Writing Skills

By Diana Hanbury King
Recommended for grades 5–6

Writing Skills, by Diana Hanbury King, is a comprehensive writing program for beginning, struggling, at-risk, or reluctant writers. This structured program provides an essential foundation in thinking and writing skills while offering strategies, techniques, and opportunities to apply them.

The following sample lesson features pronouns and is designed to reinforce writing and grammar skills. Try this lesson today with an individual student, a small group, or the entire class. Writing Skills can be incorporated into almost any language arts curriculum.

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Recommended Companion Material
See our Companion Material recommendations on page 4 for great materials that complement Writing Skills.
The prefix *pro* means “for.” A **pronoun** is a word that stands for a noun and is used to avoid repetition.

Instead of writing *Tom’s mother gave Tom money for Tom’s lunch*, you could write *She gave him money for his lunch*.

Here is a list of common pronouns.

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Unlike nouns, pronouns do not use apostrophes to show possession. When a pronoun has an apostrophe, it is a contraction. For example, *its* shows possession, but *it’s* is a contraction that means “it is.”

Look at these examples.

**These sentences use *its* to show possession.**

- The dog lifted its head.
- The dragon guarded its treasure.

**These sentences use *it’s* as a contraction.**

- It’s raining.
- It’s my turn.
Exercise 1

Improve these sentences by crossing out the nouns in boldface and writing the correct pronoun above each one.

1. As the child was eating the child’s ice cream the child’s mother drank the mother’s tea.

2. The pony went into the pony’s stable and ate the pony’s oats.

3. My little kitten played with the kitten’s toys and then curled up to sleep on the kitten’s bed.

4. When they arrived, the explorers found natives who helped the explorers grow the explorers’ food and gave the explorers advice on surviving the winter.

5. When the birds return in the spring, they build the birds’ nests and lay the bird’s eggs.

Exercise 2

Now write four sentences using at least four of the following pronouns. You may use more than one in a sentence.

me    they    her    ours
we    them    his    its
us    their    I    yours

1. _______________________________________________________

2. _______________________________________________________

3. _______________________________________________________

4. _______________________________________________________
Recommended Companion Material

EPS offers a wide range of products and programs that complement the exercises and activities in Writing Skills. We recommend the following series to help students develop reading and comprehension skills.

**Wordly Wise 3000**
Grade Level/s: 2–12

Wordly Wise 3000, an EPS bestseller, develops vocabulary and comprehension skills for students in early elementary grades through high school. Each lesson features a word list, exercises that reinforce key vocabulary concepts, and a narrative that builds reading comprehension skills as students identify and apply words in context. The series also includes volumes of blackline master test booklets in state-standardized formats.

**A Spelling Dictionary for Writers**
Grade Level/s: 4–8

This comprehensive but accessible reference tool provides the correct spellings of more than 5,000 frequently used words. A thesaurus offers alternatives for overused words and expressions, and thematic lists help students write about the major curriculum areas. An excellent resource, A Spelling Dictionary improves students’ compositions and fosters competent and resourceful writers.

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