

Table of Contents

Overview of <i>Exploring English Grammar</i>	3
Scope and Sequence.....	6
<i>Exploring English Grammar, Level F Overview</i>	13
Content Area Index, Level F.....	13
Using <i>Exploring English Grammar</i>	16
General Suggestions.....	19
Lesson Plans	
Unit 1 Sentences	20
Unit 2 Nouns	28
Unit 3 Verbs	32
Unit 4 Pronouns	43
Unit 5 Adjectives and Adverbs	49
Unit 6 Phrases, Clauses, and Complex Sentences	54
Unit 7 Capital Letters	60
Unit 8 Punctuation and Style	64
Unit 9 Choosing the Right Word	71
Unit 10 Writing Letters	78
Reproducible Masters.....	84

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Choosing the Right Word

Introduction

Tell students that they will be learning more about words in this unit and that they will be concentrating on choosing the best words for their writing. The English language is full of words that sound the same or sound similar. Some of these words are commonly misused. In order to communicate clearly, students should understand the correct usage of homophones and misused words, and recognize how to find the correct word.

Parent Letter

Include this sample parent letter in your classroom newsletter, on your website, or in your blog.

Dear Parents,

In our *Exploring English Grammar* book, we will be studying how to choose the correct word to use in different situations.

- » We will learn about homophones and how to use them correctly.
- » We will avoid using double negatives.
- » We will learn about words that are often misused and how to use them correctly.

Here are some activities to do with your child to help with what we are learning.

- » Read an interesting magazine article together. Then have your child circle homophones.
- » Encourage your child to use interesting words in writing. Praise his or her attempts at choosing the best words.

Thank you for your help at home!

Objective To correctly use the words *them* and *those*, and *who* and *whom*.

Enrichment Invite a beekeeper to come to your class and discuss beekeeping. Look at images of the types of tools needed to be a beekeeper.

Working with the Lesson

Remember Read and discuss this section. Look at the examples. Define the words and allow students to use them in other sentences. Discuss the difference between *who* and *whom*. There are many online resources to help students who have difficulty with the use of *who* and *whom*.

Think About Have the students work as a group, with a partner, or individually.

Read and Apply Read the directions as a class. Let students complete this section independently.

Write About Read the directions as a class. Have students complete this section independently. Allow time for students to share their paragraphs with the class.

Review Read the directions together. Then have students work independently to complete the activity. Review the answers as a class.

Lesson 3 Misused Words

Remember The object pronoun *them* should never be used as an adjective. Use the adjectives *those*, *these*, or *the* instead.
 those
 Stephanie made ~~them~~ earrings herself.

Who is a subject pronoun. *Whom* is an object pronoun.

Subject Who found my hat?
 I saw a man ~~who~~ could stand on his head.

Object To whom did you give the flowers? (object of a preposition)
 Dr. Parker is the one ~~whom~~ I will see. (direct object)

Think About Think about replacing *who* with *he* and *whom* with *him*. How does that help you decide which word is the right one to use?
 Answers will vary.


Read and Apply Read the sentences. Find the five misused words. Cross out each misused word and write the correct word above it.

Many people ~~whom~~ enjoy raising their own food find beekeeping an exciting hobby. Those beekeepers ~~who~~ would like to make a profit can sell some of the honey. Others for ~~who~~ beekeeping is not a business may give ~~those~~ honey away as gifts. ~~Them~~ beekeepers who are not patient and careful may ruin their hives or harm themselves.

The worker bees are the ones ~~who~~ do most of the work. They collect pollen, take care of the young, and guard the hive. The drovers' purpose is to mate with ~~the~~ queen. The queen, ~~whom~~ is the leader of the hive, lays ~~those~~ eggs. As ~~them~~ eggs hatch, the new bees join the hive.

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Write About Write a paragraph about an animal that can provide something people can use.
 Answers will vary.



Review Read each sentence. Circle the correct word to complete each sentence.

- Mom found [those them] socks behind the dryer.
- [Who Whom] will you interview for school?
- The artist [who whom] painted this picture is very talented.
- My hamsters live in this cage, and I feed [those them] every day.
- [Who Whom] lives in this house?
- The piano teacher with [who whom] I study gave a concert.

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