

Grammar Punk: What's all this about?

Grammar Punk is a dice game that helps students master many common grammar and punctuation rules. The game will be used frequently in class. No wagering!

The Dice

There are six dice: *consonants, vowels, numbers, parts of speech, punctuation marks, and topics.*

The Game

While there are many variations on how we will use the game in class and exactly how competitive it becomes, the basic idea is as follows:

- 1) Roll the dice.
- 2) Write sentences that meet the requirements of the dice roll. **Sentences must be grammatically correct, but they do not have to make any logical sense.**
 - a. Who can finish an acceptable sentence first?
 - b. Who can write the shortest sentence that still meets all the requirements?
 - c. Who can use words no one else thinks of?
 - d. Who can write a sentence that is actually true and/or logical as well as grammatically correct?
- 3) Share the most engaging and entertaining sentences.

Example: Roll the Bones!

Vowel: **A**

Punctuation: **comma (,)**

Consonant: **T**

Topic: **Sports**

Number: **4**

Part of Speech: **Adjective**

Based on this dice roll, students would need to write a sentence about sports with four (4) *AT* words (words that contain both an *A* and a *T*), a correctly used comma, and an adjective. The sentence can contain as many words as the writer wants, but four of them have to contain both an *A* and a *T*. The *A* and the *T* do not have to be right next to each other in the word, nor does the word have to start with *A* or *T*. The sentence must correctly illustrate at least one comma rule. It may illustrate other punctuation rules as well, but in order to meet the requirements of this dice roll, it must use a comma correctly. (Sometimes the specific punctuation rule will be named when the dice are rolled; other times it will be up to the student.) Somewhere in the sentence, there needs to be an adjective – doesn't matter where. The topic of the sentence should be sports, but the mere mention of a sporting term will work. Here are some sentences that would meet this requirement:

- 1) Carl's baseball bat wasn't very *strong*, so it shattered and the team lost.
- 2) I usually eat at the table, but today I'm dining with a *little* rat named Winston on the soccer field.
- 3) Sheila likes athletes who play football, and they usually find her anatomy *attractive*.

Strategies to Start: Make a word pool; look for words in the pool that you can relate to the topic; identify words in the pool that are the required part of speech; identify the punctuation rule you will use in your sentence; look for creative, humorous, or entertaining combinations; write your sentence; check to see that you have met all the requirements of the dice; revise if necessary; share; submit

Grammar Punk Practice

What do the dice say? _____

Word Pool

Sentence: _____

Checklist

of dice words

Punctuation

Topic

Part of speech

* * * * * * * * * * * *

What do the dice say? _____

Word Pool

Sentence: _____

Checklist

of dice words

Punctuation

Topic

Part of speech