



ELA Skills Brush-Up with Kids Academy: Getting Ready for Third Grade

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The third grade represents a pivotal jump from second grade when it comes to literacy development. In the early elementary years, the focus is centered squarely around learning to read. But by the end of the second grade, something amazing happens; kids are equipped with all the necessary skills to read more independently. While they are still expanding their vocabulary and decoding larger words, they should be able to read grade level texts without much help. As a result, the third grade shifts the focus from learning to read to using reading as a tool for deeper learning.

Of course, this doesn't mean that children are finished learning to read. Third graders continue to improve their fluency while broadening their literacy skills to gather information and explore new ideas. This may seem like quite a big jump, and it is! Luckily, summer is an excellent time to spend more time reading to strengthen key ELA skills, like fluency and reading comprehension. Below is a guide that reviews four essential skill areas to focus on with your child for a successful start to third grade!

1. Reading Fluency and Comprehension

Second graders are expected to read grade-level texts accurately and smoothly, and many parents are simply unaware whether their child can do this because they are still reading to their kids instead of allowing them to take the lead. To gauge fluency, it's important to offer brief passages that are not too easy or too difficult. Use Kids Academy's reading worksheets for practice.

[Worksheet: Jack and the Beanstalk](#)

[Worksheet: Reading Fiction: The First Day](#)

Jack and the Beanstalk



Read the story.

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Jack. Jack's mom asked him to sell their cow. The boy met a man on the road and traded the cow for a handful of magic beans. Jack's mom was mad. She needed money not beans. She threw them out the window and went to bed. In the morning, they saw that the beans had sprouted. A tall beanstalk grew up to the sky. Jack climbed up and up. He saw a castle at the top and walked in. Jack saw a golden harp on the table. Then, he heard a loud roaring voice. He grabbed the harp and ran back down the beanstalk. Jack's mom traded the harp for money. She bought enough food to last the winter.



Read the sentence and check the missing word.

Jack traded their _____ for beans.

☐☐☐

Realistic Fiction: The First Day



1. Read the story. Circle the correct pictures below.

Rosa skipped out of her house. She was excited. It was the first day of school! She wore new red sneakers and had a big blue book bag. Her friend Miguel came out of his house as she walked by. They greeted each other. Rosa admired Miguel's shiny green lunchbox. The two children strolled down the sidewalk, talking about their Labor Day cookouts. Soon, other children joined them at the bus stop. Then they heard their bus. It was time to start their new school year.



2. Circle Rosa's sneakers.



3. Circle Miguel's lunchbox.



Ask your child to read the passages aloud, and listen for how smoothly, accurately, and quickly they progress through each. Did he or she need help with decoding any words, or were there any lines or words missed or skipped?

After reading for fluency, check on your child's comprehension. Each worksheet includes a question or two to assess whether they are able to understand what they've read. Read through the questions together, and avoid giving the answer! If your learner is unable to answer the question right away, teach him or her to go back to the passage and read quietly until they find the answer.

2. Understanding Literature and Informational Text Features

Soon, your budding third grader will read a wide variety of texts from poetry to informational articles. To prepare, begin introducing different genres and discussing the various attributes that make them unique. For example, poetry is often written using shorter lines and groups of words called stanzas, and it can include rhyming words to make it look and sound even more interesting. Reinforce your child's understanding of rhyming with this online resource.

[Worksheet: Rhyme in Poetry](#)

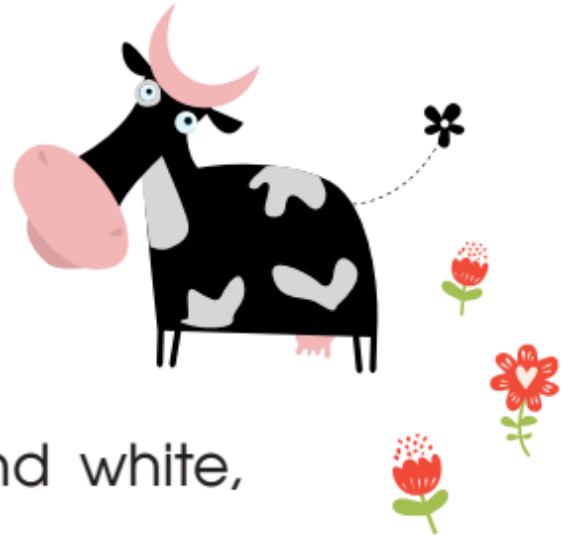
Rhyme in Poetry

Poems often use words at the end of the line that rhyme. Rhyming words are words that have the same ending sounds. They make poems sound nicer.

