

# Placement Guide for *Using Language Well*

from Simply Charlotte Mason

## Guide for Book 1 (recommended for grades 3–4)

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| 1. Does your student write on notebook paper-size lines?   | YES: Use <i>Using Language Well, Book 1</i> with <i>SpellingWisdom, Book 1</i> . |
| 2. Can your student easily read the following sentences?<br>Be content with your lot; one cannot be first in everything.<br>Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.<br>All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen. | NO: Look at <i>Hymns In Prose</i> Copybook and Pathway Readers.                  |
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## Guide for Book 2 (recommended for grades 5–6)

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| 1. Is your student at least ten years old?   | YES: Use <i>Using Language Well, Book 2</i> with <i>SpellingWisdom, Book 2</i> . |
| 2. Can your student tell why each mark of punctuation is in the following sentence?<br>“A trifle more of that man,” he would say, “and I shall explode.”   | NO: Look at the Guide for Book 1.  |
| 3. Can your student easily read the following sentences?<br>You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.<br>Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened.<br>Up the two terrace flights of steps the rain ran wildly and beat at the great door, like a swift messenger rousing those within. |  |
| 4. Would your student know how to spell all but three or four words in each of those sentences (in #3)?  |  |
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## Guide for Book 3 (recommended for grades 7–8)

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| 1. Can your student explain what a subject and a predicate are?  | YES: Use <i>Using Language Well, Book 3</i> with <i>SpellingWisdom, Book 3</i> . |
| 2. Can your student tell what each of these parts of speech is or give an example?<br>• Noun                      • Adverb                      • Preposition<br>• Pronoun                  • Action verb                • Interjection<br>• Article                    • Helping verb              • Conjunction<br>• Adjective                • Linking verb   | NO: Look at the Guide for Book 2.  |
| 3. Can your student identify the part of speech of each italicized word in the following sentence?<br><i>Each of us has in his possession an exceedingly good servant or a very bad master</i> , known as Habit.   |  |
| 4. Would your student know how to spell all but three or four words in each of the following sentences?<br>Not to excite suspicion by her look or manner was now an object worth attaining.<br>Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose.<br>It is a fair, even-handed, noble adjustment of things that while there is infection in disease and sorrow, there is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor. |  |
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# A Complete List of English Points Presented in *Using Language Well, Book 1*

- Abbreviations
- Antonyms
- Common names vs. proper names
- Complex alphabetizing (same beginning letters)
- Composition: narrative and expository
- Compound words
- Contractions
- Dictation
- Dictionary skills
- Homonyms
- Identifying paragraphs
- Identifying stanzas in poems
- Irregular plural nouns
- Plural possessives
- Plurals formed by adding *s*
- Plurals formed by adding *es*
- Plurals formed by changing the *f* or *fe* to *v* and adding *es*
- Plurals formed by changing the *y* to *i* and adding *es*
- Possessives
- Prefixes
- Root words
- Sentences
- Simple alphabetizing (by first letter)
- Spelling
- Subject and predicate (complete)
- Suffixes
- Syllables
- Synonyms
- *They're* vs. *Their* vs. *There*
- *Too* vs. *To*
- Transcription
- Types of sentences: question, command, statement, exclamation
- Using *A* and *An*

## Capitalization

- Capitalize the first word of a sentence
- Capitalize the first word in each line of poetry
- Capitalize the days of the week
- Capitalize names or words that refer to God
- Capitalize the months of the year
- Capitalize the word *I* when it refers to a person
- Capitalize proper names
- Capitalize titles
- Capitalize initials
- Do not capitalize compass directions
- Do not capitalize seasons

