ETS® PRAXIS®

The *PRAXIS*® Study Companion

English Language Arts: Content Knowledge (5038)

II. Language Use and Vocabulary

1. Understands the conventions of standard English grammar, usage, syntax, and mechanics
   a. explain the function of the different parts of speech
   b. identify errors in standard English grammar, usage, syntax, and mechanics (e.g., inconsistent verb tense, non-parallel structure, sentence fragments, run-ons)
   c. justify grammar, usage, syntax, and mechanics choices (e.g., colon versus semicolon, its versus it's, saw versus seen, etc.)
   d. identify different components of sentences (e.g., clauses, phrases)
   e. identify different structures of sentences (e.g., simple, complex, compound)

2. Understands the use of affixes, context, and syntax to determine word meaning
   a. apply knowledge of affixes to determine word meaning
   b. use context clues to determine word meaning
   c. apply knowledge of syntax to determine word meaning
   d. analyze nuances of word meaning and figures of speech

3. Understands the use of print and digital reference materials to support and enhance language usage
   a. determine the most appropriate print or digital reference material (spell checker, style manual, dictionary, glossary) for a particular language usage task

4. Is familiar with variations in dialect and diction across regions, cultural groups, and time periods
   a. identify variation in dialect and diction across regions, cultural groups, and time periods
   b. understand the concept of dialect and its appropriateness depending on purpose and audience

5. Knows commonly used research-based approaches for supporting language acquisition and vocabulary development for diverse learners
   a. recognize examples of commonly used research-based strategies for language acquisition and vocabulary development
   b. evaluate the effectiveness of specific strategies to support language acquisition and vocabulary development
   c. interpret research and apply it to particular instructional challenges related to language acquisition and vocabulary development

Discussion Questions: Language Use and Vocabulary

- What are the most common errors that student writers make in grammar and sentence structure?
- How do punctuation and word order impact meaning in a sentence?
- How do variations in language impact communication?
- How are dialect and diction used in literature and in oral communication?