

Mini-lesson: Launching (20) Capitalizing the Beginning of Sentences

Standards: CC 1.1.1 B Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print.
-Recognize the distinguishing features of a sentence.
CC 1.4.1 M Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events.CC 1.4.1 R Demonstrate a grade-appropriate command of the conventions of standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
- Capitalize dates and names of people.
- Use end punctuation; use commas in dates and words in series.
- Spell words drawing on common spelling patterns, phonemic awareness, and spelling conventions.
CC 1.1.1 C Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes).
-Distinguish long from short vowel sounds in spoken single-syllable words.
-Count, pronounce, blend, and segment syllables in spoken and written words.
-Orally produce single-syllable words, including consonant blends and digraphs.
-Isolate and pronounce initial, medial vowel, and final sounds (phonemes) in spoken single-syllable words.
-Add or substitute individual sounds (phonemes) in one-syllable words to make new words.
CC 1.1.1.D Know and apply grade level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
-identify common consonant digraphs, final-e, and common vowel teams.
-Decode one and two-syllable words with common patterns.
-Read grade level words with inflectional endings.
-read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words

Materials:

- Chart Paper
- Markers
- Piece of shared or modeled writing from a previous lesson (prepare a sample that has an error or two)
- Mentor text

Connection: “Writers, we’ve been learning about how professional authors write. Yesterday we learned that when authors write complete sentences they always put a period at the end. This tells their readers that their idea is finished. Now we do this too, we write complete sentences with periods at the end.”
“You may have noticed that professional authors use capital letters at the beginning of their sentences. Capital letters tell us, the reader, that a new idea is beginning. Today we’ll learn to use a capital letter at the beginning of every sentence.”

Teach:

“No matter what kind of sentence you’re writing, the first letter of the first word always needs to be capitalized.”
Consider using a mentor text on document camera or an enlarged photocopy to show an example of a professional author using capitals at the beginning of sentences. Also, reinforce using periods.
“Watch how I use a capital at the beginning of the sentence as I write.” (Write: This afternoon we’ll go to art.) “Did you notice how I started my sentence? It’s very important to always use a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence.”
ELD: Teacher points to the first letter of the sentence as she refers to it. Use a visual of a capital letter vs. a lower case letter with arrows emphasizing their size difference.

Active Engagement: Show a piece of shared or modeled writing from yesterday. Say: “Writers, I need