Read the poem below.

THE COW

by Robert Louis Stevenson



The friendly cow all red and white,
I love with all my heart:
She gives me cream with all her might,
To eat with apple-tart.

Look at the words on the left. Which words do they rhyme with in the poem? Circle the correct rhyming word on the right.

white

heart

might

tart

heart

white

might

apple-tart

Third grade also places an increasing emphasis on informational text. This is where students make the switch from simply learning how to read to using their reading skills to learn new information in all subject areas. There's also a lot to learn about informational texts! They often include diagrams, charts, and new vocabulary words, all in addition to teaching new facts. Check out the following non-fiction reading sheets and discuss how information is presented in each of them.

[Worksheets 1: Life Cycle of Corn](#)

[Worksheet 2: The First Thanksgiving](#)

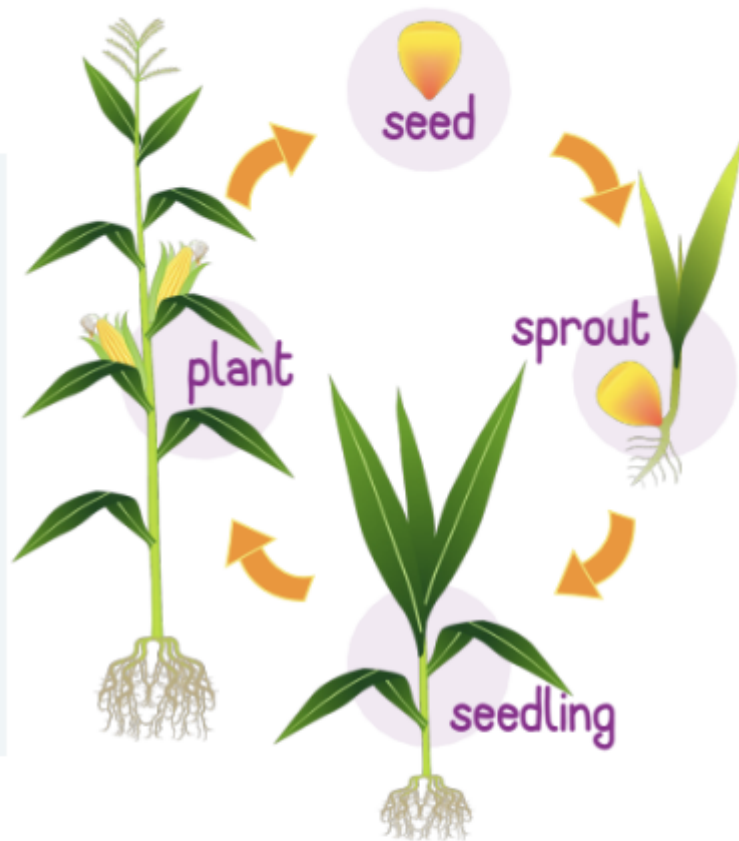


Life Cycle of Corn



Read about the life cycle of corn. Look at the pictures. Then, circle the answers to the questions below.

Corn is an important plant in America. Its life cycle takes one year. It starts as a seed, or kernel, and grows into tall stalks.



1. A small corn plant is called a _____.

corn

stalk

seedling

2. A corn seed is tiny and _____.

yellow

pink

blue

The First Thanksgiving



Read about the First Thanksgiving. Then, read the questions below and check the correct answers.

The Pilgrims grew vegetables. They learned how to fish. They were happy that the Native Americans helped them. They had a big meal together.

This was called the First Thanksgiving. Today, Americans eat a big meal each year in November.



1. What holiday do Americans celebrate in November?

Fourth of July



New Year's Eve

Thanksgiving



2. The Pilgrims felt _____ toward the Native Americans.



sad



thankful



angry

3. Increasing Vocabulary

When we think of learning new vocabulary, most assume this means learning new, whole words. However, third graders learn more about the parts of words so they can decode

new words without needing to look them up. This includes learning word parts, such as prefixes, root words, and suffixes.

[Video: Prefixes: -un, -re, -dis, -by](#)



In the video below, Kids Academy teaches about the most common prefixes and suffixes that learners should look for to quickly decode common words. Inside, you'll find a range of examples to show how prefixes and suffixes change the meaning of root words.

