



**International Center
for Leadership
in Education**



Gold Seal Lesson:

Copernicus Education Gateway

Author(s): Elizabeth Pierce			Lesson Title: Grammar-Gettin' Rid of the Gots!			
Grade Span			ICLE Application Model			
K-4	5-8	9-12	A	B	C	D
		X	X			

Instructional Focus:

Reading Students read a variety of grade level materials, applying strategies appropriate to various situations

Writing Students write for a variety of purposes and audiences with sophistication and complexity appropriate to the grade level

Listening Students listen for a variety of purposes appropriate to the grade level

Speaking Students speak for a variety of purposes and audiences with sophistication and complexity appropriate to the grade level

Performance Task

The student learns that the words "got", "get", "gets", "gotten", and "getting" are American verbs. These American verbs are not used anywhere else in the world and in some parts of the world are considered gauche and a sign of lack of education. The student learns that because Americans are becoming more global communicators, Americans must alter their use of this word in writing and select other verbs to replace these Americanisms. The student is reminded that how humans write and how they speak is very different and while these Americanisms are acceptable in speech they are not acceptable in writing. Using a dictionary, thesaurus and any grammar books available, the student lists as many verbs as possible in 10 minutes that could substitute for "got", "get", "gets", "gotten", "getting". In a classroom discussion the student reviews Attachment I and suggests more appropriate verb choices to the Americanisms listed in the exercise. After seeing how the word "got", "get", "gets", "gotten", and "getting" can be easily replaced with more sophisticated and precise verbs, the student completes an exercise in *Gettin' Rid of the Gots* (Attachment II or III). The student may manipulate the sentence in any way he/she sees fit to eliminate the Americanism. The student is never allowed to use "got", "get", "gets", "gotten", and "getting" in any writing thereafter unless there is no clear alternative (For example: "Let's get together for a get together."). A brief quiz can be administered if needed after six months to remind the student of the importance of eliminating these words from his/her writing (Attachment IV). Using "got", "get", "gets", "gotten", and "getting" is permitted in narrative.

ICLE Essential Skills

Apply in writing the rules and conventions of grammar, usage, punctuation, paragraphing and spelling. Ela1

Understand rules of grammar, usage, punctuation, paragraphing and spelling. ELA7

Participate, sometimes leading, in group meetings by contributing, taking turns speaking, and working toward a common goal. Ela20

Use dictionary, grammar books, and thesaurus to aid in editing and understanding words. Ela21

Edit and revise written text so that it is 100% accurate. Ela45

Apply rules of appropriate diction, grammar, and usage in formal speaking situations.
Ela 13

Scoring Guide:

Score each of the following characteristics on a scale of 4 to 0, where 4 = surpasses expectations; 3 = high quality performance; 2 = satisfactory quality performance; 1 = minimum quality performance; 0 = does not meet expectations.

CHARACTERISTICS

**CRITERIA
SCORE**

- **Researches alternative verb choices**

- Uses dictionary, thesaurus and other various resources
- Uses time wisely
- List is appropriate in size given 10- minute research time

- **Participates in classroom review**

- Applies new knowledge accurately
- Does not interrupt others
- Is respectful of others' input
- Keeps on track in conversation

- **Applies knowledge to worksheets and writing**

- Applies the rules and conventions of grammar, usage, punctuation, paragraphing, spelling
- Presents information in well-organized fashion that will be clear to the target audience
- Uses editing and revising skills to improve effectiveness and accuracy
- Uses appropriate verb choices rather than less precise Americanisms

Keywords

English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science
Reading Enhance Writing Fluency In Context Language Structure Vocabulary Word Structure	Algebra	Earth Science
Writing Conventions Dictionary Editing Grammar Spelling Technical Writing Usage Vocabulary	Geometry	Life Science
Communications Discussion Listening	Statistics	Chemistry

Literature Non-fiction Point of View Voice	Calculus	Physics
Other	Trigonometry	Other
	Other	

Picture, Chart, or Graph file name(s):

(See Attachments below)

