

# THE LEARNING WALL

## E - H

The 3 – 5 ELA Concept Learning Bricks packet is organized alphabetically, with each concept explanation (concept, question, answer, gesture, and examples) listed first and the Concept Learning Brick visual listed behind the explanation. This section contains **23** Concept Learning Bricks from the E and H sections. Please refer to The Learning Wall Introduction and Explanation at [www.PEPnonprofit.org](http://www.PEPnonprofit.org) for details on how to implement these items in your classroom.

### Ee

encyclopedia, exclamatory,  
expression

### Gg

genre, geographical name  
rule, glossary, greeting of  
a letter

### Ff

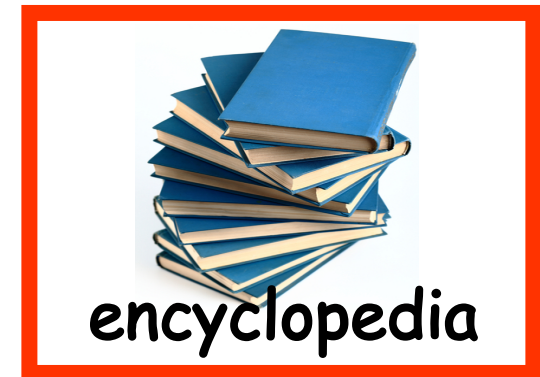
fable, fact, fairy tale, fantasy,  
fiction, figurative language, first  
word of a sentence, five parts of a  
letter, folktale, foreshadowing,  
future tense

### Hh

holiday name rule,  
homographs, homonyms,  
homophones, hyperbole

# Encyclopedia

**Question:** What is an encyclopedia?



**Answer:** An encyclopedia is a reference book (often in several volumes) containing articles on various topics (often arranged in alphabetical order) dealing with the entire range of human knowledge.

**Gesture:** Pretend to open a book and then put both hands on your head to symbolize all of the information.

**Examples:** List a number of topics and have the kids decide if they could find information in an encyclopedia. Telephone number for a relative. The history of the steam engine train. Departure times for an airport. Information about the Han Dynasty in China. Types of fruits that grow in Hawaii.



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# encyclopedia

# Exclamatory

**Question:** What is an exclamatory sentence?



**Answer:** An exclamatory sentence is a sentence that expresses strong feelings and ends with an exclamation point.

**Gesture:** Pump your arm and bring it down excitedly and hold your other hand as a fist under the arm you're bringing down to look like an exclamation point.

**Examples:** Which of these sentences are exclamatory sentences: No, you cannot dye the dog's hair! Can I go to the movies? Soap is for washing, not for eating. I don't want to go to Grandma's house! Grapes are used for many different things. I scored three goals at the soccer game!



exclamatory

# Expression

**Question:** What is expression?



**Answer:** Expression is the act of expressing, conveying, or representing in words, art, music, or movement.

**Gesture:** Move your arms gracefully to express happiness then move your arms violently to express anger.

**Examples:** Play “Morning” by Edvard Grieg, but don’t tell the class the name of the song. Have the students discuss what the music sounds like. This can be a springboard into how words, art, music, and dance can all demonstrate expressions for different moods.



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# expression

# Fable

**Question:** What is a fable?



**Answer:** A fable is a moral tale, usually with animal characters.

**Gesture:** Use one hand to form a dog to represent an animal character. Use same hand to tap your heart to represent a moral tale.

**Examples:** Read The Eagle and the Fox (or any fable of your choice) and have the kids discuss what makes this a fable and decide what the moral is in the story. In the case of The Eagle and the Fox, the moral is to do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

