

# 6+1 Traits: Conventions



## Standard(s):

- Begin using characteristics of good writing: conventions (2, 3)
- Continue using characteristics of good writing: conventions (4-8)

## Pathways Cross-References:

- *1 & 2 Teacher Resource Manual*, pp. 239-269
- *3+ Teacher Resource Manual*, pp. 147-180
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## Recommended Materials:

- K-2—*Cleversticks*
- 3-5—*Abe Lincoln's Hat*
- 6-8—*The Case of the Monkeys that Fell from the Trees and Other Mysteries in Tropical Nature*
- White Board/Markers
- Writers' Notebooks

## Suggestions for Additional Mini-lessons:

- Spelling
- Capitalization
- Punctuation
- Grammar and Usage
- Paragraphing

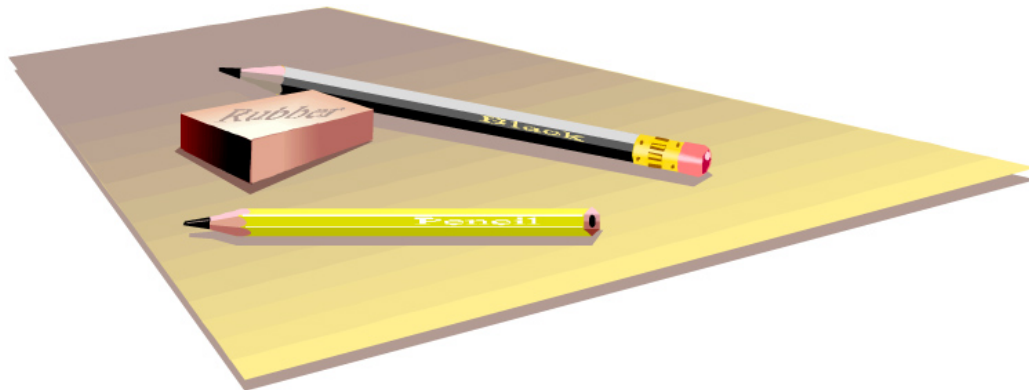
**Please note:** This Mini-Lesson is intended to serve as a guide to assist teachers in creating their own instruction for the Writing Workshop. While a script is provided, it should not be read without personal adaptation.

## Conventions

	Connect	Explore	Practice
<b>K-2</b>	<p>What does a driver do when they see a stop sign? That's right. They stop.</p> <p>Did you know that readers need stop signs as well?</p> <p>What's an example of a stop sign for a reader? Yes, a period is one example. Where do you find the stop signs? Yes, at the end of sentences.</p> <p>We're going to learn more about reading stop signs today.</p>	<p>The author, Bernard Ashley, wrote the book, <i>Cleversticks</i>. He used a number of stop signs as he wrote the sentences. Let's read the book and see how many different stop signs he used.</p> <p>There are seven characteristics or traits of good writing that all learners should know about. One of the traits is CONVENTIONS. One type of convention that an author uses is the punctuation at the end of each sentence. There are three different types of punctuation or stop signs that a writer can choose to use—period, question mark, exclamation point. They each signal the reader to stop to either complete a thought or answer a question.</p> <p>Did you find each of these stop signs in <i>Cleversticks</i>? Put your finger on a sentence that ends with a period, a question mark, an exclamation point.</p> <p>Let's choose a page from the book and read it, ignoring the stop signs. What do you think? Did it make sense without the stop signs at the end of the sentences? Punctuation at the end of sentences helps us make sense of what we read.</p>	<p>I have copied a page from <i>Cleversticks on "Something's Missing,"</i> but I left out the punctuation at the end of the sentences. Read the page and put the correct stop sign at the end of each sentence.</p> <p>When you are done, read your page to your writing buddy, stopping briefly at the end of each sentence. Does it make sense to your buddy? If not, work with your buddy to check the punctuation at the end of the sentences.</p> <p>Remember to use stop signs at the end of your sentences when you write.</p>

## Conventions

<p>3-5</p>	<p>What does a driver do when they see a yield sign?</p> <p>That's right. They pause.</p> <p>Readers need to pause as well when they read. What is the particular punctuation mark that tells you to pause?</p> <p>A comma!</p> <p>We're going to learn more about the use of commas today.</p>	<p>In the book, <i>The Courage of Sarah Noble</i>, by Alice Dalgliesh, the author tells how Sarah Noble was brave as she and her father set up a farm. Let's reread any three pages in the book. Look for commas and think about where the author uses commas to create pauses in the text.</p> <p>There are seven characteristics or traits of good writing that all learners should know and use. They describe the qualities of good writing as well as provide a common language for us to talk about writing. One of the traits is CONVENTIONS. One example of a writing convention is the use of commas. Commas help create a certain rhythm or flow to the writing when pauses are alternated with words.</p> <p>Where did the author use commas in <i>The Courage of Sarah Noble</i>? I'll record your responses on the board.</p> <div data-bbox="521 915 1260 1035" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"><p>Ex. Where two short sentences are combined. In a list of items. Between a city and a state.</p></div> <p>Choose another two pages from the book and read them to a friend, pausing briefly when commas appear in the text. Now reread the same pages ignoring the commas, allowing for no pauses. What do you notice? Why are commas important to the rhythm of reading?</p>	<p>Read the page from <i>The Courage of Sarah Noble</i> on "A Brief Pause." You will notice that commas have been omitted. Insert commas where you think they should go.</p> <p>Read your page to your writing buddy after you have inserted the commas. Does it read with good rhythm?</p> <p>Now, check your page with the first page of Chapter One in the book.</p>
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## Conventions

