

LANGUAGE ARTS PLACEMENT GUIDE

For a complete Scope & Sequence, please review the Table of Contents found in the individual course descriptions.



Students should be able to complete the skills listed in the "Skill Level Pre-Course" column before beginning that level. If several of the skills have not yet been mastered, we recommend starting in the previous level to build confidence and ensure success.

Phonics + Language Lessons for a Living Education A Comprehensive Language Arts Curriculum for Grades K-12

Course Name	Suggested Grade Level	Skill Level Pre-Course	Course Description
Foundations Phonics 	K/1 <i>can be done in 18 or 36 weeks</i>	→ Your student is showing signs of readiness, such as motivation to read. → Your student may not know his/her letter sounds, or may know just a few.	Through short, interactive lessons, engaging worksheets, and fun hands-on activities, students will learn to read words, sentences, and paragraphs as they learn Biblical truths.
Language Lessons for a Living Education 1 	1 <i>can be done in 18 or 36 weeks</i>	→ Your student has completed <i>Foundations Phonics</i> or another phonics course. → Your student recognizes letters and knows their sounds. → Your student can read short vowel words, long vowels words, words with consonant blends, words with consonant digraphs, and simple sentences. → Your student has the stamina to write their letters and simple words.	Fun lessons and engaging storybooks help students to explore reading, writing, punctuation, and capitalization.
Language Lessons for a Living Education 2 	2	→ Your student has completed Language Lessons 1 or another phonics course. → Your student can read words with consonant blends, words with consonant digraphs, and words with vowel digraphs and diphthongs. → Your student is showing improved attention to reading. → Your student has the stamina to write a complete sentence.	Incorporates picture study, memorization, grammar and punctuation, spelling & vocabulary, observation and application. Students will create their own stories through pictures and sentences, poems, psalms, and letters. Also develops early reading skills and gently develops narration skills.
Language Lessons for a Living Education 3 	3	→ Your student has completed <i>Language Lessons for a Living Education 2</i> or another early language arts course. → Your student can narrate or "tell back" the details of stories. → Your student can spell most short vowel words and many words with long vowels, consonant blends, and consonant digraphs. → You student has a basic understanding of simple sentence structure and the physical stamina to write three sentences.	Continuing with what the student has learned in Level 2, Book 3 will add to their reading, communication and observation skills. They will begin to write paragraphs. They will review and refine lessons from Level 2 in addition to learning new skills.

Phonics + Language Lessons for a Living Education

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Language Lessons for a Living Education 4 	4	→ Your student has completed <i>Language Lessons for a Living Education 3</i> or another elementary language arts program. → Your student can narrate or “tell back” the details of stories. → Your student’s spelling continues to improve. He/she recognizes many spelling patterns, including vowels digraphs and diphthongs. → Your student has an understanding of sentence structure and basic paragraph structure. → Your student has the physical stamina to write 4-5 sentences.	Student will review previous grammar concepts and continue with what they learned in Level 3. Includes noun types, verb tenses, mechanics, and compositions.
Language Lessons for a Living Education 5 	5	→ Your student reads independently and can retell a story without prompts. → Your student recognizes many spelling patterns, but he/she may not know the spelling rules. → Your student understands sentence and paragraph structure and can write 5 sentences. → Your student has been introduced to basic grammar concepts, such as proper nouns, nouns, pronouns, verbs, and adjectives.	Students are encouraged to take the rules and best practices, and make them their own through skilled use. Young writers also start to learn the nuances of communication, organization, and techniques to be more effective in sharing their thoughts through the written word.
Language Lessons for a Living Education 6 	6	→ Student reads independently and can retell a story without prompts. → Student recognizes many spelling patterns and rules and is ready to apply them to new words. → Student understands sentence structure and can write a complex sentence. → Student understands paragraph structure and is ready to write from different perspectives and explore creative and narrative writing.	Independent reading and writing proficiency are developed by consistently writing clear, effective sentences within dynamic paragraphs. In practicing these skills, students will start to incorporate more creative challenges, such as figures of speech and descriptive writing. Students will also review and integrate the eight parts of speech, tricky words and verbs, parts of a story, poems, Bible genres, map studies, picture observation, and much more. With a large Teacher Aids section included, students are equipped to meet any writing challenge.
Language Lessons for a Living Education 7 	7	→ Students are ready to begin <i>Language Lessons for a Living Education Level 7</i> when they can write a well-written paragraph on a given topic, write a book report, properly use common grammar and punctuation, and are ready for self-study methods to learn spelling and vocabulary.	Students will apply lessons to their own lives and learn how to share what they have learned with others. They will learn and practice foundational communication skills through essays, summaries, and oral presentations. They will learn how to apply grammar and punctuation rules in their writing. Students will be well-prepared for successful communication through studying etiquette, verbal and nonverbal communication, and worldview.
Language Lessons for a Living Education 8 	8	→ Students are ready to begin <i>Language Lessons for a Living Education Level 8</i> when they can write two to three well-written paragraphs on a given topic, write a book report, properly use common grammar and punctuation, and are ready for self-study methods to learn spelling and vocabulary.	<i>Language Lessons for a Living Education Level 8</i> continues the journey to prepare students for high school-level communication. This level will strengthen their faith so that they can be effective communicators for Christ. Students will apply lessons to their own lives and learn how to share what they have learned with others. They will learn and practice foundational communication skills through essays, summaries, and oral presentations. They will learn how to apply grammar and punctuation rules in their writing. Students will be well-prepared for successful communication through studying etiquette, verbal and nonverbal communication, and create a personal statement of faith.

