

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What differentiates *Common Core Progress English Language Arts (ELA)* from all other Common Core ELA supplements?

Common Core Progress ELA is a comprehensive supplemental program that is organized by the Reading and Writing topics set forth by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The Reading units include all CCSS Reading Standards which are taught using one continuous text, along with the CCSS Language Standards for Vocabulary Acquisition and Use. Each Writing unit aligns to the previous Reading unit by theme and type of text. All the CCSS Writing Standards, Language Standards for the conventions of standard English, and Speaking and Listening Standards are covered in the Writing units.

2. How can *Common Core Progress ELA* work with our existing curriculum and core program?

Common Core Progress ELA provides comprehensive instruction, scaffolded practice, and varied assessment options for 100% of the Grades K–8 CCSS for ELA. Therefore, you can choose to use the program in one of the following two ways to supplement your existing core ELA:

- **Standards Approach.** Lessons in *Common Core Progress ELA* focus on a single CCSS, making it easy to select content that maps to your core curriculum and “dip in and out” of the program to address any gaps in a core curriculum, teaching one standard at a time.
- **Topic Approach.** *Common Core Progress ELA* units are organized by the Common Core Reading Topics and Writing Topics. Teachers may choose to use the units from the program in full or large chunks to provide additional instruction and practice for students as they proceed through the corresponding topics in their textbooks. This approach provides more intensive coverage of the CCSS. In this case, you will teach related standards under a reading or writing topic.

3. How can *Common Core Progress ELA* address diversity and multiple learning styles of students?

Diversity and multiple learning styles of students are addressed through:

- **The Instructional Model**
The instructional model in *Common Core Progress ELA* is based on the Gradual Release of Responsibility model. Each standard is taught through direct and guided instruction (“I do it”), guided practice (“We do it”), peer collaboration (“You do it together”), and concludes with independent practice (“You do it independently”). There are various support materials teachers and students can use to meet their individual needs such as the Reading Foundational Handbook, Writing Handbook, graphic organizers, and additional activities for reinforcement in the Teacher’s Edition.
- **The Lesson Design**
Each lesson breaks down each CCSS into meaningful instructional presentations building knowledge and conceptual understanding of the standard and the Reading/Writing Topic. In the Reading units, each standard is introduced and taught using one continuous text, building knowledge for better understanding of the Standard. The Writing units align to the Reading units by theme or type of text, making connections between reading and writing.

- **Differentiating Instruction**

Common Core Progress ELA meets the needs of all students with various ways to scaffold instruction. In the Teacher's Edition, Modification boxes, at the bottom of every lesson page, outline ways to teach English language learners, struggling students, or students who need additional challenges. In the Teacher's Edition, each unit includes If-Then charts for observational assessments and diagnostics, Assessment Rubrics for short-answer questions, and Analyze Student Scores Charts.

4. How can *Common Core Progress ELA* help increase test scores?

Common Core Progress ELA puts standards-based instruction into practice by aligning curriculum, instruction, and assessment in every unit and at each grade level, K–8. Each element of the unit—including direct and guided instruction, and independent work—focuses on critical skills and provides students the range of encounters, varied practice opportunities, and levels of application necessary to gain the proficiencies required by ELA standards. In addition, Comprehension Checks and Common Core Review in every unit include varied question types that help gauge the level of students' understanding of the Standards.

5. What print and digital assessment options are available?

Common Core Progress ELA provides multiple formative assessment options—in print and digital formats—to provide teachers with the tools that measure students' achievement of the CCSS and help guide instruction.

- **Common Core Review**, at the end of every unit, assesses the individual CCSS taught in each unit.
- **Unit, Mid-, and End-of-year Performance Tasks** assess a cluster of the CCSS in a real-world setting.
- **Progress Monitor Benchmark Assessments** (4) each assess 100% of the CCSS. The objective of administering these assessments is to provide feedback to both teachers and students during the course of the year about the gap between students' current and desired performance toward the standards so that action can be taken to close the gap. It is recommended that Benchmark 1 be used as a diagnostic assessment at the beginning of the year to identify the skill set of students in order for teachers to plan/target instruction to meet each student's needs. Benchmarks 2 and 3 are recommended as formative assessment tools to use throughout the year to identify students' strengths and weaknesses and modify instruction accordingly. Benchmark 4 would be administered shortly before students take the end-of-year high-stakes assessment and acts as a predictive assessment that would identify how well students would do on the end-of-year high-stakes state test.

6. What support resources are available to teachers, students, and parents?

The FREE Online Resources at www.SadlierConnect.com include resources for students (additional reading passages), teachers (Performance Tasks, additional practice, graphic organizers, and support for implementing the product), and parents (Home Connect Activities).

7. How does *Common Core Progress ELA* address the Shifts in English Language Arts?

Common Core Progress ELA is built on the CCSS, integrates the ELA Instructional Shifts, and provides complex literary and informational texts to increase content knowledge, improve academic vocabulary, and enhance students' ability to read and write grounded in evidence from text. See the enclosed fact sheet for more detailed information.