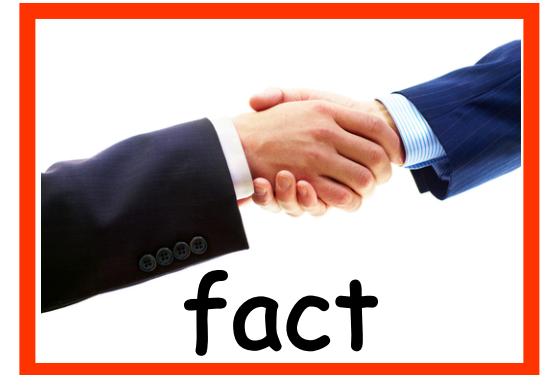




fable

# Fact

**Question:** What is a fact?



**Answer:** A fact is something known to exist or to have happened.

**Gesture:** Put both hands together, shaking hands, to show an agreement on the fact.

**Examples:** Is the statement, pink is a pretty color, a fact? Is the statement, we need air to breath, a fact? Is the statement, water freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit, a fact? Is the statement, your dad has smelly feet, a fact? Is the statement, George Washington is on the USA one dollar bill, a fact? Is the statement, Wednesday comes before Thursday, a fact? Is the statement, my older brother is better than your older brother, a fact?



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fact

# Fairy Tale

**Question:** What is a fairy tale?



**Answer:** A fairy tale is a fictional story with characters (such as fairies, witches, princesses, and talking animals) and casting of spells, often involving a far-fetched sequence of events.

**Gesture:** Cup one hand and put it on top of head, like a crown, to represent a prince or princess.

**Examples:** Ask the following questions: Is The American Revolution a fairy tale? Is Alice in Wonderland a fairy tale? Is Cinderella a fairy tale? Is The History of Ancient Egypt a fairy tale? Is Jack and the Beanstalk a fairy tale?



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**fairy tale**

# Fantasy

**Question:** What is a fantasy?



**Answer:** A fantasy a genre that uses magic and other supernatural forms as a primary element of plot, theme, and/or setting.

**Gesture:** Use hands to mimic a magician's abra cadabra motion.

**Examples:** Ask the following questions: Is The Lord of the Rings a piece of fantasy? Is The Life and Times of Thomas Jefferson a piece of fantasy? Is California Missions a piece of fantasy? Is Harry Potter a piece of fantasy?



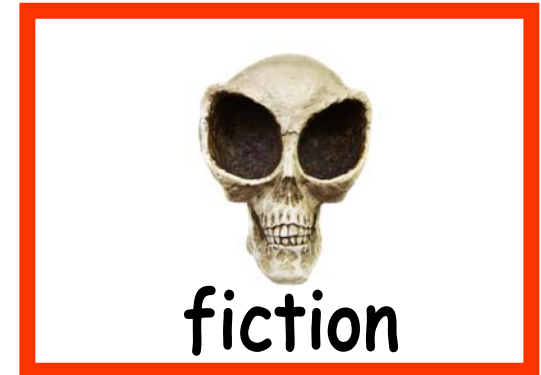
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fantasy

# Fiction

**Question:** What is fiction?



**Answer:** Fiction is writing which is produced by the imagination and is not necessarily based on fact; often considered fake.

**Gesture:** Use three fingers and point to your two eyes, but an imaginary eye in the middle of your forehead, because it is not real.

**Examples:** Ask the following questions: Is Cinderella a piece of fiction? Is The Giver a piece of fiction? Is How to Bake Cookies a piece of fiction? Is The History of World War I a piece of fiction? Is Jack and the Beanstalk a piece of fiction?





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**fiction**

# Figurative Language

**Question:** What is figurative language?



**Answer:** Figurative language compares, exaggerates, or means something other than what it first appears to mean. Picture: Sing at the top of my lungs.

**Gesture:** Do a SILENT rock and roll yell and hold up your arm and then touch the top of your lungs.

**Examples:** Write down the following examples and figurative language categories. Give a brief lesson on why these are figurative and literal language. Examples: busy as a bee, you are what you eat, he was so hungry, he ate that whole cornfield for lunch, stalks and all, simile, metaphor, hyperbole.