## Punctuation

- Use a colon to separate chapter and verse in a Bible reference
- Use a colon when you want to explain or clarify further
- Use a comma between items in a series
- Use a comma to separate the day and year in a date
- Use a comma after a direct address
- Use a period at the end of a statement sentence
- Use a period at the end of an abbreviation
- Use a period at the end of an initial
- Use a question mark at the end of a question sentence
- Use a semicolon to connect two complete thoughts that are closely related
- Use an apostrophe to show possession with 's
- Use an apostrophe to take the place of missing letters in a contraction
- Use an exclamation point to denote intense emotion
- Use quotation marks to enclose the words that were said
- Use quotation marks to denote words and their definitions
- Use single quotation marks to set off quoted material inside double quotation marks
- Dialogue punctuation if the dialogue tag is after the quoted material
- Dialogue punctuation if the dialogue tag is before the quoted material
- Dialogue punctuation if the dialogue tag splits one sentence into parts
- Dialogue punctuation if the dialogue tag is between two sentences

# A Complete List

## of Grammar and English Points Presented in *Using Language Well, Book 2*

- Adjectives
  - Simple adjectives
  - Compound adjectives
  - Nouns as adjectives
- Adverbs
- Alphabetizing: persons by last name, first name
- Articles
- Business letter format
- Conjunctions
- Interjections
- Nouns
  - Common nouns
  - Proper nouns
  - Singular and plural nouns
- Prepositions
- Prepositional phrases
- Pronouns
  - First, Second, Third Person pronouns
  - Singular and plural pronouns
  - Antecedents
  - Pronoun and antecedent agreement in number
- Script format
- Subject and predicate
  - Simple subject and predicate
  - Compound subject
  - Compound predicate
  - Subject as *you* (*understood*)
- Verbs
  - Action verbs
  - Helping verbs
  - Linking verbs
  - Past, present, future verb tenses

### Capitalization and Punctuation

- Capitalize the first word and all important words in titles (not articles, not conjunctions or prepositions of fewer than five letters)

- If the word already ends in *s* you may use only an apostrophe to show possession without adding another *s* after it
- Use a colon after the salutation in a business letter
- Use a comma to separate the city and state or city and country
- Use a comma after the closing in a letter
- Placement of commas inside quotation marks
- Use a dash to indicate an abrupt interruption or further explanation
- Use an ellipsis to indicate omitted words
- Placement of exclamation points inside and outside quotation marks
- Use a hyphen to connect the words of a compound number or compound adjective
- Use parentheses to enclose explanatory or nonessential material
- Placement of periods inside quotation marks
- Placement of question marks inside and outside quotation marks
- Use semicolons to separate items in a series when one or more of the items already use a comma

#### Reinforced Points from *Using Language Well, Book 1*

- Alphabetizing: simple and complex
- Antonyms, synonyms, homonyms
- Basic capitalization and punctuation
- Complete subject and predicate
- Composition: narrative and expository
- Contractions
- Dictation
- Dictionary skills
- Identifying paragraphs
- Possessives: singular and plural
- Spelling

# A Complete List

of Grammar and English Points Presented  
in *Using Language Well, Book 3*

## Sentence Analysis

- Adjective clauses
- Adverb clauses
- Appositives
- Clauses
  - Dependent
  - Independent
- Composition: descriptive
- Compound direct objects
- Compound objects of prepositions
- Compound predicates
- Compound subjects
- Conjunctions
  - Coordinating
  - Subordinating
- Direct objects
- Gerunds
- Indirect objects
- Infinitives
- Lay v. Lie
- Metaphors
- Modifiers
- Noun clauses
- Objects of prepositions
- Parenthetical phrases
- Participles
- Personification
- Predicate adjectives
- Predicate nominatives
- Prepositional phrases as modifiers
- Restrictive and nonrestrictive phrases and clauses
- Sentence types
  - Complex
  - Compound

Compound-Complex

Simple

- Similes
- Subject and predicate verb
- Subject complements
- Subject/verb agreement in number

## Capitalization and Punctuation

- Use a comma and coordinating conjunction or a semicolon to join closely-related independent clauses
- Use a comma to separate consecutive adjectives that modify the same noun or pronoun
- Use a comma to set off an introductory or interjected word or expression
- Use a comma to set off an introductory phrase or dependent clause that sets the stage for the independent clause
- Use a comma to set off a nonessential word, phrase, or clause that doesn't restrict the meaning of the sentence
- Use a comma to set off an appositive
- Use a comma to add clarity if needed

