

Gentle Grammar & Writing Checklist – Grade 5

A guide for parents to review writing together with encouragement and grace.

Fifth graders are ready to stretch their writing and take more ownership. Help them grow by reviewing their writing with a focus on clear communication and thoughtful expression.

Basic Review:

- Read the writing out loud to see if it flows smoothly and stays on topic.
- Check capitalization—beginning of sentences, proper nouns, and the word “I.”
- Look for correct punctuation, including commas in lists or before conjunctions.
- Encourage spacing, paragraph breaks, and clear handwriting or typing.
- Talk about sentence structure—are they using complete sentences?
- Help them spot and fix simple spelling errors of familiar words.

Gentle Growth Ideas:

- Encourage more precise word choices and stronger verbs.
- Point out places where paragraphs could be more focused.
- Suggest adding an introduction and conclusion when needed.
- Support the use of transition words like *however*, *also*, *for example*, and *in conclusion*.
- Praise them for growth in voice, vocabulary, or organization—even if there’s still room to grow.

 Grade 5 is about writing with structure, voice, and increasing independence.