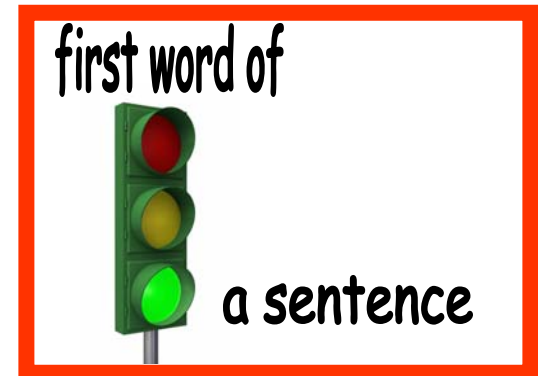
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figurative language

# First Word of a Sentence

**Question:** What is the first word of a sentence rule?

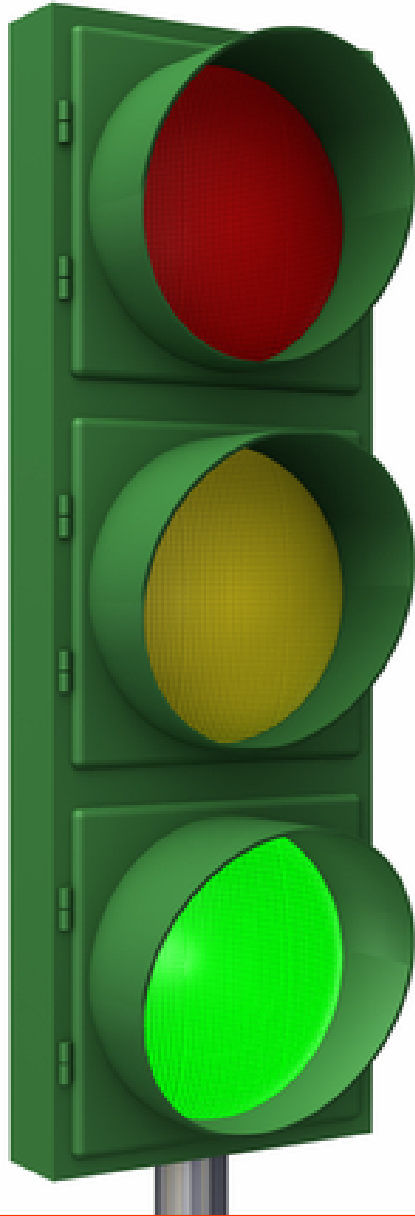


**Answer:** The first word of a sentence rule is that the first word of a sentence must be capitalized.

**Gesture:** Hold your hand high above your head to represent a capitalized letter or an upper case letter each.

**Examples:** Write down the following sentences and fix them with the class. is it time for recess? we went to the movies last night. that was awesome game! come in here immediately. Notice that it doesn't matter what type of sentence it is, they all need the first word to be capitalized.