Attachment I

Gettin' Rid of the Gots

“Got” – past tense of get; gotten; getting; gets – An Americanism

Obtain, acquire, secure, go after, fetch, retrieve, reach, make contact with, earn, gain, to receive, to come into possession of, to buy, to suffer, to catch, to contract, to have or reach by calculation, to gain understanding of by study, to comprehend, to register or catch by eye or ear, to make ready, to cause to become in a certain position, to cause to move, come or go, to bring or take, to persuade, to overcome or destroy, to capture, to cause harm to, to hit, to put out, to puzzle, to have an obligation, to arrive, to start, to leave, to make money

He got a reward for returning the money.
She got a present for her birthday.
He got a whipping for talking back to the teacher.
He got a few knocks, but he'll recover.
They all got chicken-pox at once.
If you add them altogether, you got 1,000.
I've got a large collection of books.
I must get this by heart.
Does he get her point?
I'm sorry, I didn't get your name.
I got dinner tonight from McDonalds.
He got the hook loose.
Get that dog out of here!
I got him in here. Now you talk to him.
I'll get my friend to show you his house.
Frost got our tomato crop.
The police got him.
That punch got the boxer on the chin.
The catcher got him out sliding in to home plate.
Her attitude gets me.
Noisy eaters really get to me.
I have got to go.
When will we get there?
Get going!
Now get!
He spends all his time getting and spending.
He gets around by himself now.
Have I got this across to you?
He swears he'll get back at him.
He gets out of what he can.

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Attachment II

Gettin' Rid of the Gots

“Got” – past tense of get; gotten; getting; gets

Obtain, acquire, secure, go after, fetch, retrieve, reach, make contact with, earn, gain, to receive, to come into possession of, to buy, to suffer, to catch, to contract, to have or reach by calculation, to gain understanding of by study, to comprehend, to register or catch by eye or ear, to make ready, to cause to become in a certain position, to cause to move, come or go, to bring or take, to persuade, to overcome or destroy, to capture, to cause harm to, to hit, to put out, to puzzle, to have an obligation, to arrive, to start, to leave, to make money

Rewrite the following sentences by eliminating the word “got” or “get”.

1. He got _____ a reward for returning the money.

2. They all got _____ chicken-pox at once.
3. I'm sorry, I didn't get _____ your name.
4. Frost got _____ our tomato crop.
5. I got _____ dinner tonight from McDonalds.
6. The police got _____ him.
7. Her attitude gets _____ me.
8. I have got to go _____ .
9. When will we get _____ there?
10. Get going! _____
11. He gets _____ around by himself now.
12. If you add them all together, you got _____ 100.
13. I've got _____ a large collection of books.
14. I must get _____ this by heart.
15. Did he get _____ her point?

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Attachment III

Gettin' Rid of the Gots

"Got" – past tense of get; gotten; getting; gets

Obtain, acquire, secure, go after, fetch, retrieve, reach, make contact with, earn, gain, to receive, to come into possession of, to buy, to suffer, to catch, to contract, to have or reach by calculation, to gain understanding of by study, to comprehend, to register or catch by eye or ear, to make ready, to cause to become in a certain position, to cause to move, come or go, to bring or take, to persuade, to overcome or destroy, to capture, to cause harm to, to hit, to put out, to puzzle, to have an obligation, to arrive, to start, to leave, to make money

Rewrite the following sentences by eliminating the word "got" or "get".

1. She got _____ a present for her birthday.
2. He got _____ a whipping for talking back to the teacher.
3. He got _____ a few broken bones, but he'll recover.
4. Get _____ that dog out of here!
5. I got _____ him in here. Now you talk to him.
6. That punch got _____ him on the chin.

7. Noisy eaters really get _____ to me.
8. I have got _____ to go.
9. I watched the dog get _____ the stick.
10. I have got to go _____ home or else my mom will be mad at me.
11. When she walked into the room, she got _____ his eye.
12. I didn't get _____ into this career without working hard.
13. I got _____ in trouble for sleeping in school.
14. The English army got _____ over the wall and conquered Quebec City.
15. I stopped and got _____ stamps on my way home from work.

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Attachment IV

Gettin' Rid of the Gots Reminder Quiz

Rewrite the following sentences by eliminating the word "got" or "get".

1. Later that night, as it got _____ dark, the stars shone most brilliantly, illuminating the blue-black sky.
2. When he got _____ home, no one was home.
3. You got _____ to get _____ going before something big happens and you can't.
4. He hung back when he got _____ there and didn't do much to stop the argument.
5. He got _____ a job and a few years later he married.