



FAMILY GUIDE TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 1



Academic standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. The **Kansas English Language Arts (KELA)** standards focus on reading, writing, speaking, listening and communication development. Your student's mastery of these academic standards ensures they are well prepared for life after high school graduation.

The KELA standards are a collection of skills that students should learn and be able to perform at advancing levels in order to meet the five foundational practice for language arts.

Language arts foundational practices:

- Speak, read and listen appropriately in all subject areas.
- Seek to understand different viewpoints.
- Use knowledge gained from reading and writing to help solve problems.
- Create different versions of texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Self-regulate and monitor growth in writing, speaking, reading and listening.

Example KELA expectations:

Ask and **answer** questions.

Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills to figure out unfamiliar words.

Retell stories, including key details.

Demonstrate understanding of the central message or main idea of a text.

Explain major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information.

Gather facts and information from multiple texts.

Write about a variety of topics, providing details and a sense of closure.

Capitalize dates and names of people.

Use commas in dates

and to separate single words in a series.

Collaborate in shared research and writing projects.

Recall information from experiences.

Converse about topics and texts.

Describe people,

places, things and events with pertinent details.

Express ideas clearly using complete sentences in writing and when speaking.

Determine the correct meaning of a word based on how the word is used in a text.

What might this look like in a classroom?

Students in a language arts classroom should be able to ...

Write, speak, read and **listen** in all content areas to build knowledge.

Set goals and monitor their progress.

Solve problems.

Create meaning.

Think critically about real-world issues.

Develop a deep understanding of the world using foundational literacy practices.

Build on their literacy skills from prior years.

What can I do to support learning at home?

- Talk to your child at home!

What did you learn today?

Did you understand?

What was difficult or what do you need more help with?

- Encourage your child to read.
- Visit the library and read a book together.
- Look at your child's work and talk to them about it.

Outside Resources

- **Learning Heros:** <https://bealearninghero.org/learning-tools/parents/>
- **Parents' Guide to Students Success, National PTA:**
<https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Parents-Guides-to-Student-Success>
- **Kansas Vision for Education, Kansas State Department of Education:**
<http://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/Communications-and-Recognition-Programs/Vision-Kansans-Can>
- **Parent Toolkit:** <https://www.parenttoolkit.com/>
- **English Language Arts, KSDE:** www.ksde.org/ela

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