

# Placement Guide for *Using Language Well*

from Simply Charlotte Mason

## Guide for Book 1 (recommended for grades 3–4)

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| 1. Does your student write on notebook paper-size lines?   | YES: Use <i>Using Language Well, Book 1</i> with <i>SpellingWisdom, Book 1</i> . |
| 2. Can your student easily read the following sentences?<br>Be content with your lot; one cannot be first in everything.<br>Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.<br>All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen. | NO: Look at <i>Hymns In Prose</i> Copybook and Pathway Readers.                  |
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## Guide for Book 2 (recommended for grades 5–6)

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| 1. Is your student at least ten years old?   | YES: Use <i>Using Language Well, Book 2</i> with <i>SpellingWisdom, Book 2</i> . |
| 2. Can your student tell why each mark of punctuation is in the following sentence?<br>“A trifle more of that man,” he would say, “and I shall explode.”   | NO: Look at the Guide for Book 1.  |
| 3. Can your student easily read the following sentences?<br>You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.<br>Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened.<br>Up the two terrace flights of steps the rain ran wildly and beat at the great door, like a swift messenger rousing those within. |  |
| 4. Would your student know how to spell all but three or four words in each of those sentences (in #3)?  |  |
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## Guide for Book 3 (recommended for grades 7–8)

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| 1. Can your student explain what a subject and a predicate are?  | YES: Use <i>Using Language Well, Book 3</i> with <i>SpellingWisdom, Book 3</i> . |
| 2. Can your student tell what each of these parts of speech is or give an example?<br>• Noun                      • Adverb                      • Preposition<br>• Pronoun                  • Action verb                • Interjection<br>• Article                    • Helping verb              • Conjunction<br>• Adjective                • Linking verb   | NO: Look at the Guide for Book 2.  |
| 3. Can your student identify the part of speech of each italicized word in the following sentence?<br><i>Each of us has in his possession an exceedingly good servant or a very bad master</i> , known as Habit.   |  |
| 4. Would your student know how to spell all but three or four words in each of the following sentences?<br>Not to excite suspicion by her look or manner was now an object worth attaining.<br>Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose.<br>It is a fair, even-handed, noble adjustment of things that while there is infection in disease and sorrow, there is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor. |  |
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# Answers

## Book 2

2. Can your student tell why each punctuation mark is in the following sentence?

“A trifle more of that man,” he would say, “and I shall explode.”

The opening quotation marks signify the beginning of the quoted material.

The comma after *man* separates the quoted material from the dialogue tag.

The closing quotation marks after *man* signify the end of the quoted material.

The comma after *say* separates the dialogue tag from the rest of the quoted material.

The opening quotation marks before *and* signify the beginning of the quoted material.

The period after *explode* marks the end of the statement sentence.

The closing quotation marks after *explode* signify the end of the quoted material.

## Book 3

1. Can your student explain what a subject and a predicate are?

A subject is that which the sentence is about. The predicate is what is said about the subject.

(Your student does not have to elaborate as outlined below; that information is given only to help you evaluate your student's answer.)

The complete subject and predicate include all correlating modifiers and phrases.

Example: Commerce with England and the West Indies | went forward by leaps and bounds.

The simple subject and predicate disregard modifiers and phrases and use just the essential words.

Example: Commerce | went

2. Can your student tell what each of these parts of speech is or give an example?

Answers and examples do not have to be worded exactly as stated below but should contain similar ideas.

- Noun—A noun is a name of a person, place, thing, or idea. (Some examples: child, garden, book, peace.)
- Pronoun—A pronoun is a word that replaces a noun. (Some examples: I, you, he, she, it.)
- Article—The words *A*, *an*, and *the* are articles.
- Adjective—An adjective is a word that describes—that affects the meaning, or modifies—a noun or a pronoun. (Some examples: blue, easy, delicious.)
- Adverb—An adverb is a word that modifies a verb or an adjective. It describes how, where, when, or to what extent. (Some examples: happily, deftly, very, now.)
- Action verb—An action verb is a word that asserts action. (Some examples: read, narrate, paint, travel.)
- Helping verb—A helping verb is a word that helps the action verb or linking verb convey a more accurate sense of time. (Some examples: shall, may, have, been.)
- Linking verb—A linking verb is a word that links the subject with a description of it. (Some examples: is, are, was, were.)
- Preposition—A preposition is a word that introduces a phrase and shows the relation between the principle word of the phrase and some other word in the sentence. (Some examples: at, above, with, from.)
- Interjection—An interjection is an independent word used in the sentence only for the purpose of expressing strong feeling. (An example: Oh! now I see what you mean.)
- Conjunction—A conjunction is a word that connects single words or groups of words within a sentence. (Some examples: and, but, or, because.)

3. Can your student identify the part of speech of each italicized word in the following sentence?

PRO PP PRO AV PP PRO/ADJ N ART ADV ADJ N CONJ ART ADV ADJ N  
*Each of us has in his possession an exceedingly good servant or a very bad master,* known  
as Habit.

PRO = pronoun  
LV = linking verb  
ADV = adverb

N = common noun  
HV = helping verb  
PP = preposition

PN = proper noun  
ADJ = adjective  
CON = conjunction

AV = action verb  
ART = article  
INT = interjection

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