

Test Prep Tools

LANGUAGE ARTS CLASSROOM

GRAMMAR FREEBIE SIX

PURPOSE:

Test prep is often not a fun part of language arts classes. Task cards allow for diverse use, and the bookmarks provide a gentle reminder of concepts on the English portion of tests.

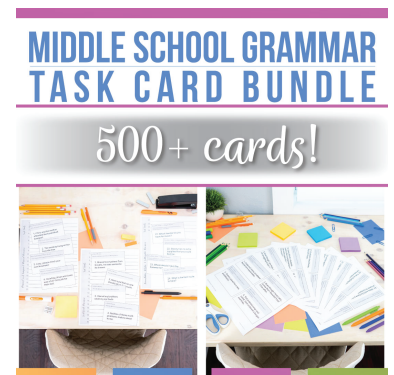
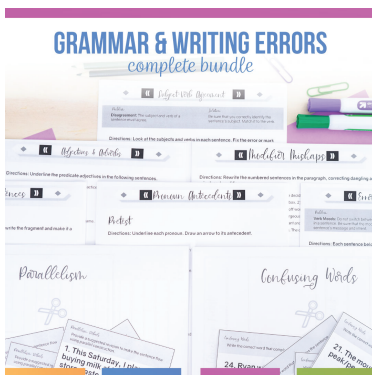
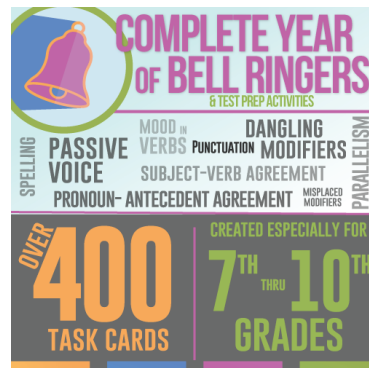
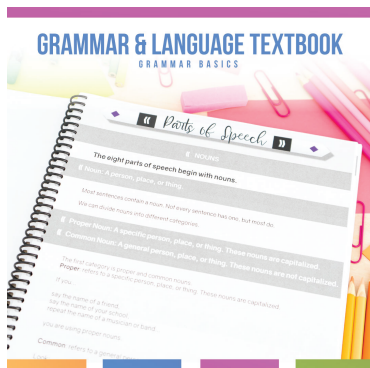
Teachers can use these tools in various ways throughout the school year. The purpose is to show students that they are capable of learning these concepts.

IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Task cards can be used with stations or centers. They also can serve as bell ringers or individual practice. Laminate for longevity!

Display the bookmarks throughout the year so that the practice of test prep is more natural & less forced.

MORE TEST PREP ACTIVITIES:





Concepts on English portions
of standardized tests:

Punctuation

- semicolons
- commas
- apostrophes

Agreement

- subject & verb
- pronoun & antecedent

Structure

- parallelism
- voice
- variety

Sentence Problems

- run-ons
- fragments
- commas splices



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Rewrite the sentence, correcting errors.

While attaching the bandage the nurse spoke soothingly to the child.

9.

Rewrite the sentence, correcting errors.

Everyone on the girl's basketball team received their own t-shirt.

10.

Rewrite the sentence, correcting errors.

When Jamie broke her arm, she fainted. Later, she said that the pain was very excruciatingly painful.

11.

Rewrite the sentence, correcting errors.

George and his brother Billy knew that mowing lawns and cleaning gutters would be time-consuming work, but they didn't realize to wash cars would take the longest amount of time!

12.

Rewrite the sentence, correcting errors.

January is my favorite month, it is my birthday month.

5.

Rewrite the sentence, correcting errors.

Matt took an extra cookie Jaylon sneaked an ice cream sandwich.

6.

Rewrite the sentence, correcting errors.

George ran errands, skipping lunch.

7.

Rewrite the sentence, correcting errors.

The gerbil a black and gray one raced on its wheel.

8.

Rewrite the sentence, correcting errors.

