Grammar instruction and pacing

When to teach language standards related to grammar

The California Common Core State Standards outline language standards for grammar for Grade 6-8 (listed in the charts that follow). Note that this progression suggests that even middle school students review, at grade level, earlier standards. The Amplify ELA four-volume series, *Mastering Conventions*, provides approximately 1,000 pages of targeted grammar instruction and skill drills. The volumes provide instruction for middle-schoolers, but also address foundational skills middle school students may not have fully mastered in grades 3-5.

The chart below shows just a few of the many lessons that address each progressive skill and outlines on which Flex Day you should teach them. On the Flex Day mentioned, the Materials section of the Flex Day lesson brief includes the activities listed in this chart for that grade. Use additional lessons from *Mastering Conventions* and from the Foundational Lessons column for students who require more reinforcement.

The pacing below describes how to use the first 10 Flex Days of the year to make sure that every student is current on both foundational and grade-level skills. Use the remaining Flex Days of the year to refine students' use of these skills to improve the clarity and power of their writing. See the grammar overview in Part 2 of this Teacher Program Guide for more direction about how and when to use these exercises. Note that the most important part of Amplify ELA grammar instruction is to follow each bit of grammar instruction with an opportunity for students to practice the skill in a meaningful piece of writing—and to get authentic feedback on the clarity and power of their sentences.

Grade 6

Volumes below refer to Volumes 1 through 4 of *Mastering Conventions*.
Standards below refer to CA CCSS.

	Progressive Language Standards	Foundational Skills Lessons	Grade 6 Standards
Flex Day Grammar 1	**Standard L.6.1a** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case (subjective, objective, possessive). Use all pronouns, including intensive pronouns (e.g., myself, ourselves) correctly. CA **Standard L.6.1c** Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.	**Volume 1 Unit 1** • Lesson 5: Defining and Identifying Pronouns	**To Teach Standard L.6.1a** **Volume 1: Unit 3** • Lesson 16: Using Pronoun Case Correctly and Consistently **To Teach Standard L.6.1c** **Volume 2: Unit 5** • Lesson 19: Introducing Intensive Pronouns • Skill Drills: 19A, 19B, 19C

	Progressive Language Standards	Foundational Skills Lessons	Grade 6 Standards
Flex Day Grammar 2	**Standard L.6.1e** Recognize variations from standard English in their own and others' writing and speaking, and identify and use strategies to improve expression in conventional language. **For Review: Standard L.3.3a*** Choose words and phrases for effect.	**Volume 1** **Unit 1** • Lesson 3: Defining and Identifying Nouns Defining and Identifying Adjectives • Lesson 6: Defining and Identifying Verbs • Lesson 10: Defining and Identifying Adjectives • Lesson 11: Defining and Identifying Adverbs	**To Teach Standard L.6.1e** **Volume 1** **Unit 5** • Lesson 25: Formal and Informal Writing Styles—Code-Switching **To Review Standard L.3.3a** **Volume 1** **Unit 1** • Lesson 8: Using Modal Helping Verbs to Show More About the Action • Lesson 10: Defining and Identifying Adjectives • Lesson 11: Defining and Identifying Adverbs
Flex Day Grammar 3	**Standard L.6.2a** Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements. **Standard L.6.2b** Spell correctly. **For Review:** Standard L.3.3a* Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-ons.	**Volume 1** **Unit 1** • Lesson 2: Capitalizing and Punctuating Sentences **Unit 4** • Lesson 21: Reviewing Complete Sentences • Lesson 22: Identifying and Fixing Sentence Fragments That Are Prepositional Phrases • Lesson 23: Defining and Identifying Clauses • Lesson 24: Finding and Fixing Sentence Fragments	**To Teach Standard L.6.2a** **Volume 2** **Unit 1** Lesson 2: Using a Comma After an Introductory Clause **To Review Standard L.3.3a** **Volume 1** **Unit 4** Lesson 23: Defining and Identifying Clauses Lesson 24: Finding and Fixing Sentence Fragments Note: If any students require a remedial spelling program, see *Mastering Conventions Four* to implement.

