What part of speech is a person, place, or thing?

4. Which noun marker lets us know that a particular noun is coming? _____

LOOK IN THE MIRROR

Think about yourself. Ask yourself these questions and jot your answers down.



What do you look like? _____

Are you tall, short, or medium height? _____

What color is your hair? _____

What color are your eyes? _____

What kind of person are you? _____

Are you a good friend? _____

Are you honest? _____

Are you kind? _____

Are you an animal lover? _____

Are you a sports buff? _____

Are you a student? _____

Are you a worker? _____

How do you feel? _____

Are you a happy person? _____

Are you a healthy person? _____

What are you doing at this moment? _____

Write four good "I am" sentences that tell about you.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

KAYLA WRITES ABOUT HERSELF

The Game: Read Kayla's story.

I am in the tenth grade. I'm the tallest girl in my class. I am a good basketball player. I like to play basketball and talk on the phone with my friends. I am a good friend because I listen to others and I don't talk about people behind their backs. I am a good basketball player because I practice a lot and I love the game! I am very happy most of the time.



Follow the directions.

1. Underline the noun markers.
2. Put a star on the word that is short for "I am."
3. Put a check (✓) next to the adjective that appears between the noun marker and the noun.

Answer these questions:

1. How many times did Kayla say I? _____
2. What is something about Kayla that you like?

3. Do you think Kayla's story is interesting? Why?

4. How can Kayla improve her story?

SPELL THEM

Break It Down: Look carefully at homonyms to spell them correctly.

Homonyms

no – denial; refusal

know – to understand; to be familiar with a person or place

not – at no time or no way

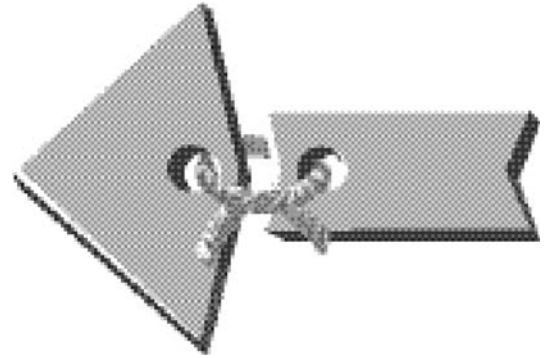
knot – a place in a string or rope where it passes through a loop and is pulled tight; a tangle of threads, strings, or hair

poll – a place where people vote; getting people's ideas

pole – one of the two opposite ends of the Earth or a battery; a long, cylindrical piece of wood or other material

sale – selling or being sold; selling things at low prices

sail – a piece of cloth attached to beams on a ship to use the wind to move the ship; to travel by ship; to glide in the air



The Game: Fill in the blanks with the homonyms.

1. The store has a big _____ on tennis shoes.
2. My shoestring has a _____ in it.
3. That is _____ the color I want!
4. I don't _____ who won the game.
5. Did you vote Yes or _____?
6. The voting _____ is at the library.
7. I want to _____ on a ship.
8. Korbin climbed the telephone _____.

DRAW THEM

Break It Down: Look carefully at homonyms to spell them correctly.

Homonyms

no – denial; refusal

know – to understand; to be familiar with a person or place

not – at no time or no way

knot – a place in a string or rope where it passes through a loop and is pulled tight; a tangle of threads, strings, or hair

poll – a place where people vote; getting people's ideas

pole – one of the two opposite ends of the Earth or a battery; a long, cylindrical piece of wood or other material

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The Game: Draw and label pictures of the homonyms.

SPECIAL HOMONYMS

Break It Down: Some homonyms are really tricky. Don't be tricked by **their**, **there**, and **they're**.



Read this:

They're putting their cat over there on the table.

their – belonging to or done by them

there – to, in, or at that place

they're – contraction of they + are

It's **their** cat.

There is the cat.

They're putting the cat on the table.

The Game: Fill in the blanks with the homonyms "their," "there," or "they're."

1. That boxer is _____ dog.
2. _____ are many kinds of dogs.
3. I see _____ bulldog in the pen.
4. The collie is over _____.
5. First place in the dog show was won by _____ husky.
6. _____ going to buy a poodle.
7. _____ black lab is a sweet dog.
8. They got _____ dog from the Humane Society, and it was free!
9. _____ taking good care of their dog.
10. _____ the winners!