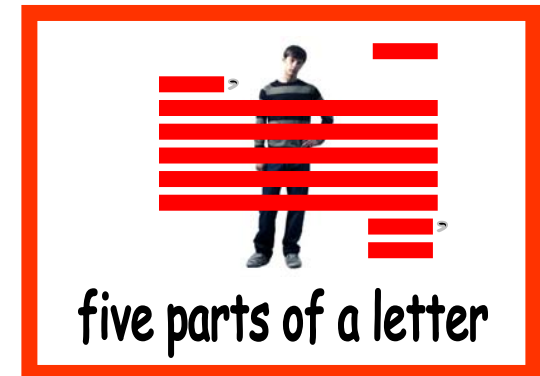
first word of



a sentence

# Five Parts of a Letter

**Question:** What are the five parts of a letter?



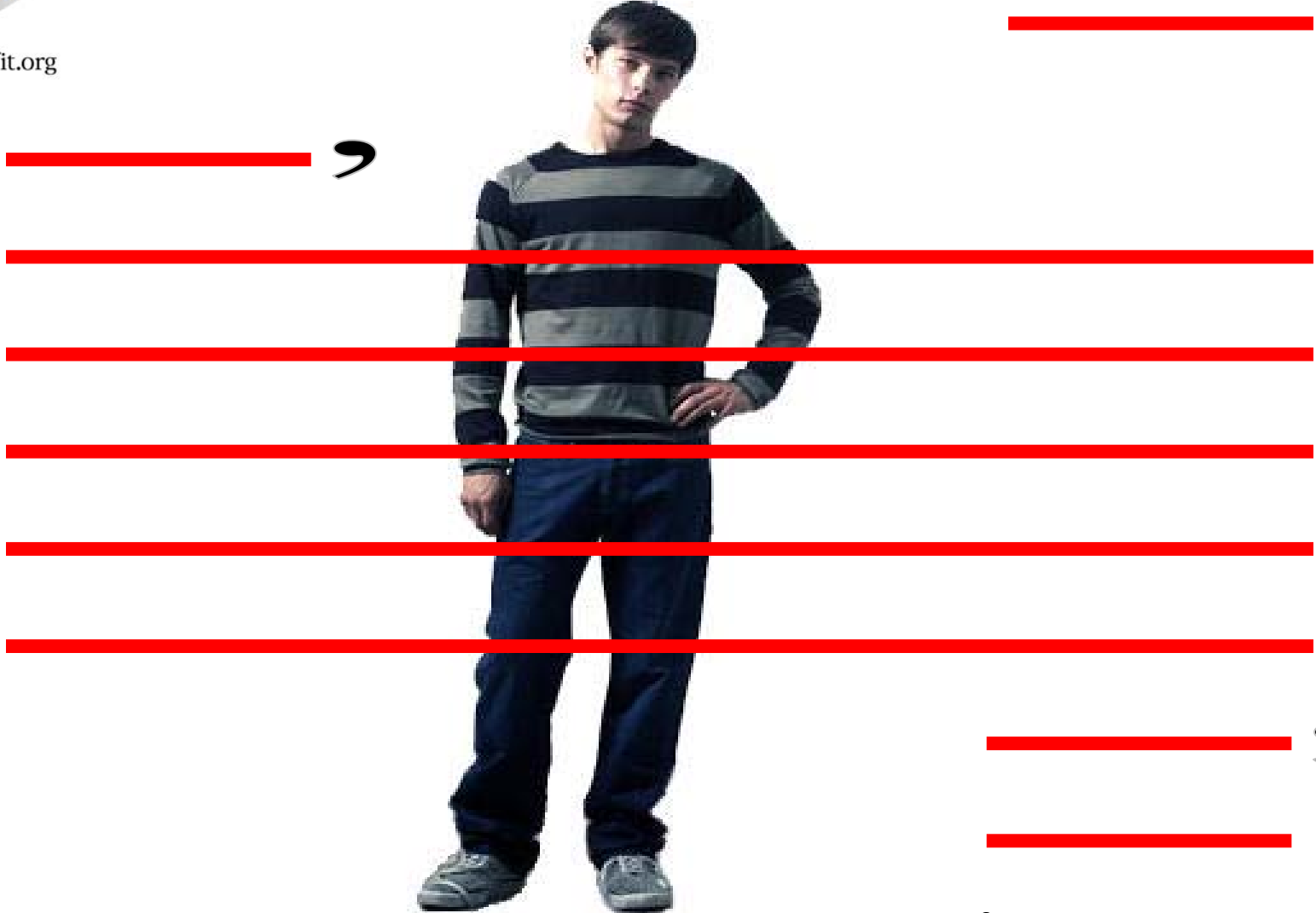
**Answer:** The five parts of a letter are the date, greeting, body of the letter, closing, and signature.

**Gesture:** Hold your hands above your head to show the date is on top of the paper. Point to your mouth for the greeting and make a comma in the air. Point to your neck all the way down to your knees for the body (showing it is the largest part of the letter). Wave goodbye and then use your finger to make a comma in the air. Sign your name in the air.

**Examples:** Write a letter to your class, but cut the five sections apart. Have the kids sort the five parts to their proper spots and explain why each part goes where it does.



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five parts of a letter

# Folktale

**Question:** What is a folktale?



**Answer:** A folktale is a story that was never written down, but was passed along orally over the years and usually contains some type of moral message.

**Gesture:**

**Examples:** Pinocchio- Don't tell lies.

The Tortoise and the Hare- Never give up, despite the odds.

The Ugly Duckling- Don't judge people from their looks.

The Boy Who Cried Wolf – Telling lies can cause problems.





folktale

# Foreshadowing

**Question:** What is foreshadowing?



**Answer:** Foreshadowing is the use of hints or clues to suggest what will happen later in literature.

**Gesture:** Open your hands like a book. Pretend to look at your wrist watch then point forward to show that something is coming up. Go back to holding your book.

