

**The Comprehension-Writing Connection:
Using Language Structures to Gain or Convey Meaning**

Language Structure	Role in Reading Comprehension	Role in Writing
Rules of capitalization and punctuation	Assist the reader in identifying proper nouns and the beginning and ending of a sentence. Provide information about phrasing and emphasis.	Enable the writer to offer clues to the audience about sentence structure, phrasing, and emphasis.
Transition or connecting words	Serve as a signal to the reader to anticipate the text structure and the relationships between or among ideas in sentences and paragraphs.	Enable the writer to present ideas in a more organized format, to link ideas in the text, and to tell the audience the structure of the ideas.
Sentence structure (syntax and rules of grammar)	The reader uses knowledge of syntax to chunk parts of sentences into meaningful units, to confirm recognition of words, and to infer the meaning of unfamiliar words.	The writer use knowledge of syntax to vary sentence structure, to create compound and complex sentences, and to make the writing richer through the use of advanced parts of speech.
Paragraph structure	The reader uses paragraph structure to identify main ideas (stated or implied) and supporting details.	The writer uses paragraph structure to organize writing into main idea chunks and to convey that structure by indenting each new paragraph.
Essay structure	Helps the reader identify the theme and conclusion while reading as well as the main points that support the theme.	Helps the writer to present a clear statement of theme and to organize ideas into a structure that supports the development of the theme.
Expository text markers (headings, subheadings, and other visual clues)	Provide clues and a framework for chunking reading into manageable units; help the reader identify the hierarchy of main ideas and subordinate ideas.	The writer can use headings and subheadings to organize ideas during writing and to provide the audience with a guide for identifying the hierarchy of ideas.
Expository text patterns (cause and effect, compare and contrast, enumeration, etc.)	Help the reader determine a pattern by which the information is presented in the text and how details are related.	Enable the writer to relate details in a way that indicates the relationship of those details.
Narrative story structures	The reader uses story structures to identify the characters, setting, sequence of events, and plot/theme.	The writer uses story structure to clearly convey information about the characters, setting, sequence of events, and plot/theme of the story. The writer also uses story structure to let the audience know the type of narrative (e.g., folktale, biography, short story).
Graphic organizers	Help the reader to organize and process the information in the reading material and to remember what has been read.	Help the writer organize ideas before writing, to develop a plan for writing, and to follow the plan during writing.