



**International Center  
for Leadership  
in Education**



## Gold Seal Lesson:

Copernicus Education Gateway

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

### 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
<b>Reading</b> Enhance Writing Fluency In Context Language Structure Vocabulary Word Structure	<b>Algebra</b>	<b>Earth Science</b>
<b>Writing</b> Conventions Dictionary Editing Grammar	<b>Geometry</b>	<b>Life Science</b>

Spelling Technical Writing Usage Vocabulary		
<b>Communications</b> Discussion Listening	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>Chemistry</b>
<b>Literature</b> Non-fiction Point of View Voice	<b>Calculus</b>	<b>Physics</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>Trigonometry</b>	<b>Other</b>
	<b>Other</b>	

If you have a **Picture, Chart, or Graph** that has special formatting, please identify the name of the file(s) in box below. Also attach a copy of the file(s) with this disk.

**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.

© Elizabeth A. Pierce, 2000 - T

## 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?

© Elizabeth A. Pierce, 2000 – S

### **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.

© Elizabeth A. Pierce, 2000 - S

#### 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.