

- **Sentences begin** with a capital letter
- **Proper nouns** are capitalized: President Obama; July; Tuesday
- **Titles** are capitalized: *A Tale of Two Cities*; "The Lottery"
- The **first word in a direct quotation** is capitalized: Teresa asked, "Do I have a passing grade in English?"



- **Subject/verb agreement:**
The can of lima beans sits on the shelf **NOT** The can of lima beans sit on the shelf.
- **Consistent and correct verb tense:**
 - At the movie, Sam stood up and dropped his popcorn. **NOT** At the movie, Sam stood up and drops his popcorn.
 - Narratives are written about in present tense
- **Consistent point of view:**

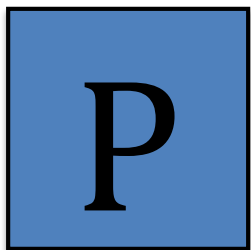
Even though he believed weight loss was possible, he did not know how hard it would be until he tried to lose a few pounds.

NOT

Even though he believed weight loss was possible, you do not know how hard it can be until you try to lose a few pounds.

- **Parallel construction:**

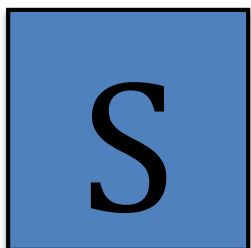
I enjoy running, swimming, and playing football. **NOT** I like to run, swimming, and to play football.



- **End Punctuation:** period, question mark, or exclamation point
- **Commas:** between cities and states (Eugene, Oregon); after a greeting (hello,); after an introductory clause; before and after a clause inserted into a sentence; separating a series of words (I like peas, carrots and tomatoes); separating a sentence from a direct quote; before a conjunction that connects two sentences
- **Colon:** Used to introduce a list and to separate elements of time
- **Semicolon:** used like a period to connect two closely related sentences or when listing a series of phrases
- **Apostrophe:** used in contraction or to show possession

Possession: Susie's book; the Jones' house; the girls' books

Quotation Marks: used for direct quotes; titles of short stories, and magazine or newspaper articles



- Correctly spell common words appropriate for discipline and grade level
- Commonly misspelled homophones:

To; too; two	bare; bear	buy; by; bye	here; hear	grate; great
Hole; whole	know; no	new; knew	piece; peace	principal; principle
Right; write	tail; tale	vary; very	wear; where	your; you're
which; witch				