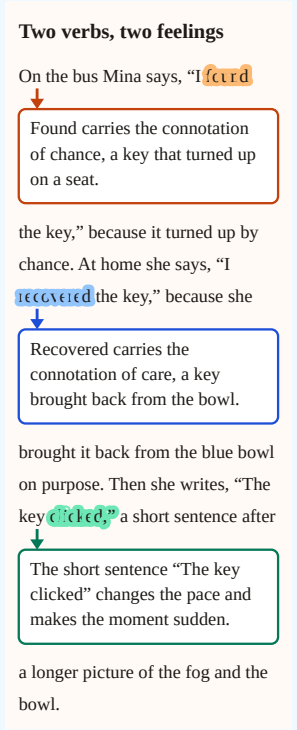
English Language Arts 10-1

Unit 4: Create and refine texts

Word choice and correctness

Connotation in word choice

- Mina loses track of her spare key on a foggy January morning, and she tells two versions of getting it back. On the bus seat Mina says, “I found the key,” because it turned up by chance. At home she says, “I recovered the key,” because she brought it back from the blue bowl on purpose. Then she writes, “The key clicked,” a short sentence after a longer picture of the fog on the bus window and the bowl.
- Found carries the connotation of chance, a key that turned up on a seat.
- Recovered carries the connotation of care, a key brought back from the bowl.
- The short sentence “The key clicked” changes the pace and makes the moment sudden.



Connotation and sentence structure

- Connotation is the care in recovered and the chance in found when the spare key and the blue bowl are the same.
- A short sentence, “The key clicked,” can follow a longer one that shows the fog and the bowl.
- A comma splice such as “The key clicked, Mina grabbed the bowl” still needs a period or a comma plus and.

Key terms

connotation

The feeling a word carries with its plain meaning, such as the care in recovered beside the chance in found.

comma splice

Two sentences joined with only a comma, such as The key clicked, Mina grabbed the bowl.

fragment

A word group that leaves the thought unfinished, such as When the key clicked in the blue bowl.

Sentence functions

- Sentence: Mina recovered her spare key from the blue bowl, and she held it tightly.
- Mina and key name a person and a thing.
- Recovered and held name the actions.
- Her, she, and it stand in for Mina and the key, spare and blue describe the key and the bowl, and from links the key to the bowl.
- The extra chill sits inside commas in “The spare key, cold from the window, sat in the blue bowl,” and the handbook list also names the dash.

Sentence errors

- On the bus Mina says, “I found the key,” because it turned up by chance. At home she says, “I recovered the key,” because she brought it back from the blue bowl on purpose.
- Found carries chance. Recovered carries care. The short sentence The key clicked makes the moment sudden after a longer picture of the fog and the bowl.
- Comma splice: The key clicked, Mina grabbed the bowl. Repair: The key clicked. Mina grabbed the bowl.

Sentence practice

- On the board: The glove was navy, the stripe was blue. Also: Because the clerk matched the stripe. A spell checker accepts The glove was their on the desk.
- Repair the comma splice and the fragment, and say what a human reader still has to catch in their.

Review

- Jules must log the choir-room key. Slipped suggests an accident. Vanished suggests a mystery. The draft says, “The sheet tore Mina taped the key line.”
- Choose the verb and say its feeling, then repair the run-on with a period or a comma plus and.