LOOK AT THE NAME

Break it Down: Look at the first letter of each word or name. If they are the same, look at the second letters. If they are the same, look at the third letters! Then put the words in alphabetical order. Example:

Thomas R. Smith

Thomas A. Smith

Thomas E. Smith



Look at the seventh letter. It's different. Put the names in alphabetical order by using the seventh letter, like this:

Thomas A. Smith

Thomas E. Smith

Thomas R. Smith

The Game: You work in a drug store. Write these names in alphabetical order so each person gets the right medicine!

Jose I. Garcia Jose A. Garcia Jose J. Garcia

Cold medicine _____

Pain medicine _____

Skin rash medicine _____



Why is this an important job skill?

THE SHORT NAME IS FIRST

Break It Down: Look at the first letters of all the words. If they are the same, but one word is shorter, the shortest word goes first. Example:

Jon Robinson, Jon Robin, Jon Robins

1. Jon Robin
2. Jon Robins
3. Jon Robinson



FYI: This is how the phone book is set up.

The Game: You work in a lawyer's office. Write these names in alphabetical order so you can look up the phone numbers.

Maria Harr _____

Maria Harrison _____

Maria Harris _____

Al Mendez _____

Al Mendeza _____

Al Men _____

NUMBERS ON LEGAL PAPERS

Break It Down: Spell out and write the numbers as words on checks and legal papers.
Example: exactly one hundred dollars (\$100.00)



The Game: Fill in the blanks on these legal papers. Use \$50.00, \$500.00, and \$25.00.

Spell out the numbers on the long line.

March 31, 2008
Pay to the order of _____ <i>Sofia Watts</i> _____
_____ (_____.)
Memo: <u>hair cut</u> _____ <i>Jon Burk</i> _____

Paid in Full
I, <i>Kelly Diaz</i> received the sum of exactly _____ (_____) from Ray Mills on <i>January 15, 2007</i> , payment in full for a one-week-old calf.

OAK APARTMENTS
Receipt for Rent
Received from <i>Joe Gray</i> _____ (_____)
for <i>October 2007 rent for 1123 Ohio St., Apt. B.</i>
<i>October 1, 2007</i>

WRITING CLEARLY

Break It Down: Here are rules about writing numbers, which will help prevent mistakes.

1. Do not begin a sentence with a number.

Write the number word.

2. When you have a list of numbers, write them the same way.

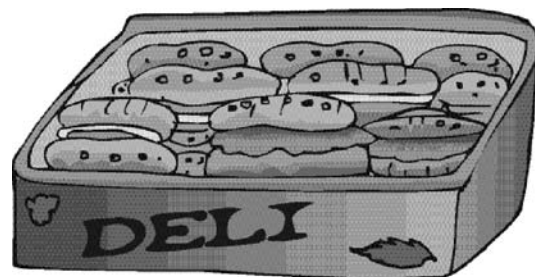
Example:

- two hamburgers, one cheeseburger, and four hot dogs
- two hamburgers, 1 cheeseburger, and 4 hot dogs

3. Use both words and numbers to make the sentence clearer.

Example:

- I have 5 six-week-old puppies for sale.
- I have 5 6-week-old puppies for sale.



The Game: Put a check (✓) next to the correct sentence.

- 6 birds flew over my house.
- Six birds flew over my house.

- I saw one parrot, two doves, and nine hummingbirds.
- I saw one parrot, 2 doves, and 9 hummingbirds.

- You babysat 3 6-year-old kids?
- You babysat 3 six-year-old kids?

TAKE YOUR TIME

Break It Down: Time can be written in different ways. You can write A.M. or a.m., P.M. or p.m.

If you are going to meet your friend at 9 A.M., you could write:

I will meet you at **nine o'clock in the morning.**

Or

I will meet you at **nine in the morning.**

Or

I will meet you at **9 A.M.**

If you want to go to the movies with your friend, you could write:

Let's go to the movies at **2:30 P.M.**

Or

Let's go to the movies at **two-thirty this afternoon.**

Or

Let's go to the movies at **half-past two this afternoon.**



The Game: Re-write the sentences. Use a different way of writing the time.

1. Lisa has a dance lesson at 5 P.M.

2. Teresa will get her new car at ten o'clock this morning.

3. Emmy has a date at seven this evening.
