

Conventions include the use of punctuation, capitalization, spelling of frequently used words, sentence structure, verb tense agreement, subject-verb agreement, noun-pronoun agreement, and grammar, within a range of effective communication forms.

What does it look like in the classroom?

The workshop model provides a helpful framework to support learners as they develop the ability to use conventions in a range of spoken and written communication forms.

Time to Teach	Time to Teach provides support for learners as they use conventions in spoken and written communications. Learners require explicit instruction on each component of conventions. During Time to Teach, teachers can: ● model using tools such as dictionaries, word walls, technology-based grammar and spell checks, etc. to revise texts for spelling and grammar ● demonstrate effective use of conventions in a range of mentor texts ● provide mini or focus lessons on the uses of a variety of punctuation marks ● model appropriate conventions in relation to specific communication forms ● model or provide a mini-lesson on grammar in context using mentor texts or student samples ● provide individual or small-group focus lessons on one or two specific needs (e.g., subject-verb agreement) during guided writing sessions ● provide explicit instruction during Writing Workshop on punctuation, capitalization, grammar, spelling and usage in response to learners' needs ● provide explicit instruction on a variety of spelling strategies, such as knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, and root words, through word study
Time to Practise	Time to Practise provides opportunities to learners to develop and refine their use of conventions. Teachers can provide individual or small group instruction to support learners with specific learning needs. During Time to Practise, learners: ● edit and proofread their own or others' texts for spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar using a range of tools ● develop a personal checklist of conventions to review when editing and proofreading work ● use mentor texts to develop effective use of conventions in a range of communication forms ● use a variety of punctuation marks for emphasis or to enhance in their communication forms

	• use a variety of sentences and grammatical usage to increase the complexity of sentence structures in relation to audience and purpose • use a variety of spelling strategies
Time to Reflect and Share	Time to Reflect and Share allows learners to consider how conventions contribute to effective communication. During time to Reflect and Share learners can: • critically reflect on their own work and the work of others • consider how conventions contributed to the effectiveness of their message • consider the role of communication forms in decisions about applying conventions

For more suggestions to support the use of conventions, please refer to [“Nova Scotia Assessment: Reading and Writing Grade 8: *Lessons Learned*”](#)