











## HOW TO USE Essential Skills Bell Ringers – English

### About the Bell Ringers

The Essential Skills English bell ringers are generally organized by category, moving within each category from easier skills to more difficult ones.

The bell ringers are provided in 60 slideshow files, as the sample below illustrates:

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  | Day 1 Subject-Verb Agreement (CU Basic)              |
|  | Day 2 Use the Right Adjective (CU Basic)             |
|  | Day 3 Subject-Verb Agreement (CU Basic)              |
|  | Day 4 Use the Right Verb (CU Basic)                  |
|  | Day 5 Use the Right Pronoun (CU Basic)               |
|  | Day 6 Subject-Verb Agreement (CU Intermediate)       |
|  | Day 7 Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement (CU Intermediate) |
|  | Day 8 Use the Right Preposition (CU Intermediate)    |
|  | Day 9 Subject-Verb Agreement (CU Advanced)           |
|  | Day 10 Subject-Verb Agreement (CU Advanced)          |



The file names include labels to guide you. Each file is titled with a general description, such as “Subject-Verb Agreement,” as well as a category and a level of difficulty. The five categories are:

- CU = Conventions of Usage
- ORG = Organization and Cohesion
- WC = Word Choice
- SSF = Sentence Structure and Formation
- COP = Conventions of Punctuation

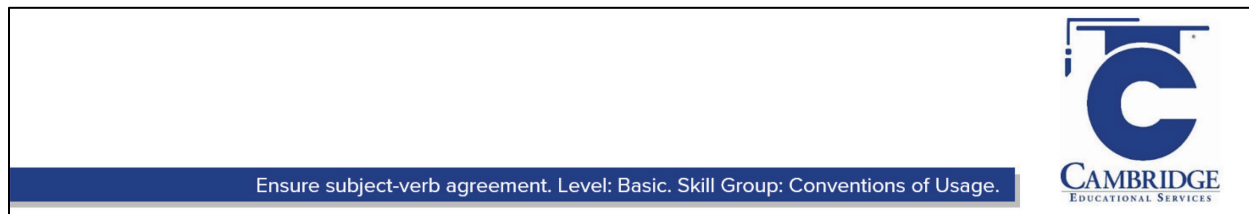
The three levels of difficulty are:

- Basic
- Intermediate
- Advanced

The daily bell ringers include 2 to 4 problems for the students to work through on their own. The problems are then repeated with a solution for you to use in discussing the item with the class.

| SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT  | SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT  |
|---|---|
| <p>114. We <u>heard</u> their voices through the door but couldn't understand most of what they were saying.</p> <p>F. NO CHANGE<br/>G. hear<br/>H. heard<br/>J. hearded</p>          | <p>114. We <u>heard</u> their voices through the door but couldn't understand most of what they were saying.</p> <p>F. NO CHANGE<br/>G. hear<br/>H. heard<br/>J. hearded</p> <p>114. (H) <i>COU Basic</i><br/>In this sentence the past tense of "hear" is needed. "Hear" is an irregular verb and the past tense is not "heard," (F), or "hearded," (J), but "heard," (H).</p> |
| <br><small>Ensure subject verb agreement, Level: Basic, Skill Group: Conventions of Usage.</small> | <br><small>Ensure subject verb agreement, Level: Basic, Skill Group: Conventions of Usage.</small>   |

The bottom of each slide also includes the specific skill(s) the problems in the bell ringer are testing, as well as the category of the problem and the level of difficulty.



For further review, locate the appropriate subject and level of difficulty in your *Essential Skills* teacher's guide. You can find the section corresponding to a specific bell ringer using the problem numbers in the bell ringer. Preceding those problems in the *Essential Skills* guide you will find a short lesson introducing the skills tested by the group of items you are reviewing. Use that lesson or additional problems from the exercise to extend student learning.

## Implementing the Bell Ringers

Depending on the number of days you are planning to use the bell ringers, you can implement them in a couple of different ways.

### Option 1: 12 Weeks of Bell Ringers

Teach through the bell ringers for 60 days, using one bell ringer file each day. Each file includes 2 to 4 problems, plus the explanations for those problems.

### Option 2: Selective Bell Ringer Coverage

Select bell ringers based on specific skills you want to focus on or a specific level of difficulty. For example, if you are only using the bell ringers on Fridays for a semester, you will need 12–14 bell ringers. You might decide to begin with Conventions of Usage topics, or you might work through the basic material first.

If you have questions about implementing the Essential Skills bell ringers, call Cambridge's teacher hotline at 1-800-444-4373.