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Course Name	Suggested Grade Level	Skill Level Pre-Course	Course Description
Language Lessons for a Living Education 9 	9	→ Students are ready to begin <i>Language Lessons for a Living Education Level 9</i> when they can write at least three well-written paragraphs on a topic, properly use basic grammar and punctuation, recognize abstract ideas, and are ready to learn high school–level vocabulary.	<i>Language Lessons for a Living Education Level 9</i> effectively equips students to be excellent communicators for Christ. This course purposefully prepares students to share their faith in a way that impacts their own generation and beyond. Using <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> as the backdrop, students will apply lessons to their own lives and learn how to share what they have learned with others. Students will learn and practice foundational high school–level communication skills through essays, summaries, interviews, and an oral presentation. They will learn how to apply grammar and punctuation rules in their writing. Students will be well prepared for successful high school communication through the study of etiquette, verbal and nonverbal communication, and worldview and literary analysis.
Language Lessons for a Living Education 10 	10	→ Students are ready to begin <i>Language Lessons for a Living Education Level 10</i> when they can write a five-paragraph essay using well-written paragraphs, properly use basic grammar and punctuation, recognize abstract ideas, and are ready to learn high school–level vocabulary.	Level 10 equips students to be effective communicators through speaking, writing, and expressing. This course purposefully prepares students to share their faith in a way that impacts their generation and beyond. Life of Washington will provide the basis for evaluating the character of one of the most significant men in history. Excerpts from the autobiographies <i>Gifted Mind</i> and <i>The Summit</i> will give students insight into the minds of two men who served God in very different ways. Students will learn and practice foundational high school–level communication skills through essays, summaries, oral presentations, and through writing a biography and autobiography. Research skills will be strengthened through learning the MLA style of citation. Students will learn how to apply grammar and punctuation rules in their writing.
Language Lessons for a Living Education 11 	11	→ Students are ready to begin <i>Language Lessons for a Living Education Level 11</i> when they can write a five-paragraph essay using well-written paragraphs, properly use basic grammar and punctuation, recognize abstract ideas, and can learn high school–level vocabulary.	Language Lessons Level 11 equips upper-level high school students by refining their communication skills in preparation for college and/or career settings. A focus on logic in writing assists students in creating strong and persuasive essays and prepares them to share thoughts and opinions convincingly. Students learn and practice communication skills through essays, summaries, oral presentations, book reviews, grammar practice, and written prayers. Research skills are strengthened through research essays and application of the APA citation style.
Language Lessons for a Living Education 12 	12	→ Students are ready to begin <i>Language Lessons for a Living Education Level 12</i> when they can write a five-paragraph essay using well-written paragraphs, properly use basic grammar and punctuation, recognize abstract ideas, and learn high school–level vocabulary.	Language Lessons 12 equips upper-level high school students by refining their communication skills and building critical thinking abilities in preparation for college, career, and daily life settings. A focus on practical communication instruction and skill-building prepares students for real-world situations. Communication skills are developed through résumé writing, essay assignments, body language analysis, oral presentations, understanding context, creating short stories, learning word efficiency, practicing time management, and refining grammar and writing mechanics. A comprehensive study of the Book of Job strengthens faith, worldview, and literary understanding as the student learns through Dr. Henry Morris' commentary, <i>The Remarkable Record of Job</i> .