Assess your child's learning with this online quiz over prefixes and root words.

[Quiz: Prefixes and Root Words](#)



1

2

3

4

5

6

7



Choose the meaning of the word that begins with the prefix **in-**.



The answer I gave was incorrect.

correct

not correct

silly

Confirm

Students will also discover compound words, which pair at least two words together to make a new word. By learning how words are constructed, they can build a bigger vocabulary without having to look up every new word they find!

[Worksheet: Compound Words](#)

[Worksheet: Let's Practice Compound Words](#)



Vocabulary Builder:

Compounds



A **compound** word is made up by putting two smaller words together.



Read the sentences below. Choose the correct compound to complete the sentences.

1. Ava got a _____ so she went to the dentist.



toothache toothpaste toothbrush

2. Matt built a friendly _____.



snowflake snowman snowfall

3. What does a bird's _____ look like?



football footprint footwear

4. The brave _____ is coming to the rescue.



fireplace firefly fireman

Let's Practice Compound Words

Identify the compound words.
Tick the boxes next to the compound words.



cucumber

☐

seashell

☐

backpack

☐

kitten

☐

pillow

☐

fireplace

☐

spaceship

☐

dolphin

☐

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4. Writing Conventions

Last, but certainly not least, rising third graders should brush up on their writing skills, especially when it comes to parts of speech, grammar, and punctuation. While most

adults don't often think about parts of speech, knowing how a word functions in a sentence is essential for younger learners to construct meaningful sentences as they begin to write in paragraphs. Review parts of speech starting with nouns, verbs, and adjectives before moving on to adverbs and pronouns.

[Worksheet: Get a Move On!](#)

[Worksheet: Adjectives: At the Zoo](#)

[Worksheet: Dinner Time!](#)

Get a Move On!

Choose the verb that best completes each sentence.

1. The spider got ready to _____.

☐

slide

☐

crawl



2. The fireman is _____ down the pole!

☐

sliding

☐

slithering



3. The snake _____ away.

☐

slid

☐

slithered



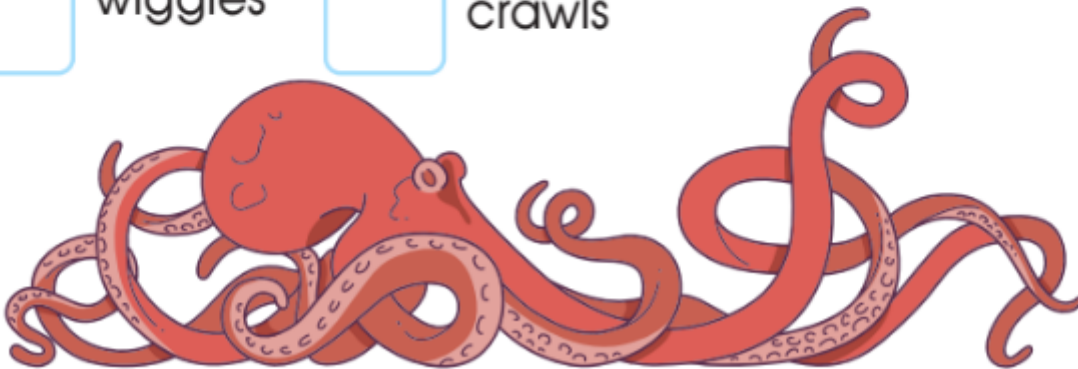
4. The excited octopus _____ his legs.

☐

wiggles

☐

crawls



ADJECTIVES: At the Zoo



Adjectives describe nouns such as animals or people.



1. Circle the words that describe the elephant.

big

small

gray

brown

2. Circle the words that describe the monkeys.

big

small

gray

brown

Dinner Time!

Help the Pilgrims set the table.
Check the nouns.