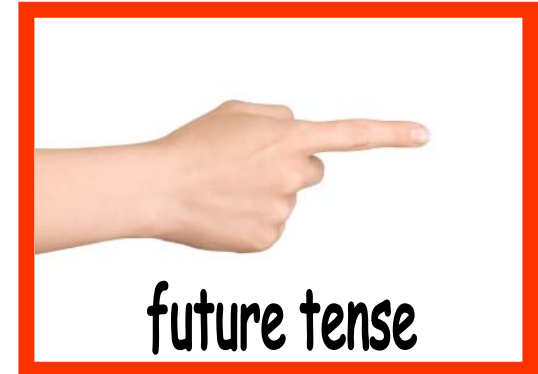
**Examples:** Show some clips of The Wizard of OZ. Examples of foreshadowing can be seen in the early black-and-white sequence. Every major character who will appear in Oz--the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodsman, the Cowardly Lion, the Wizard himself and, most famously, the Wicked Witch of the West--is introduced at the beginning of the film as a normal, readily identifiable character. The transformation of Miss Gulch into a witch on a broomstick **foreshadows** her reappearance as Dorothy's enemy in Oz.



foreshadowing

# Future Tense

**Question:** What is future tense?



**Answer:** Future tense is an action that has not yet begun.

**Gesture:** Point forwards, indicating something is about to happen in the future.

**Examples:** Play "I'm going..." with the kids. The teacher starts out "I'm going shopping. I will buy a pencil". The first student says "I'm going shopping. I will buy a pencil and an eraser". Each student starts out the same, and has to remember all the previous answers and adds a new one. To make it simpler and faster, each student only has to remember the student's answer directly before them.

"I'm going to eat breakfast. I will eat..."

"I'm going camping. I will bring..."

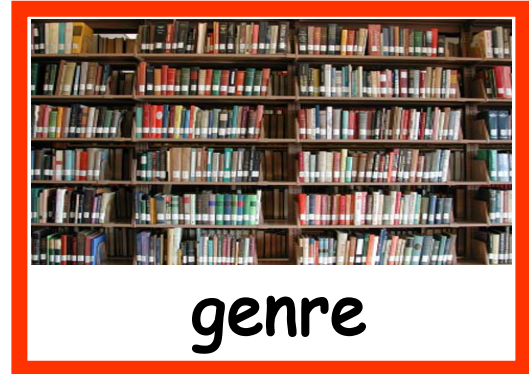
"I want to see the world... I want to visit..."



future tense

# Genre

**Question:** What is genre?



**Answer:** Genre is a kind of literary or artistic work.

**Gesture:** Hold your finger up to your lips and say, “Shhhh”

**Examples:** Think aloud: Did you ever walk into a library and see how it was divided into different sections? Why do you think librarians do this? Explain: The word “genre” is French for “kind”. Books are classified into different genres; each have different characteristics.

Here is a list of some examples of different types of genres in literature:

Folktales, Fairy Tales, Fables, Legends, Myths, Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Biography, Poetry.



genre

# Geographical Name

**Question:** What is the geographical name rule?



**Answer:** The geographical name rule is that all geographical names must be capitalized.

**Gesture:** Point to the four corners of the room then raise one hand over your head to show geographical places need capitalization.

**Examples:** List a variety of words and have the kids decide why certain words need to be capitalized, while others do not.  
town, city, New York City, Antarctica, village, Norway, Atlantic Ocean, street, Crafton Avenue, Bryce Canyon, park, mountain, Mt. St. Helens