Writing Strands - A Full 6 Year Curriculum for Grades 5+

For proper placement in the Writing Strands series, [click here](#).

Course Name	Suggested Grade Level	Skill Level Pre-Course	Course Description
Writing Strands Beginning 1 	5-7	→ Student writes at least 2–3 sentences, and all their sentences are complete, with proper beginning capitalization and ending punctuation.	Students will master basic writing with unique exercises on dialogue, reporting, interviews, role playing, persuasion, story writing, organizing and grouping ideas.
Writing Strands Beginning 2 	6-8	→ Student meets the requirements for Beginning 1 but writes 4–5 sentences.	Students will learn how to effectively master using sentences and paragraphs, main and supporting ideas, process of rewriting, point of view, and creating characters.
Writing Strands Intermediate 1 	7-9	→ Student meets the requirements for Beginning 2 but also wrote a paragraph (at least 4–6 sentences) with a topic sentence and used sentence variety (not all their sentences started the same way or were structured the same way.)	Students will learn about effective paragraphing, descriptive writing, narrative voice, and tense usage, as well as how to analyze plots in literature.
Writing Strands Intermediate 2 	8-10	→ Student meets the requirements for Intermediate 1 but also used effective transitions.	Students will study writing strong arguments, dialogue, papers, and letters, as well as literary elements such as theme, genre, point of view, and tone.
Writing Strands Advanced 1 	9-11	→ Students are ready for either Advanced 1 or Advanced 2 if they meet the requirements for Intermediate 2 but also used specific examples and clear reasoning to explain their answer. For these students, those who are comfortable with completing research assignments should be placed in Advanced 2, but all others should start with Advanced 1.	Students will practice writing reports, short stories, essays, and other forms of writing, and learn about literary devices including imagery, symbolism, and rhetorical language.
Writing Strands Advanced 2 	10-12		Students will refine their writing and research skills, and study John Bunyan's <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> in depth.

Jensen's Series - A Full 4-5 Year Curriculum for Grades 9-12

Course Name	Suggested Grade Level	Skill Level Pre-Course	Course Description
Jensen's Grammar 	9-12	Recommended for ages 13+	Strengthen your student's writing skills with Jensen's comprehensive Grammar course. Students will learn how to properly use nouns, verbs, pronouns, prepositions, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, infinitives, and more.
Jensen's Punctuation 	9-12	Recommended for ages 14+	Equip your student to write clearly and confidently with Jensen's Punctuation. Students will study all aspects of punctuation, from commas to question marks, and parentheses to hyphens.
Jensen's Vocabulary 	9-12	Recommended for ages 15+	Develop an extensive vocabulary as your student learns over 1,000 valuable words from Latin and Greek roots. Students will learn how prefixes, suffixes, and root words fit together to communicate thoughts, concepts, and ideas as they also discover how to decode the meaning of new words.
Jensen's Format Writing 	11-12 <i>(schedules included for completion in 1 or 2 years)</i>	Recommended for ages 16+	Prepare your high school student for college level writing with this well- respected, popular expository writing course. Through simple lessons and systematic practice students will learn how to construct paragraphs, business letters, resumes, essays, and write major papers of 1,000-1,200 words.

Stobaugh's Literature Series - A 3 Year Literature and Composition Curriculum for Grades 9+

Course Name	Suggested Grade Level	Skill Level Pre-Course	Course Description
American Literature 	9-12	Classical approach that emphasizes analysis through assignments, exams and essay prompts. Thorough college-prep coverage of literature and literary analysis. Can be combined with Stobaugh's history curriculum (American History, British History, and World History) for an integrated history/literature course worth 3 credits - 1 Literature, 1 History, and 1 Composition.	A study of American literature (prose, poetry, and drama) from 1750, through settlement, establishment, and Reconstruction to present day, with an overview of narrative background material on writers, their historical settings, and worldviews.
British Literature 	9-12		A study of British Literature from the Anglo Saxon Age, through empires, wars, and world domination to the twentieth century, with an overview of narrative background material on writers, their historical settings, and worldviews.
World Literature 	9-12		A study of world literature from various cultures, such as Egyptian, Jewish, Greek, and Roman, to church history and the modern age, with an overview of narrative background material on writers, their historical settings, and worldviews.