	Progressive Language Standards	Foundational Skills Lessons	Grade 6 Standards
Flex Day Grammar 4	**For Review:** **Standard L.4.1g*** Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., to/too/two; there/their). **Standard L.4.3a*** Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.		**To Review Standard L.4.1g** **Volume 1** **Unit 3** • Lesson 17: Distinguishing Between "Your" and "You're" • Lesson 18: Distinguishing Between "Their" and "They're" • Lesson 19: Distinguishing Between "Its" and "It's" **To Review Standard L.4.3a** **Volume 1** **Unit 1** • Lesson 3: Defining and Identifying Nouns • Lesson 6: Defining and Identifying Verbs • Lesson 10: Defining and Identifying Adjectives • Lesson 11: Defining and Identifying Adverbs
Flex Day Grammar 5	**For Review:** **Standard L.4.3b*** Choose punctuation for effect.	**Volume 1** **Unit 1** • Lesson 1: Capitalizing and Punctuating Sentences	**To Review Standard L.4.3b** **Volume 1** **Unit 1** • Lesson 2: Capitalizing and Punctuating Sentences
Flex Day Grammar 6	**For Review:** **Standard L.5.2a*** Use punctuation to separate items in a series.		**To Review Standard L.5.2a** **Volume 1** **Unit 1** • Lesson 10: Defining and Identifying Adjectives • Skill Drill 10B: Using Commas Between Adjectives

	Progressive Language Standards	Foundational Skills Lessons	Grade 6 Standards
Flex Day Grammar 7	**Standard L.6.1c** Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.		**To Teach Standard L.6.1c** **Volume 1** **Unit 1** • Lesson 5: Defining and Identifying Pronouns **Unit 3** • Lesson 16: Using Pronoun Case Correctly and Consistently
Flex Day Grammar 8	**Standard L.6.3a** Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style. **For Review:** **Standard L.5.1d*** Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense.		**To Teach Standard L.6.3a** **Volume 2** **Unit 3** • Lesson 10: Defining and Identifying Compound Sentences **To Review Standard L.5.1d** **Volume 1** **Unit 1** • Lesson 7: Understanding How Verb Tense Shows When Action Occurs
Flex Day Grammar 9	**Standard L.6.1d** Recognize and correct vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents).		**To Teach Standard L.6.1d** **Volume 1** **Unit 3** • Lesson 16: Using Pronoun Case Correctly and Consistently • Lesson 20: Introducing Reflexive Pronouns
Flex Day Grammar 10	**Standard L.6.3b** Maintain consistency in style and tone.		**To Teach Standard L.6.3b** **Volume 1** **Unit 5** • Lesson 26: Formal and Informal Writing Styles— Code-Switching

Grade 7

Volumes below refer to Volumes 1 through 4 of *Mastering Conventions.*
Standards below refer to CA CCSS.

	Language Standards	Foundational Skills Lessons	Grade 7 Standards
Flex Day Grammar 1	**Standard L.7.1a** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences.	**Volume 1 Unit 1** • Lesson 5: Defining and Identifying Pronouns	**To Teach Standard L.7.1a** **Volume 1 Unit 4** • Lesson 23: Defining and Identifying Clauses

	Language Standards	Foundational Skills Lessons	Grade 7 Standards
Flex Day Grammar 2	**Standard L.7.1b** Choose among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas. **For Review:** **Standard L.3.3a*** Choose words and phrases for effect.	**Volume 1 Unit 1** • Lesson 3: Defining and Identifying Nouns • Lesson 6: Defining and Identifying Verbs • Lesson 10: Defining and Identifying Adjectives • Lesson 11: Defining and Identifying Adverbs	**To Teach Standard L.7.1b** **Volume 2 Unit 3** • Lesson 10: Defining and Identifying Compound Sentences • Lesson 12: Defining and Recognizing Complex Sentences **To Review Standard L.3.3a** **Volume 2 Unit 2** • Lesson 5: Reviewing Nouns and Adjectives • Lesson 7: Identifying Gerunds • Lesson 8: Finding and Fixing Misplaced Modifiers-Adjectives

	Language Standards	Foundational Skills Lessons	Grade 7 Standards
Flex Day Grammar 3	**Standard L.7.1c** Place phrases and clauses within a sentence, recognizing and correcting misplaced and dangling modifiers. **For Review: Standard L.4.1f*** Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-ons. **Standard L.6.2a*** Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/ parenthetical elements.	**Volume 1** **Unit 1** • Lesson 2: Capitalizing and Punctuating Sentences **Unit 4** • Lesson 21: Reviewing Complete Sentences • Lesson 22: Identifying and Fixing Sentence Fragments That Are Prepositional Phrases • Lesson 23: Defining and Identifying Clauses • Lesson 24: Finding and Fixing Sentence Fragments	**To Teach Standard L.7.1c** **Volume 2** **Unit 2** • Lesson 8: Finding and Fixing Misplaced Modifiers— Adjectives **To Review Standard L.4.1f** **Volume 2** **Unit 1** • Lesson 2: Using a Comma After an Introductory Clause **To Review Standard L.6.2a** **Volume 2** **Unit 1** • Lesson 1: Finding and Fixing Sentence Fragments • Lesson 3: Defining, Finding, and Fixing Run-on Sentences

