

Introduction to Oral Language

Because we are judged by the way we speak, these weekly lesson plans provide help and guidance with pesky problems such as “lie” or “lay,” and “less” or “fewer.” Your children will really enjoy it, while learning to evaluate and edit both oral and written language that they see and hear.

Oral Language includes 36 weeks. Lessons coordinate with topics presented in *Foundations of Grammar*. You may choose to teach Oral Language at the same time as Grammar, or in a separate year for grammar review.

The lessons are short. You might enjoy doing this practical subject over lunch time. 😊

For Fun:

Fill a mason jar with small change or small candies, and place it in your home. When someone “catches” someone using these two words *incorrectly*, let them have a prize from the jar.

(Be sure to teach your children to be tactful with people outside your home. If they notice a grammar error, they should whisper it to Dad or Mom privately, never embarrassing others.)

Oral Language Week 1

Using *Among/Between*

Among and *between* are both prepositions, which we also learn in Week 1 of Grammar.

How do you know when to say “among” and when to say “between”?

The only difference between these two prepositions is that

- *Between* is used when talking about TWO persons, places or things.
- *Among* is used when talking about THREE or more.

Examples:

Between

- “I will put enmity **between you and the woman**, and **between your offspring and her offspring**” (Genesis 3:15).
- “...and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram’s livestock and the herdsmen of Lot’s livestock” (Genesis 13:7).

Among

- “And they heard the sound of הָיְהוָה God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of הָיְהוָה God **among the trees of the garden**” (Genesis 3:8).
- “Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled **among the cities of the valley** and moved his tent as far as Sodom” (Genesis 13:12).

Activities:

- Each day, have your students come up with example sentences for *between* and *among*.
- Look up the words *between* and *among* in a *Strong’s Concordance*, to find all their uses in the Bible. Read the verses aloud. Do the usages of these words “sound right” to your ears?
- Fill a mason jar with small change or small candies, and place it in your home. When someone “catches” someone using these two words *incorrectly*, let them have a prize from the jar. (Be sure to teach them to be tactful with people outside your home. If they notice a grammar error, they should whisper it to Mom privately, never embarrassing others.)

Oral Language Week 2

Subject/Verb Agreement

When prepositional phrases show up in a sentence, they can cause big problems. This is one of the reasons we always cross out prepositional phrases before doing anything else, which we also learn in Week 2 of Grammar.

How do you know which sentence is correct?

- The flock of sheep is over there.
- The flock of sheep are over there.

That's tricky! Let's get rid of the prepositional phrase.

- The flock is over there.
- The flock are over there.

Now it's much easier to hear which one is correct:

- *The flock of sheep is over there.*
- *(The flock is over there.)*

You try some now:

1. All of the nations are invited to come to Zion.(correct)
 2. All of the nations is invited to come to Zion.
-
1. The condition of our hearts is evil. (correct)
 2. The condition of our hearts are evil.
-
1. Are some of the flowers blooming? (correct)
 2. Is some of the flowers blooming?

Activities:

- Each day, be sure your student is crossing out prepositional phrases in his grammar lesson *first*.
- Can you find all the prepositional phrases in Psalm 96? You might want to try reading the psalm aloud *without reading any prepositional phrases*. Can you do it?
- Fill a mason jar with small change or small candies, and place it in your home. When someone "catches" someone using these two words *incorrectly*, let them have a prize from the jar. (Be sure to teach them to be tactful with people outside your home. If they notice a grammar error, they should whisper it to Mom privately, never embarrassing others.)

Oral Language Week 3

The Verbs *Can* and *May*

The verb *can* means that you have the *ability* to do something.

The verb *may* means that you have *permission* to do something. It also means that you have the *possibility* of doing something.

You try some now:

1. I can ride a bicycle.
2. I may ride my bicycle when my chores are done.
3. I may ride my bicycle later today.

Which word should you use, *can* or *may*?

1. ___ I open this window?
2. ___ my friend come over and play?
3. ___ I drive the car?
4. I ___ mow the lawn.
5. I ___ run three miles.
6. ___ I speak with you?
7. ___ I have more dessert?
8. I ___ run as fast as my father.
9. I ___ buy new clothes tomorrow.
10. ___ I stop doing my school work now?

Activities:

- Children should try to catch their parents using *can* and *may* incorrectly.
- Check your enunciation of the word *can*. This word can sound quite different from region to region. Practice saying it with another region's accent, such as southern United States or Australian or British.