## Poetry Analysis

- End rhymes
- Eye rhymes
- Foot
- Iambic meter
- Iambs
- Lines
- Rhyme schemes
- Sonnet
- Stanzas
- Tetrameter
- Tone
- Trimeter

## Reinforced Points from *Using Language Well, Book 2*

- Adjectives
- Adverbs
- Alphabetizing: simple and complex
- Antonyms, synonyms, homonyms
- Articles
- Basic capitalization and punctuation
- Complete subject and predicate

- Composition: narrative and expository
- Conjunctions
- Contractions
- Dash used to indicate an abrupt interruption or further explanation
- Dialogue punctuation and capitalization
- Dictation
- Dictionary skills
- Identifying paragraphs
- Interjections
- Nouns: common and proper
- Possessives: singular and plural
- Prefixes
- Prepositional phrases
- Prepositions
- Pronouns
- Spelling
- Subject and predicate: simple and compound
- Subject as *you (understood)*
- Suffixes
- Verb tense
- Verbs: action, helping, linking



# Answers

## Book 2

2. Can your student tell why each punctuation mark is in the following sentence?

“A trifle more of that man,” he would say, “and I shall explode.”

The opening quotation marks signify the beginning of the quoted material.

The comma after *man* separates the quoted material from the dialogue tag.

The closing quotation marks after *man* signify the end of the quoted material.

The comma after *say* separates the dialogue tag from the rest of the quoted material.

The opening quotation marks before *and* signify the beginning of the quoted material.

The period after *explode* marks the end of the statement sentence.

The closing quotation marks after *explode* signify the end of the quoted material.

## Book 3

1. Can your student explain what a subject and a predicate are?

A subject is that which the sentence is about. The predicate is what is said about the subject.

(Your student does not have to elaborate as outlined below; that information is given only to help you evaluate your student's answer.)

The complete subject and predicate include all correlating modifiers and phrases.

Example: Commerce with England and the West Indies | went forward by leaps and bounds.

The simple subject and predicate disregard modifiers and phrases and use just the essential words.

Example: Commerce | went

2. Can your student tell what each of these parts of speech is or give an example?

Answers and examples do not have to be worded exactly as stated below but should contain similar ideas.

- Noun—A noun is a name of a person, place, thing, or idea. (Some examples: child, garden, book, peace.)
- Pronoun—A pronoun is a word that replaces a noun. (Some examples: I, you, he, she, it.)
- Article—The words *A*, *an*, and *the* are articles.
- Adjective—An adjective is a word that describes—that affects the meaning, or modifies—a noun or a pronoun. (Some examples: blue, easy, delicious.)
- Adverb—An adverb is a word that modifies a verb or an adjective. It describes how, where, when, or to what extent. (Some examples: happily, deftly, very, now.)
- Action verb—An action verb is a word that asserts action. (Some examples: read, narrate, paint, travel.)
- Helping verb—A helping verb is a word that helps the action verb or linking verb convey a more accurate sense of time. (Some examples: shall, may, have, been.)
- Linking verb—A linking verb is a word that links the subject with a description of it. (Some examples: is, are, was, were.)
- Preposition—A preposition is a word that introduces a phrase and shows the relation between the principle word of the phrase and some other word in the sentence. (Some examples: at, above, with, from.)
- Interjection—An interjection is an independent word used in the sentence only for the purpose of expressing strong feeling. (An example: Oh! now I see what you mean.)
- Conjunction—A conjunction is a word that connects single words or groups of words within a sentence. (Some examples: and, but, or, because.)

3. Can your student identify the part of speech of each italicized word in the following sentence?

PRO PP PRO AV PP PRO/ADJ N ART ADV ADJ N CONJ ART ADV ADJ N  
*Each of us has in his possession an exceedingly good servant or a very bad master,* known  
as Habit.

PRO = pronoun  
LV = linking verb  
ADV = adverb

N = common noun  
HV = helping verb  
PP = preposition

PN = proper noun  
ADJ = adjective  
CON = conjunction

AV = action verb  
ART = article  
INT = interjection

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