	Language Standards	Foundational Skills Lessons	Grade 7 Standards
Flex Day Grammar 4	**Standard L.7.2a** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. Use a comma to separate coordinate adjectives (e.g., *It was a fascinating, enjoyable movie* but not *He wore an old[,] green shirt*). **For Review: Standard L.4.1g*** Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., to/ too/two; there/their).		**To Teach Standard L.7.2a** **Volume 2 Unit 6** • Lesson 20: Finding and Fixing Comma Errors with Adjectives • Skill Drill 20A: Punctuating Sentences with Multiple Adjectives **To Review Standard L.4.1g** **Volume 1 Unit 3** • Lesson 17: Distinguishing Between "Your" and "You're" • Lesson 18: Distinguishing Between "Their" and "They're" • Lesson 19: Distinguishing Between "Its" and "It's"
Flex Day Grammar 5	**Standard L.7.2b** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. Spell correctly. **For Review: Standard L.4.3b*** Choose punctuation for effect.	**Volume 1 Unit 1** • Lesson 1: Capitalizing and Punctuating Sentences	Note if any students require a remedial spelling program, see *Mastering Conventions* Volume 4 to implement. **To Review Standard L.4.3b** **Volume 2 Unit 6** • Lesson 20: Finding and Fixing Comma Errors With Adjectives • Lesson 21: Using Apostrophes Correctly
Flex Day Grammar 6	No new standard		Apply skills in Grammar Revision Assignments.

	Language Standards	Foundational Skills Lessons	Grade 7 Standards
Flex Day Grammar 7	**For Review:** **Standard L.6.1c*** Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person. **Standard L.6.1d*** Recognize and correct vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents).		**To Review Standard L.6.1c** Volume 2 Unit 5 • Lesson 17: Reviewing Pronouns • Lesson 18: Reviewing Reflexive Pronouns **To Review Standard L.6.1d** Volume 2 Unit 5 • Lesson 17: Reviewing Pronouns
Flex Day Grammar 8	**For Review:** **Standard L.6.3a*** Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style. **Standard L.5.1d*** Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense.		**To Review Standard L.6.3a** Volume 2 Unit 3 • Lesson 11: Defining and Identifying Compound Sentences **To Review Standard L.5.1d** Volume 2 Unit 3 • Lesson 14: Keeping Verb Tense Consistent in Complex Sentences
Flex Day Grammar 9	**Standard L.7.3a** Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy.		**To Teach Standard L.7.3a** This standard is taught explicitly in essay sub-units during the editing lessons. Use Grammar Revision Assignments to enable students to practice using this skill.

	Language Standards	Foundational Skills Lessons	Grade 7 Standards
Flex Day Grammar 10	**For Review: Standard L.6.3b*** Maintain consistency in style and tone.		**To Review Standard L.6.3b**
			Volume 2 Unit 7 • Lesson 24: Formal and Informal Writing Styles—Code-Switching • Skill Drill 24A: Vocabulary • Skill Drill 24B: Conventions • Skill Drill 24C: Vocabulary and Conventions • Skill Drill 24D: Revising by Code-Switching

Grade 8
Volumes below refer to Volumes 1 through 4 of Mastering Conventions.
Standards below refer to CA CCSS.

	Language Standards	Foundational Skills Lessons	Grade 8 Standards
Flex Day Grammar 1	**Standard L.8.1a** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. Explain the function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences.	**Volume 1 Unit 1** • Lesson 5: Defining and Identifying Pronouns **Volume 2 Unit 2** • Lesson 5: Reviewing Nouns and Adjectives • Lesson 7: Identifying Gerunds	**To Teach Standard L.8.1a** **Volume 2 Unit 2** • Lesson 9: Identifying Participles **Volume 3 Unit 2** • Lesson 5: Reviewing Gerunds and How They Act Like Nouns • Lesson 6: Introducing Infinitives