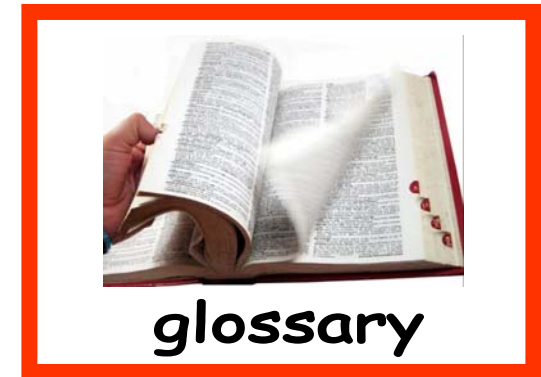




geographical name

# Glossary

**Question:** What is a glossary?



**Answer:** A glossary is a dictionary near the end of a book.

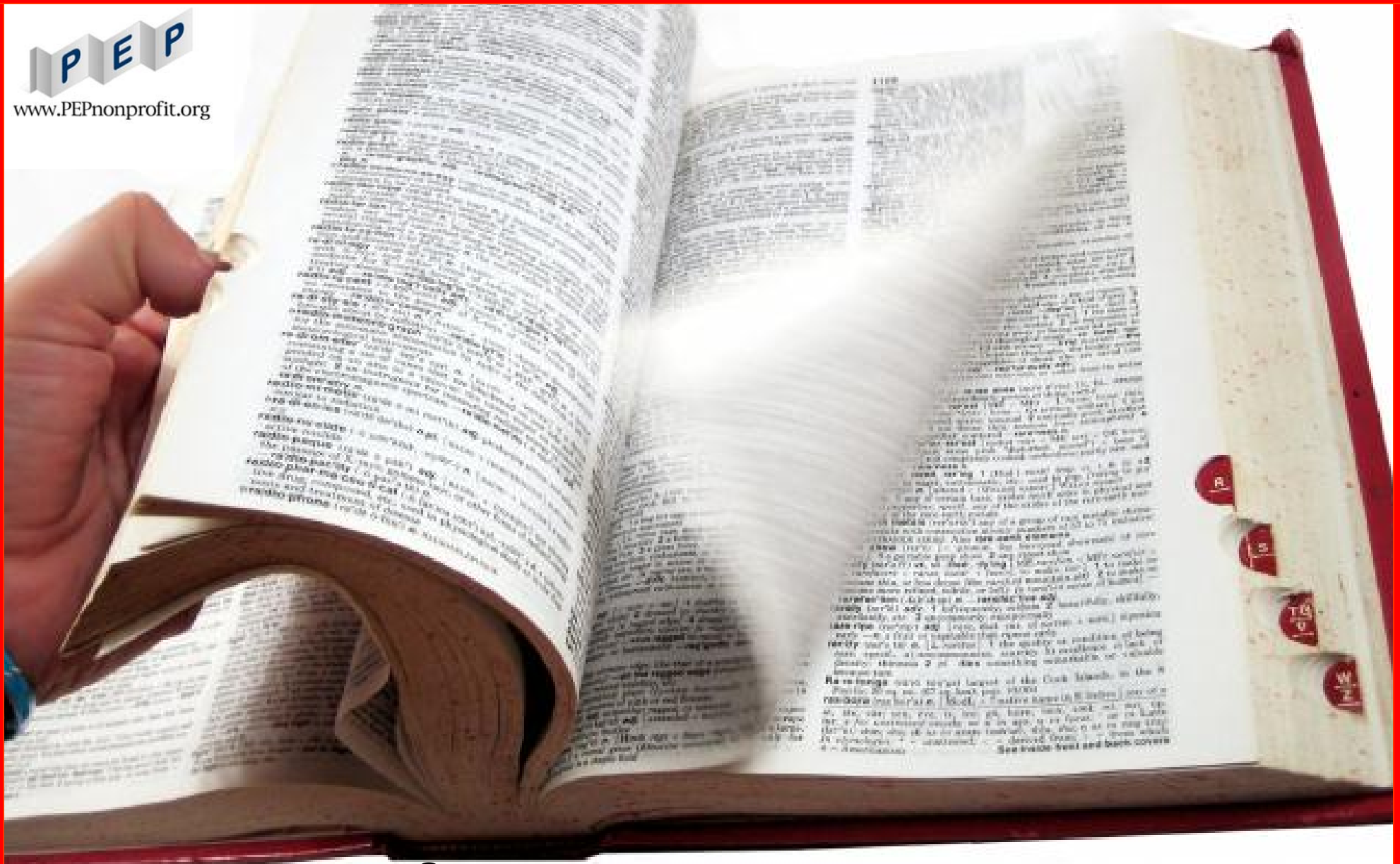
**Gesture:** Pretend to open a book then pat your back to show the glossary is at the back.

**Examples:** On the board, write a sentence that includes unknown vocabulary words. Underline the unknown words. Ask students to give predictions on where they could find what these words mean.

Protons and neutrons are both nucleons, which may be bound by the nuclear force into atomic nuclei.



