

How can English be used in your life?



Supporting Questions

1. What does English teach us?
2. Where do we see English day to day?

How can English be used in your life?

Kentucky Academic ELA Standards	C.9-10.1: Students will compose arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence. RL.9-10.7: Students will integrate and evaluate content presented in print/non-print forms of text found in diverse media and formats.
Staging the Question	On notecards, make a list of words that come to mind when you hear “English Class.” Share with classmates and sort your lists into larger categories in order to develop 3 to 4 themes.

Supporting Question 1
What does English teach us?
Formative Performance Task
Complete the table on English skills within the graphic organizer. Under <i>Grammar</i> , <i>Critical Thinking</i> , and <i>Vocabulary</i> , use the featured sources to make a list of their importance. Then, put a star by the ones you think are most important to what English teaches us.
Featured Sources
Source A: The Importance of Grammar Source B: The Importance of Critical Thinking Source C: The Importance of Vocabulary

Supporting Question 2
Where do we see English day to day?
Formative Performance Task
Annotate the featured sources using skills from your table. Then, complete the questions listed in the graphic organizer as a group to consider how we see English day to day.
Featured Sources
Source A: “Stupid Song” Lyric Excerpt, Olivia Rodrigo Source B: Social Media Posts Source C: “Don’t Look Up,” Movie Trailer Source D: “The future is for everyone,” Meta AI Ad

Summative Performance Task	ARGUMENT- <i>How can English be used in your life?</i> Construct an argument (detailed outline, poster, or essay) using textual evidence about the utility of English in your life. EXTENSION- Select one option from a Choice Board: Practice writing a professional email as an employee of your dream job; Write a letter to the editor about Meta AI’s advertising strategies; Create an infographic about the importance of English education; or Write a 1-page critical analysis of a movie or song you love.
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Overview

Inquiry Description

This inquiry leads students through an investigation of the impact of English on their daily lives. By investigating the compelling question, students examine the different skills English Class can strengthen, including grammar, vocabulary, and critical thinking, and the ways in which these skills are applied in a real world context. By completing this inquiry, students begin to understand the function of the modern ELA classroom and its curriculum through an exploration of different media in hopes that they may see the impact education has on their future lives. By the end, students should be able to remark on the importance of English in understanding advertising strategies, nuances in pop culture, and the impact of grammar on social media.

This inquiry highlights the following Kentucky Academic ELA Standards:

- **C.9-10.1:** Students will compose arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- **RL.9-10.7:** Students will integrate and evaluate content presented in print/non-print forms of text found in diverse media and formats.

The featured sources should be seen as suggested, but not necessarily required and teachers should feel that they can adapt sources and replace them with sources better suited to their student population and the current pop culture trends.

Supporting Question 1: What does English Teach us?

Part 1: Under *Grammar*, *Critical Thinking*, and *Vocabulary*, use the featured sources to make a list of their importance. Then, put a star by the ones you think are most important to what English teaches us.

Grammar	Critical Thinking	Vocabulary

Supporting Question 1

Featured Source

Source A: The Importance of English Grammar: Why it Matters More Than Ever

Grammar is like the blueprint of language—it helps us organize our thoughts and convey them clearly. Without it, messages can become confusing, misunderstood, or even embarrassing. Structured language gives your ideas clarity! Whether you're drafting an email, writing an essay, or having a chat, good grammar ensures your audience gets what you mean. Plus, in the professional world, polished language boosts your credibility and confidence.

- **Clarity:** Clear sentences prevent misunderstandings.
- **Professionalism:** Well-structured language boosts credibility.
- **Confidence:** Speaking or writing correctly gives you assurance.
- **Efficiency:** Save time by expressing ideas precisely.
- **Academic and Career Success:** Many opportunities hinge on effective communication.

Supporting Question 1

Featured Source

Source B: The Importance of Critical Thinking Skills

Critical thinking is “the ability to think clearly and independently about a subject or problem ... (and the) consideration of multiple perspectives, the checking of biases, and a detailed understanding of relevant context.”

Critical Thinkers...

- Break down arguments into logical statements.
- Identify ambiguity in arguments.
- Search for contradictions to determine if an argument or theory is complete and reasonable.
- Decide whether conclusions are reasonably supported.
- Weigh arguments against presented evidence. (Think Judge in Court)

This requires...

- Looking for Bias
- Looking beyond Clickbait Headlines
- Fact-Checking Information

Supporting Question 1

Featured Source

Source C: The Importance of Vocabulary Development

Whether you are a student, a professional, or simply someone looking to improve your English skills, developing a strong vocabulary is critical for success. It not only enhances speaking and writing but also strengthens listening and reading comprehension, making communication more effective and meaningful.

Every word you learn gives you a new tool to express ideas, emotions, and concepts. A limited vocabulary restricts your ability to articulate thoughts clearly, while a rich vocabulary allows for more precise, nuanced, and impactful expression. It enables you to choose the right word at the right time, whether in a formal email, a professional meeting, or casual conversation.

Vocabulary also plays a vital role in reading comprehension. The more words you know, the easier it becomes to understand texts, infer the meaning of unfamiliar words, and enjoy reading as a rewarding learning experience rather than a challenge. Similarly, writing improves significantly with a strong vocabulary. Good writing requires clarity, conciseness, and variety, and having a wide range of words allows writers to avoid repetition, communicate ideas more effectively, and make their work engaging—whether it's an academic essay, a business report, or a creative story.

Supporting Question 2: Where do we see English day to day?

Part 2: Annotate the featured sources using skills from you table in Part 1. Then, complete the questions listed in the graphic organizer as a group to consider how we see English day to day.

“Stupid Song” Lyrics	What kind of figurative language is seen? 2 Examples: 1. 2. How does this figurative language add to the meaning of the song? Would the song be as impactful if it didn’t have the figurative language? Why or Why not?
Social Media Posts	Using one of the posts as an example, explain with enough detail how poor grammar is negatively affecting the intended message. What effect does this mistake have on how you view the creator (and their credibility)?
“Don’t Look Up” Trailer	What kind of movie does this appear to be? How do you know? How is satire being used to make a point? How could the audience connect this to the real world?

Meta Ai Advertisement

What is Meta AI's argument within the advertisement?

What images does the ad use to compel the audience?

What is the important background of this company? How could this context make the ad feel contradictory?

Supporting Question 2

Featured Source

Source A: "Stupid Song" by Olivia Rodrigo

***Stupid Song* by Olivia Rodrigo**

They say that honest love is a cage that makes you feel free,
And all the girls at this party are so cool,
That's never been a thing that I could do,
But I can't help but imagine what you say when you speak with me.

[Chorus]

You're a spark in the dark,
and my clothes all caught aflame.
You should feel how I feel when somebody says your name.
I'm a car speeding down the boulevard without a brake,
And I want you more than any stupid song could ever say.
I'm a heart made of wax and I'm melting in the sun,
I'm a thread on your shirt that is coming undone,
I feel right, I feel wrong, I feel totally insane,
And I want you more than any stupid song could ever say.

Supporting Question 2

Featured Source

Source B: Social Media Posts

