Grammar Lessons

Track the most common mistakes in your students' writings using the chart below. Prioritize the lessons, scaffolding in complexity.

Tally	Grammar Concepts	Grammar Rules
	capitalization	Capitalize nationalities, languages, historical events, and yes, the letter *I*.
	contractions	Clarify the contraction *should've, would've, could've* versus *should of*, *would of* or *could of*.
	simple sentences	Sentences require both a subject (noun) and a predicate (verb), and a complete thought.
	run-on sentences	Use ending punctuation to separate simple sentences.
	compound sentences	Use a comma before the coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS) or use a semicolon.
	complex sentences	Dependent clauses (AAAWWUBBIS) depend on an independent clause to complete a thought. Use a comma to separate the dependent clause from the independent clause.
	they, they're, their	*They* refers to a group of people. *They're* is a contraction: *they are*. *Their* is a possessive pronoun, showing ownership. It contains the word t*heir,* like the prince who is the *heir* to the throne. He will own the throne when he becomes king.
	who or that	Use *who* when referencing a person. Use *that* when referencing a thing.
	coordinating adjectives	When using double adjectives of equal importance before a noun, use a comma. If you could use *and (showing equal importance)* between the adjectives, you can replace *and* with a comma.
	verb tense	When writing about literature use presence tense because the characters are always present when you open the book.
	titles	Use quotation marks (shorter marks) when referencing shorter titles. Underline (longer mark) or italicize when referencing longer titles.
	possessive nouns	If it is a singular noun, put the apostrophe before the –*s* (boy's). If the noun is plural, put the apostrophe after the –*s* (boys').

	hyphenated adjectives	When the age functions as an adjective (placed before a noun), hyphenate it.
	appositive phrases	When renaming a noun or defining a term, use commas to separate the information.
	direct address	When writing in second person and addressing a person by name, use a comma to separate the person's name from the main sentence.
	embedding direct quotations	There are three parts: the introduction, the direct quotation, and the citation.
	modifying direct quotations	Use brackets to notify the reader that you altered the wording in a direct quotation.
	comparative and superlative adjectives	Add –er to an adjective when comparing two things. Add –est to an adjective when comparing more than two things: big, bigger, biggest.
	parallel series comma	Use the same part of speech (verb or noun) at the beginning of each item listed in the series. I woke up this morning, ate my breakfast, and walked to school.)
	pronouns (number and gender)	Make sure the pronoun reflects the correct gender (male or female) and the number of people referenced.
	referencing numbers	Spell out numbers less than 10.
	transitions	Use transitions to organize information. Make sure they convey the correct meaning.