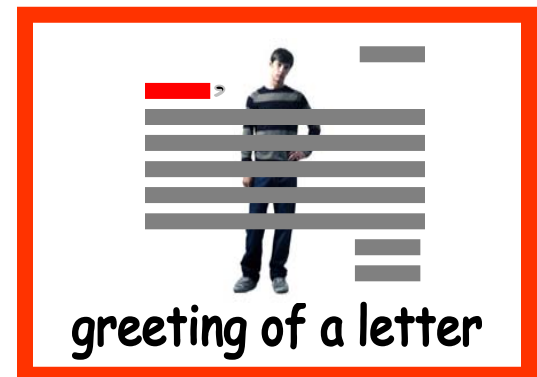
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# glossary

# Greeting of a Letter

**Question:** What is the greeting of a letter?



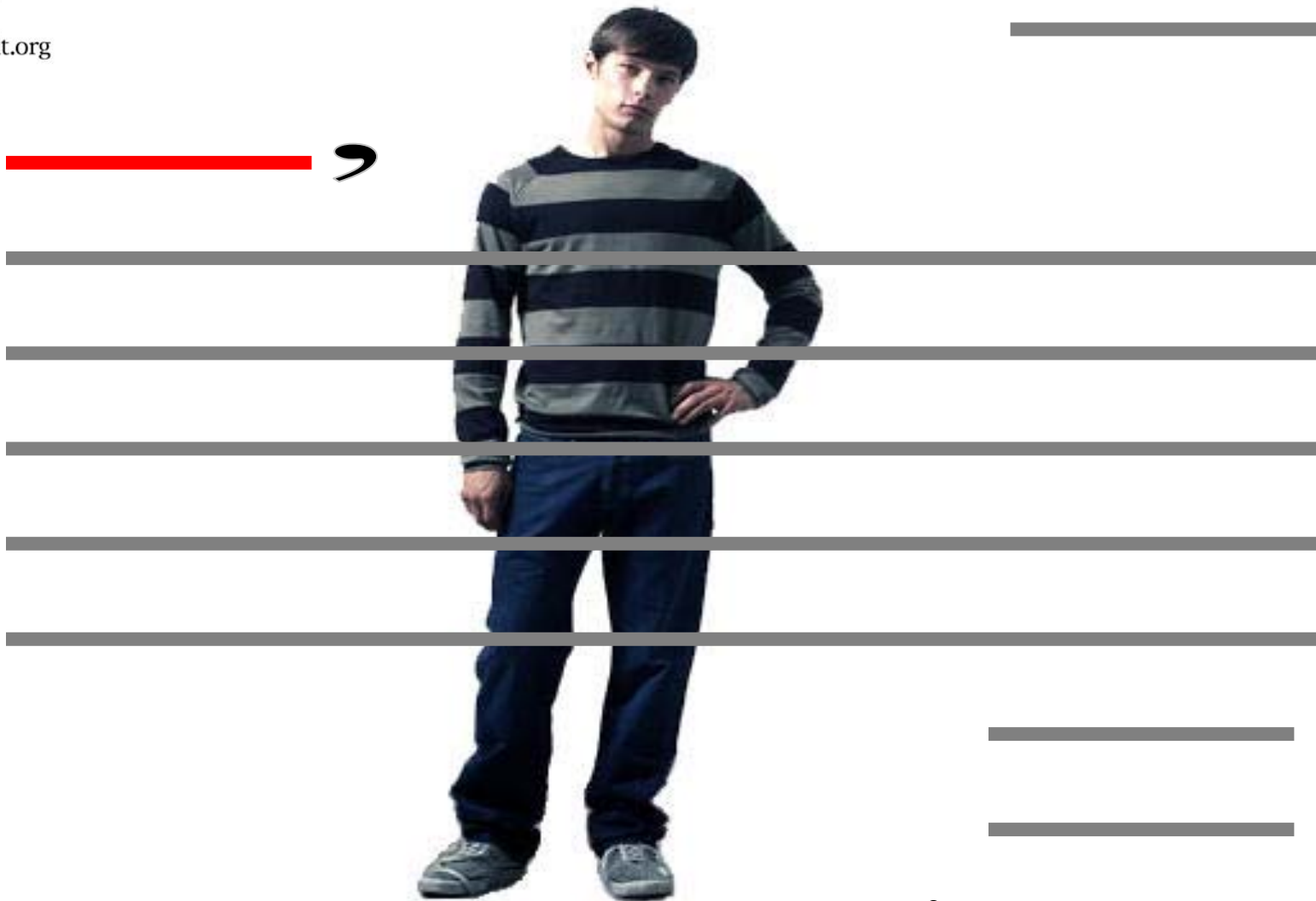
**Answer:** The greeting of a letter is like saying “hello” and always begins with a capital letter and ends with a comma.