Tom's summer reading list included The Fault In Our Stars, 2001: A Space Odyssey, Girl, Interrupted, and God Bless You, Dr. Kevorkian.

1.

Rewrite the sentence, correcting errors.

Ryan keeps his computer on his desk at night, instead of in the computer case. Every morning, the computer is turned on.

2.

Rewrite the sentence, correcting errors.

Caitlyn need to study for her test, and will eat dinner.

3.

Rewrite the sentence, correcting errors.

Could you please hand me the quarter and washing my car?

4.

- These task cards are not meant to cover every aspect of the English portion of a standardized test.
- Directions are generic, as I hope students discuss potential errors and their thought processes as they work through these.
- Possible teaching ideas:
 - Each student could complete the task cards individually, passing the cards around the classroom.
 - Students can work with partners or groups, completing some or all of the task cards.
 - Use as an opening activity before reviewing for a standardized test.
 - Use as a closing activity, perhaps closing a standardized test unit.
- These are intended to be used with the [English Standardized Test Powerpoint](#). This powerpoint covers aspects in great detail, with specific examples and questions for students.
- To review and to end the study session, I give students the commonly addressed portions of the English portion. This page has three per sheet - to save you paper. Students can use them as bookmarks, too.

Thanks for inviting me into your classroom,

Lauralee, Language Arts Classroom

Task Cards: ANSWER KEY

1. Tom's summer reading list included *The Fault In Our Stars*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Girl*, *Interrupted*, and *God Bless You, Dr. Kevorkian*.

In a long list, use semicolons to separate the items.

Tom's summer reading list included *The Fault In Our Stars*; *2001: A Space Odyssey*; *Girl*, *Interrupted*; and *God Bless You, Dr. Kevorkian*.

2. Ryan keeps his computer on his desk at night, instead of in the computer case. Every morning, the computer is turned on.

Avoid passive voice unless it is needed for emphasis.

Ryan keeps his computer on his desk at night, instead of in the computer case. Every morning, he turns on the computer.

3. Caitlyn need to study for her test, and will eat dinner.

The verb agreement is incorrect - the sentence is unclear.

Caitlyn needs to study for her test, and then she will eat dinner.

4. Could you please hand me the quarter and washing my car?

The verb mood is incorrect.

Could you please hand me the quarter so I can wash my car?

5. January is my favorite month, it is my birthday month.

This sentence is a comma splice.

January is my favorite month because it is my birthday month.

6. Matt took an extra cookie Jaylon sneaked an ice cream sandwich.

This sentence is a run-on.

Matt took an extra cookie while Jaylon sneaked an ice cream sandwich.

7. George ran errands, skipping lunch.

This sentence has a misplaced modifier. The location of "skipping lunch" looks like it may modify "errands" rather than "George."

Skipping lunch, George ran errands instead.

8. The gerbil a black and gray one raced on its wheel.

This sentence contains an appositive phrase that needs set off with commas.

The gerbil, a black and gray one, raced on its wheel.

9. While attaching the bandage the nurse spoke soothingly to the child.

This sentence has an introductory element that needs a comma.

While attaching the bandage, the nurse spoke soothingly to the child.

10. Everyone on the girl's basketball team received their own t-shirt.

This sentence has a pronoun-antecedent disagreement.

Everyone on the girl's basketball team received her own t-shirt.

11. When Jamie broke her arm, she fainted. Later, she said that the pain was very excruciatingly painful.

The modifiers in this sentence are incorrect - repetitive.

When Jamie broke her arm, she fainted. Later, she said that the pain was excruciating.

12. George and his brother Billy knew that mowing lawns and cleaning gutters would be time-consuming work, but they didn't realize to wash cars would take the longest amount of time!

All of George and Billy's jobs in this sentence are listed as gerunds - except the infinitive. They should be parallel.

George and his brother Billy knew that mowing lawns and cleaning gutters would be time-consuming work, but they didn't realize washing cars would take the longest amount of time!