☐ corn

☐ table

☐ eat

☐ cut

☐ turkey

☐ cup

☐ plate

☐ pumpkin

☐ bake

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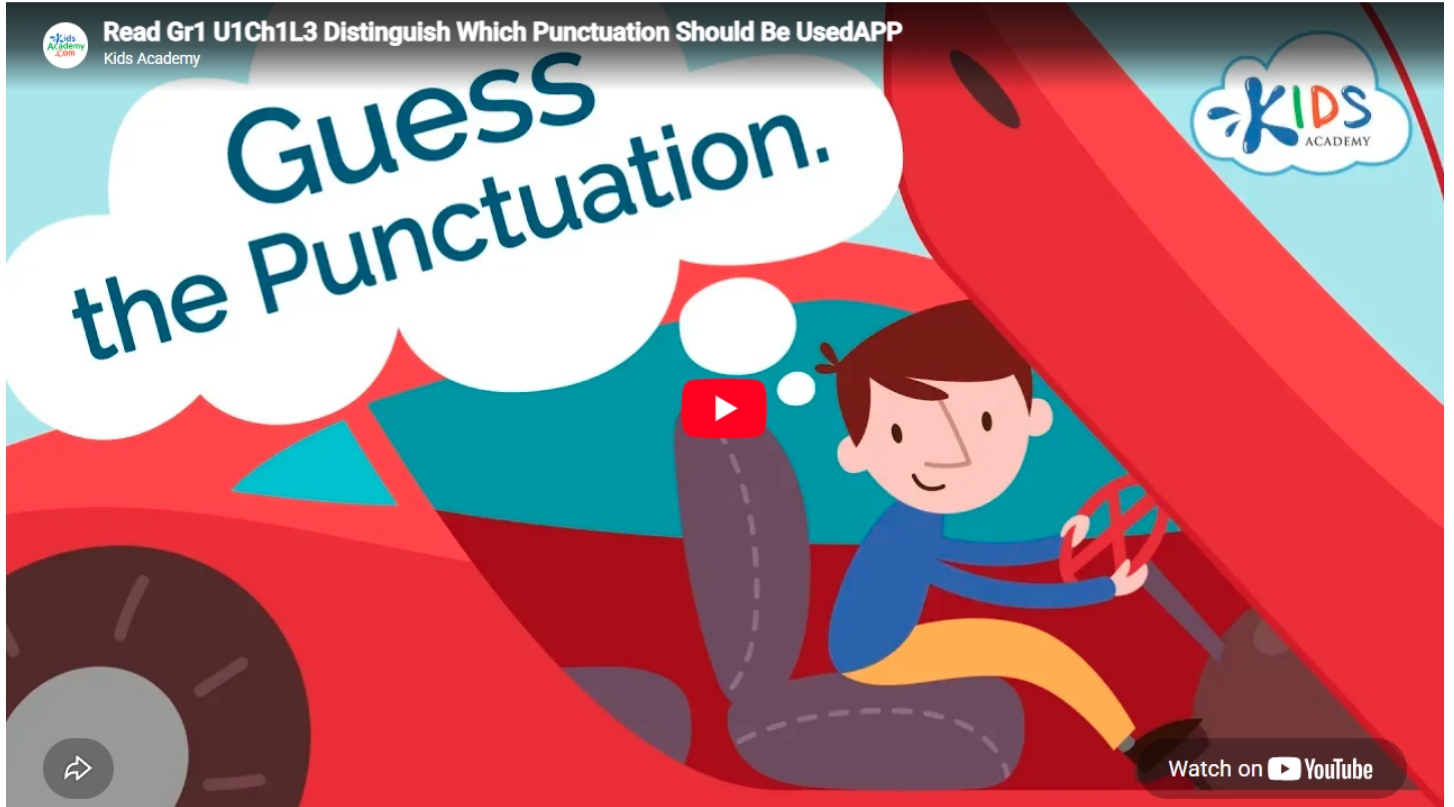
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Get more worksheets at www.kidsacademy.mobi

Each of the printable grammar worksheets above review the basic parts of speech. Don't forget to remind learners what they are and discuss how they function differently in sentences!

Finally, brush up with punctuation rules and when to use which with our Punctuation video that reviews the three basic end punctuation marks: the period, the exclamation mark, and the question mark. Follow up with reviewing more advanced punctuation rules by using the interactive quiz.

[Video: Guess the Punctuation](#)



[Quiz: Commas and Apostrophes](#)



1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

 Choose the correct **possessive form** for each word.

Jacks

friend's

Betties

Jack's

friends

Betty's

Confirm

The summer before third grade offers an opportunity to strengthen key ELA skills that will foster success in the upcoming school year. Asking your child to read to you, watching educational videos and completing quick exercises like those shown above will work to maintain the progress made in the second grade while preparing for challenges ahead. By focusing on crucial ELA skill areas, you can help your rising third grader enter the classroom this fall with confidence a solid foundation for learning.