

Grade 2 ▶

Unit Four

PRE-INSTRUCTION CHECKLIST

MECHANICS	ACQUAINTANCE & ANALYSIS
<input type="checkbox"/> apostrophe use: contractions	<input type="checkbox"/> Expository: Step-by-Step How-to/How it Happens (Observable)
	WRITING ON DEMAND
	<input type="checkbox"/> ongoing, all disciplines

PATTERN STATEMENT

Important details make things clear.

NOTES

Necessary details that are clear in the writer’s head can become confusing generalizations in writing. For example, a writer may visualize a specific number of teaspoons of hot chocolate mix being added to a mug of warm milk but write, “Put the hot chocolate powder into the milk.” By not including the detail of how much hot chocolate mix to add, the writer leaves the reader confused and guessing.

However, too much detail can overwhelm a reader and overcomplicate directions or an explanation. Clarity in this genre often depends on selecting the details that are critical for the reader to understand the explanation or be able to carry out the directions and including those details, and only those, in the writing.

This unit provides an opportunity to review and apply previously mastered revision skills, as well as practice the mechanics skill of using apostrophes.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The pattern, *Important details make things clear*, can be illustrated by projecting on out-focus-image from a projector. Set the projector so that the image is as out of focus as possible. As the discussion (see questions below) progresses, adjust the projector a little at a time until the details of the image are clearly visible (EX-ex).

After each focus adjustment, discuss the following with students:

- What’s wrong with the picture? Why can’t we tell what it is? What can’t we see clearly?
- How is it better than it was before I adjusted the focus? What can we see more clearly?
- What, if any, details can we see? (EX-co)

Use questions and the students comments to guide them to the pattern statement and record it for display during the rest of the unit (EX-el). Ask the students to identify other things that illustrate the pattern—things that are easier to see or understand because when the important details are included (EX-ap).

GENRE

EXPOSITORY: Step-by-Step How-to/How it Happens (Observable)			
Definition		Objective	
Presents clear explanation or directions for a complete process		With teacher prompting, student writes cohesive (unified and complete) and coherent (clear and logical) directions within a connected (i.e., not list) format for a well-known, concrete process, such as how to do the hokey-pokey or how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.	
Rubric			
EXEMPLARY	PROFICIENT	ADEQUATE	NOT YET
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Writing presents a clear and concise paragraph describing most steps in a recognizable process. Steps of the process are written in a logical order. ▶ Writing uses good transitional words. It flows and does not read like a list of isolated steps. ▶ All needed details have been included so each step of the explanation or directions is complete and easy for the reader to understand or follow. ▶ Additional revisions may minimally improve text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Writing presents a clear and concise paragraph describing most steps in a recognizable process. Steps of the process are written in a logical order. ▶ Writing uses some transitional words. It only occasionally reads like a list. ▶ All needed details have been included so each step of the explanation or directions is complete and easy for the reader to understand or follow. ▶ Additional development or revisions may further connect the ideas so the writing flows and reads like connected text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Writing presents a clear and concise directions for or explanation of a recognizable process. Steps of the process are written in a logical order. ▶ Writing lacks transitional words (e.g., <i>First, Next</i>). It reads like a list OR some steps lack details that would help the reader complete them correctly. ▶ Additional development or revision would connect the ideas so that the writing reads less like a list and/or each step includes complete information for the reader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Writing does not present cohesive (unified and complete) and coherent (clear and logical) directions in a paragraph (i.e., not list) format for a well-known process. ▶ Additional development or revisions will significantly improve the explanation by making it clear, and easy to understand or by presenting it in a connected, paragraph form.

PRACTICE TEXT

One of the best summer desserts you'll ever taste is a s'more, short for "Some more!" They're simple to make and delicious to eat. Get graham crackers, milk chocolate bars, and fluffy marshmallows. After you've cooked and eaten, find a stick you can use. Clean one end of the stick as well as possible. Break them in half to make two squares from each cracker. Open the chocolate bars and break them. Grab a marshmallow. Hold the marshmallow over the warm coals and turn your stick so each side of the marshmallow gets golden brown. Now it's time to put your s'more together. Gently squish the sandwich together. The hot marshmallow will melt the chocolate, and you'll enjoy a sweet, gooey summertime treat. You'll probably even say, "Smore, please."

A POSSIBLE REVISION

This is not THE correct revision, but one possibility. Accept any justifiable revisions.

One of the best summer desserts you'll ever taste is a s'more, short for "Some more!" They're simple to make and delicious to eat. As your family packs for a cookout, be sure to include graham crackers, milk chocolate bars, and fluffy marshmallows. After you've cooked and eaten, find a sturdy, long stick you can use to hold a marshmallow over the warm coals from the fire used to cook the hamburgers and hotdogs. Clean one end of the stick as well as possible. Set the stick aside and unwrap the graham crackers. Break them in half to make two squares from each cracker. Open the chocolate bars and break them into squares close to the same size as the graham cracker squares. Set the graham crackers and chocolate aside but close enough that you can reach them quickly. Grab a marshmallow and carefully poke the clean end of the stick through it so the marshmallow stays on the stick. Hold the marshmallow over the warm coals and turn your stick so each side of the marshmallow gets golden brown. Now it's time to put your s'more together. Set a square of chocolate on a graham cracker, carefully slide the hot marshmallow on top on top of the chocolate, and cover it with another graham cracker square. Gently squish the sandwich together. The hot marshmallow will melt the chocolate, and you'll enjoy a sweet, gooey summertime treat. You'll probably even say, "S'more, please."

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