	Language Standards	Foundational Skills Lessons	Grade 8 Standards
Flex Day Grammar 2	**Standard L.8.1b** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. Form and use verbs in the active and passive voice.	**Volume 1** **Unit 1** • Lesson 3: Defining and Identifying Nouns Defining and Identifying Adjectives • Lesson 6: Defining and Identifying Verbs • Lesson 10: Defining and Identifying Adjectives • Lesson 11: Defining and Identifying Adverbs	**To Teach Standard L.8.1b** **Volume 3** **Unit 3** • Lesson 12: Changing Verb Voice for a Different Impact • Skill Drill 12A: Changing Verb Voice from Active to Passive • Skill Drill 12B: Changing Verb Voice from Passive to Active • Skill Drill 12C: Keeping Verb Voice Consistent within a Sentence
Flex Day Grammar 3	**Standard L.8.2a** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break. **Standard L.8.2b** Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission. **For Review:** **Standard L.3.3a*** Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-ons. **Standard L.6.2a*** Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/ parenthetical elements.	**Volume 1** **Unit 1** • Lesson 2: Capitalizing and Punctuating Sentences **Unit 4** • Lesson 21: Reviewing Complete Sentences • Lesson 22: Identifying and Fixing Sentence Fragments That Are Prepositional Phrase • Lesson 23: Defining and Identifying Clauses • Lesson 24: Finding and Fixing Sentence Fragments	**To Teach Standards L.8.2a, L.8.2b** • See Write an Essay Sub-Units. • Specifically see Unit 8C: Biography & Literature, Write an Essay for instruction and practice on the use of the ellipsis. **To Review Standard L.6.2a** **Volume 2** **Unit 1** • Lesson 4: Defining, Finding, and Fixing Run-on Sentences **To Review Standard L.3.3a** **Volume 2:** **Unit 1** • Lesson 2: Using a Comma After an Introductory Clause

	Language Standards	Foundational Skills Lessons	Grade 8 Standards
Flex Day Grammar 4	**Standard L.8.2c** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. Spell correctly. **For Review: Standard L.4.1g*** Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., to/too/two; there/their). **Standard L.4.3a*** Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.	**To Review Standard L.4.1g** Volume 1 Unit 2 • Lesson 17: Distinguishing Between "Your" and "You're" • Lesson 18: Distinguishing Between "Their" and "They're" • Lesson 19: Distinguishing Between "Its" and "It's"	**To Teach Standard L.8.2** • If any students require a remedial spelling program, see *Mastering Conventions Four* to implement. **To Review Standard L.4.3a** Volume 1 Unit 1 • Lesson 3: Defining and Identifying Nouns Defining and Identifying Adjectives • Lesson 6: Defining and Identifying Verbs • Lesson 10: Defining and Identifying Adjectives • Lesson 11: Defining and Identifying Adverbs
Flex Day Grammar 5	**Standard L.8.1c** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. Form and use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood.	Volume 1 Unit 1 • Lesson 1: Capitalizing and Punctuating Sentences	**To Teach Standard L.8.1c** Volume 3 Unit 3: • Lesson 13: Changing Verb Moods for a Different Impact • Skill Drill: 13A Changing Verb Moods Imperative and Indicative
Flex Day Grammar 6	**Standard L.8.1c** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. Form and use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood.		**To Teach Standard L.8.1c** Volume 3 Unit 3 • Lesson 13: Changing Verb Moods for a Different Impact • Skill Drill 13B: Changing Verb Moods—Indicative and Subjunctive • Skill Drill 13C: Changing Verb Moods—Subjunctive to Imperative

	Language Standards	Foundational Skills Lessons	Grade 8 Standards
Flex Day Grammar 7	**Standard L.8.1d** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood.	**To Review Standard L.5.1d** **Volume 1** **Unit 1** • Lesson 7: Understanding How Verb Tense Shows When Action Occurs	**To Teach Standard L.8.1d** **Volume 3** **Unit 3** • Lesson 12: Changing Verb Voice for a Different Impact • Skill Drill 12D: Keeping Verb Voice Consistent Within a Sentence • Lesson 13: Changing Verb Moods for a Different Impact • Skill Drill 13D: Keeping Verb Moods Consistent
Flex Day Grammar 8	**For Review:** **Standard L.6.3a*** Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style. **Standard L.5.1d*** Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense.		**To Review Standard L.6.3a** **Volume 2** **Unit 3** • Lesson 12: Defining and Recognizing Complex Sentences • Lesson 13: Defining and Recognizing Complex Sentences **To Review Standard L.5.1d** **Volume 2** **Unit 3** • Lesson 14: Keeping Verb Tense Consistent in Complex Sentences
Flex Day Grammar 9	**For Review:** **Standard L.7.1c** Place phrases and clauses within a sentence, recognizing and correcting misplaced and dangling modifiers		**To Review Standard L.7.1c** **Volume 3** **Unit 1** • Lesson 3: Reviewing Misplaced Modifiers • Lesson 4: Showing With Participial Phrases
Flex Day Grammar 10	No new standard		Apply skills in Grammar Revision Assignment.