85 MORE Lesson Launchers

SAMPLE PAGE

Spelling and Grammar

WALCH EDUCATION®

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Introduction

Walch Education's *85 Lesson Launchers* series is a wonderful way to turn extra classroom minutes into valuable learning time. Use the 85 quick activities at the beginning of class to focus students on instruction; near the end of class to make good use of transitional time; in the middle of class to shift gears between lessons–or whenever you have minutes that now go unused. *85 Lesson Launchers* are a natural lead-in to more in-depth activities.

85 Lesson Launchers are easy to use. Simply photocopy the day's activity and distribute it. Or, make a transparency of the activity and project it on the board. Use the activities for extra credit points or to check your students' skills as they are acquired and built over time.

85 Lesson Launchers are a convenient and useful supplement to your regular class lessons. Make every minute count!

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Linking Verbs

Some **linking verbs** show a state of being: *Manny **is** in the media center*, for example. Other linking verbs link the subject of the sentence with another word: *Lisa **was** the winner of the spelling bee*.

Action verbs show physical action (*Lisa **won** the spelling bee*), mental action (*Manny **daydreamed** in the media center*), or ownership (*Sandi **has** a new scooter*).

Write a descriptive paragraph with four to six linking verbs. After completing your paragraph, substitute action verbs for the linking verbs. Write the action verbs above the linking verbs. Change other words in the paragraph as needed.

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Common and Proper Nouns

A **noun** names a person, a place, a thing, or an idea. A **common noun** names any person, place, thing, or idea (*school*, *town*, *athlete*). A proper noun names a specific person, place, thing, or idea and is always capitalized (*Hughes Middle School*, *Los Angeles*, *Michael Jordan*).

List three common nouns related to objects in your classroom. Then list three proper nouns related to your classroom.

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Common Nouns	Proper Nouns

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Simple Sentences

A **simple sentence** has one subject and one verb. A **compound sentence** is made up of at least two simple sentences that are joined together, usually with a comma and a **coordinating conjunction.** The coordinating conjunctions are and, but, or, and yet.

Two simple sentences: *Carmen is a drummer. Her band is playing at Central Auditorium tomorrow.*

One compound sentence: *Carmen is a drummer,* ***and*** *her band is playing at Central Auditorium tomorrow.*

Write four simple sentences about an activity you enjoy. Then turn the simple sentences into two compound sentences.

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Passive/Active Voice

Sentences can be in the **passive voice** or the **active voice**. The passive voice shows the subject being acted on. The passive voice uses a form of the verb *be* plus the past participle of the main verb: *The team **was applauded** by the PTA*. The active voice shows the subject acting: *The PTA **applauded** the team*.

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Write three sentences in the passive voice.

Now change the sentences to the active voice.

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Gerunds

A **gerund** is a verb form used as a noun: ***Volunteering*** *is an important part of his life.*

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Write ten gerunds that describe something you like to do.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Now use five of the gerunds you wrote in sentences. Circle the gerunds.

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Homonyms

Use each of the following words in a different sentence to show the correct meaning: *hear/here; right/rite/write; wail/whale; stake/steak.*

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Expressions

Imagine you're an English teacher. Why would you mark each of these expressions incorrect in a student's essay: *in view of the fact that; might of; could of; between you and I; past history?*

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Essential & Nonessential Clauses

Write three sentences with nonessential clauses ***(NE)*** and three sentences with essential clauses ***(E)***. Label the clauses with the corresponding abbreviations.

What is the difference between the two types of clauses?

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