	Connect	Explore	Practice
<b>6-8</b>	<p>Drivers are provided many different road signs to guide them as they drive.</p> <p>The same is true of readers. Authors provide many different signs to help the reader understand the text.</p> <p>Punctuation is one type of sign that they use.</p> <p>Let's explore the use of colons today. Think about how they differ from a period.</p>	<p>The author, Susan Quinlan, uses a variety of punctuation marks in her stories. Let's skim the first story in the book, <i>The Case of the Monkeys that Fell from the Trees and Other Mysteries in Tropical Nature</i>. Place a post-it next to a colon each time you find one.</p> <p>Remember that there are seven characteristics or traits of good writing that all learners should address in their writing. Not only do they provide a common language for us to talk about writing but they allow you to become a self-evaluator. You can critique your own writing by referring to the traits. One of the traits is CONVENTIONS. Punctuation, grammar, capitalization, and spelling are different types of conventions that authors use.</p> <p>Someone share one of the examples of the use of a colon from the book. I'll write it on the board.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Ex. But most biologists are intrigued by a much larger mystery: How and why do so many kinds of plants and animals live in tropical forests?</p> </div> <p>Why did the author use a colon instead of a period here? Why did the author not make this two separate sentences? What is similar about the part that comes before the colon and the part that comes after?</p> <p>Let's examine several other examples from the book.</p>	<p>Complete "Where's the Colon?" Insert the missing colons in each sentence or phrase. Write a reason or rule on the line under the sentence or phrase for using a colon in that particular place.</p> <p>Compare your reasons with a friend's.</p> <p>Remember to use colons in appropriate places in your writing.</p>

## Conventions

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### *“Apply” Ideas:*

- Have learners add a frequently misspelled word list to their writing notebooks. They can personalize the list as well.
- With learners’ help, create an editing checklist for writing to post in the writing center. Copies can be made to include in students’ writing notebooks as well.
- Make anchor charts with the learners for punctuation and capitalization.
- Have students read their pieces backwards to check for spelling errors.
- Develop a Word Wall with high frequency words that learners can reference when they write.

### *“Share” Ideas:*

- Have learners create a podcast that explains the rationale for good grammar or good spelling.
- Learners can be tutors for a lower grade level, tutoring students in their writing, particularly in relation to punctuation, spelling, grammar, and capitalization.
- As a culminating activity for a unit on writing conventions, have students select a piece from their writing notebooks to publish.



# All About Conventions

- **Spelling**
- **Capitalization**
- **Punctuation**
- **Grammar and Usage**
- **Paragraphing**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Something's Missing

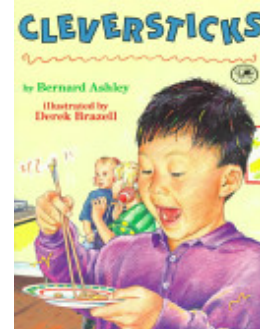
Read the page below from the book, *Cleversticks*.

Put the correct punctuation or stop sign at the end of each sentence.

You may use a period, a question mark, or an exclamation mark.

Period .
Question Mark ?
Exclamation Mark !

Ling Sung couldn't even do up the apron with the Velcro tabs The others said it kept making a rude noise He turned his back on them He was fed up with clapping for other people for the things they could do Why couldn't he be good at something, too



Name \_\_\_\_\_

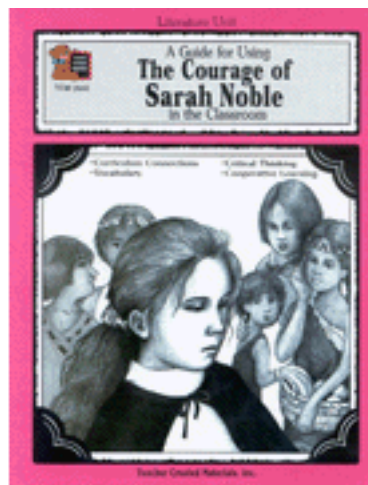
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### A Brief Pause

Read the page below from the book, *The Courage of Sarah Noble*. Commas have been omitted. Insert commas where you think they should go. Check your page when you are done by comparing your work with the first page of Chapter One in the book.

Sarah lay on a quilt under a tree. The darkness was all around her but through the branches she could see one bright star. It was comfortable to look at.

The spring night was cold and Sarah drew her warm cloak close. That was comfortable too. She thought of how her mother had put it around her the day she and her father started out on this long hard journey.





Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Where's the Colon?

The sentences and phrases below are missing a colon. Insert the missing colon. Provide a reason on the line below the sentence for using a colon in that particular place in the sentence.

1. You will be required to bring many items books, pencils, notebooks, paper, and markers.

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2. The teacher's remark was straight to the point I won't tolerate students that come in late.

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3. The collision occurred at approximately 130 p.m. on Friday.

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4. Dear Rachel

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5. Genesis 21 3

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Assessment Rubric: Conventions

	<b>K-2</b>	<b>3-5</b>	<b>6-8</b>
<b>Spelling</b>	Sight words are spelled correctly. 1 2 3	Sight words and high-frequency words are spelled correctly. 1 2 3	Less familiar words are spelled correctly. 1 2 3
<b>Capitalization</b>	Sentences begin with capital letters. 1 2 3	Basic capitalization rules are followed. 1 2 3	Capitalization is used consistently. 1 2 3
<b>Punctuation</b>	Punctuation is used at end of sentences. 1 2 3	Basic punctuation rules are followed. 1 2 3	Punctuation is used consistently. 1 2 3
<b>Grammar and Usage</b>	NA	Standard English grammar is used. 1 2 3	Standard English grammar is used consistently. 1 2 3
<b>Paragraphing</b>	NA	NA	Paragraphing is used consistently. 1 2 3
<i>Total Score</i>	/9	/12	/15

Note: Score each criterion on the left of the chart on a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 being low and 3 being high, for the particular grade band of the student.