

Simply Charlotte Mason presents



USING LANGUAGE WELL

2ND EDITION

Additional Practice with
Punctuation and Sentence Construction
BY SONYA SHAFER

Language arts practice for your high school student

As your student begins formal composition lessons, *Using Language Well, Book 7* provides English and grammar practice with a focus on comma usage and effective sentence construction, reinforcing important writing skills.

Designed for high school students to use independently, this course guides your student through 72 lessons that help solidify writing skills. Answers are included in the back so your student can check his own work.

Paired with *The Art of Composition*, your student will learn to communicate with excellence and grow in the skill of using language well.

Book 7: Word Order and Placement

- Word Order in Sentences
- Modifier Placement
- Dangling Participles
- Comma Usage Review

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Book 7 • Additional Practice in Punctuation
and Sentence Construction

by Sonya Shafer



Using Language Well is part of a complete Charlotte Mason curriculum. See where this course fits in the Simply CM curriculum at simplycm.com/curriculum.

Using Language Well, Book 7: Additional Practice in Punctuation and Sentence Construction

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ABOUT *USING LANGUAGE WELL, BOOK 7*

Using Language Well, Book 7 is designed to help the high school student polish his writing in order to communicate ideas clearly and accurately. The focus is on solidifying comma usage and selecting the best word order within sentences. The lessons build on key grammar and punctuation guidelines from previous Using Language Well studies.

- Complete one lesson per week over the course of two school years.
- Each lesson should take about 10 minutes.
- The lessons are designed for the student to complete independently. Answers are given in the back of the book.
- These lessons are designed to be used in conjunction with the weekly lessons in *The Art of Composition* to help the student refine and strengthen his sentences.

LESSON 1

Your ideas are important. People can benefit from what you have to say. So it just makes sense for you to do all you can in order to communicate your ideas clearly and avoid misunderstandings. Miscommunication can be frustrating. If you are trying to describe a scene to a friend, and he ends up picturing that scene completely differently than you do, it can be exasperating.

It's a challenge to communicate clearly, especially in writing. That's why this book is all about using the best practices that help written communication and avoiding common mistakes that hinder it. As you've learned in previous Using Language Well books, the nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, and other words that you choose all contribute to the image that your reader creates in his mind as he reads. But the order in which you put those words and the punctuation that you use with them also contribute to the mental picture in your reader's mind. In this book you will refine your use of punctuation and sharpen your word arrangement to make sure your ideas will be communicated as clearly as possible.

First, let's review restrictive and nonrestrictive clauses or phrases. Restrictive clauses or phrases are essential to understanding the meaning of the sentence clearly. Nonrestrictive clauses or phrases simply add a little additional information on the side.

Restrictive

The brother whom you have met was here yesterday.

The sentence is restricted to only the brother whom the reader has met. No other brother is intended in its meaning. Restrictive clauses or phrases are not set off with commas. They're too important to the sentence to be set off as an aside.

Nonrestrictive

The older brother, whom you have met, was here.

The sentence is focused on the older brother, but the information that the reader has met that brother is just a side comment. That information isn't essential to understanding which brother was here: the older one. Nonrestrictive clauses or phrases are set off with commas.

Read the sentences below and add commas to set off any nonrestrictive clauses or phrases.

1. These are books that you should read.
2. His horse alarmed by the tumult and the crash of shot bolted.

3. Botticelli and Rembrandt kept step in their history both receiving instant recognition in early life and becoming rich.
4. I was awakened by the birds singing their morning songs.
5. Helen Keller often amused herself by reading Latin passages picking up words she understood and trying to make sense.

LESSON 2

Add the correct punctuation to the sentences below to set off any nonrestrictive clauses or phrases.

1. Having coaxed his tired horse to the village he left him at the inn.
2. We came to a beautiful garden overlooking the lake.
3. They who despise good counsel will never be wise.
4. We had not gone far when Sir Roger popping his head out the window called the coachman down from his box.
5. Harriet tempted by everything and swayed by half a word was always very long at a purchase.

Write a sentence that contains a nonrestrictive clause or phrase. Make it a sentence about a cold winter day or another topic of your choice.

Write a sentence that contains a restrictive clause or phrase. Make it a sentence about a spicy taco or another topic of your choice.

LESSON 30

Rewrite each sentence below, adjusting the location of the participle phrase or the dependent clause, in order to change the mental picture it communicates.

1. A collie dog was found by a young man wearing a silver collar.

2. I watched my opponent moving the queen into a dangerous place on the board.

3. The Amazon flows through South America, which is one of the great rivers of the world.

LESSON 71

Rewrite the sentences below to clarify the mental picture as needed. Add correct punctuation as needed.

1. The elephant was ridden by a boy which had a long trunk and big ears.

2. The jogger crossed the bridge running lightly but steadily.

3. Popping in her earbuds, the podcast began.

Add commas where needed in the paragraphs below.

When Hercules was a young man two queenly women once appeared before him. One said, "Follow me O Hercules and I will lead you by pleasant paths to a life of ease. Never a thought need you give to tomorrow. Each day will be filled with enjoyment."

"What is your name most gracious queen?" asked Hercules and the beguiling voice answered, "My name is Pleasure."

The other woman said, "I shall make no false promises to you but if you will follow me and do as I bid you shall have both riches and honor. You must work however for what you get."

"What is your name O fair one?" again asked Hercules and a gentle voice responded, "People call me Goodness."