**Gesture:** Point to your mouth for the greeting and make a comma in the air.

**Examples:** Dear Nigel, Dear Dr. Tarabi, Dear Reverend Jans, Dear Mom, Dear Santa  
What do all of these have in common? Dear – dear is capitalized – end with a comma



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greeting of a letter

# Holiday Name

**Question:** What is the holiday name rule?



**Answer:** The holiday name rule is that all holiday names must be capitalized.

**Gesture:** Wave your hands in the air as if celebrating a holiday then raise one hand over your head to show capitalization.

**Examples:** Here is a list of common holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Memorial Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Valentine's Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day



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holiday name

# Homographs

**Question:** What are homographs?



**Answer:** A homograph is a word that is written the same way as another word, but has a different meaning, whether pronounced the same way or not, as *bass*<sup>1</sup> “musical instrument” and *bass*<sup>2</sup> “type of fish”.

**Gesture:** Pretend to play guitar and then move your arm like a fish swimming in water.

**Examples:** Q: How can you make a slow horse fast? A: Don't let him eat!

If your students are not familiar with the multiple meanings of *fast* (and are therefore not laughing), this is a perfect anticipatory set for homographs. One more example: The **convict** escaped from his jail cell. The prosecutor is hoping to **convict** the suspected robber.





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# homographs

# Homonyms

**Question:** What are homonyms?



**Answer:** Homonyms are two words that are spelled the same, *but* have different meanings.

**Gesture:** Hold your arms out like a tree (trunk) and then dangle one arm in front of face like an elephant (trunk).

**Examples:** Give students a list of homonyms: List could include animal words included bark, duck, hog, bear, clam and fly or Christmas words such as cold, present, ice, star, shop, fudge and stockings. Have students draw/illustrate two meanings for any number of the words. Have them fold a piece of paper in half, pick a word from the list, and draw two pictures representing different meanings.



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# homonyms

# Homophones

**Question:** What are homonyms?



**Answer:** Homophones are two words that sound the same but have different meanings and spellings. Hare and hair.

**Gesture:** Touch your hair and then hold up two bunny ears for a hare.

**Examples:** A Shetland Pony walked into a McDonalds and waited in line to place his order. When his turn finally came, he said (in a soft, raspy voice), "I'll have a Hamburger Happy Meal with a Coke, please." The woman behind the counter frowned and replied, "Sir, you'll have to speak up. I can't hear you." The pony looked at her and repeated (in the same soft, raspy voice), "I'll have a Hamburger Happy Meal with a Coke, please." The woman frowned again and looked rather aggravated. She said sharply, "Sir, I still can't hear you. There are lots of people waiting in line. You'll have to speak up or leave the restaurant." The pony smiled understandingly and replied (in the same soft, raspy voice), "I'm sorry. You've got to excuse me. I'm just a little hoarse." Again, if students do not laugh, let them see that horse and hoarse are Homophones.



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# homophones

# Hyperbole



**Question:** What is hyperbole?

**Answer:** A hyperbole is an obvious and intentional exaggeration.

**Gesture:** Hold your stomach as if you were “busting a gut!”

**Examples:** Have the students identify the hyperbole and write down or discuss with a partner what it means. My brother is so tall, he has to duck to walk under the telephone lines. Your sister’s so skinny, she has to run around in the shower to get wet. The Statue of Liberty is so big, when I looked up, I almost got whiplash. I think of you a million times a day. My sister has such long legs, she needs to sit in the backseat to drive.

Have the students complete one on their own:

That student is so lazy that.....

# hyperbole

