

# LESSON PLAN GUIDE

PictureBook English Reading Series — Grammar Fluency

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| <b>Category</b> | Fluency in Key Grammar | <b>Title</b> | Grammar Book 20 – To Someone Special: Correlative Conjunctions |
| <b>Ages</b>     | 6–9                    | <b>Theme</b> | Both...and / Either...or / Neither...nor / Not only...but also |

## INTRODUCTION OF THE BOOK

In this book, a son and father plan the perfect secret birthday celebration for Mum — and through their teamwork and decision-making, children master one of the most elegant structures in English grammar: correlative conjunctions. These always come in pairs — both...and, either...or, neither...nor — and they connect balanced, parallel ideas with precision and sophistication.

The birthday planning theme is perfect for this grammar point because planning naturally involves choices (either...or), agreements (both...and), and rejections (neither...nor). Every conversation in the story models the structure in a genuinely useful, everyday context that children will want to use themselves.

## CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTION PAIRS

| Pair                        | Meaning                      | With nouns   | With verbs / actions                           |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>both... and</b>          | Includes both — positive     | <i>We need both milk and eggs.</i>                   | <i>Both Dad and I planned the party.</i>       |
| <b>either... or</b>         | A choice between two options | <i>We can have either pasta or rice.</i>             | <i>Either call or send a message.</i>          |
| <b>neither... nor</b>       | Excludes both — negative     | <i>Neither the blue nor the red ones look right.</i> | <i>He neither forgot nor ignored the plan.</i> |
| <b>not only... but also</b> | Adds emphasis and surprise   | <i>Not only the cake but also the flowers.</i>       | <i>She not only cooked but also decorated.</i> |

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

*Children will be able to:*

- Use both...and to include two balanced elements
- Use either...or to express a choice between two options
- Use neither...nor to exclude two elements in a negative statement
- Use not only...but also for added emphasis and sophistication
- Maintain parallel structure — matching nouns with nouns, verbs with verbs

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### 1. Play the Choice Game

Practise either...or in your daily routine. At mealtimes, give choices: 'For dinner, we can either have pasta or eat rice — which do you prefer?' At bedtime: 'You can either read a book or listen to music.' The key is that both options must be grammatically parallel — either...or always connects two balanced choices. Once children feel the rhythm of the pair, it becomes automatic.

### 2. Master the Both List

When shopping or planning together, involve your child using both...and. 'We need both milk and eggs.' 'We should invite both Grandma and Grandpa.' Point out the secret rule of parallel structure: whatever comes after 'both' must match whatever comes after 'and' — two nouns, two verbs, or two phrases. Ask your child to check: 'Do they match?' This awareness of parallel structure is a sophisticated grammatical skill.

### 3. Solve problems with Neither/Nor

Use neither...nor for negative choices and rejections — a far more sophisticated alternative to simply saying 'No' or 'Not this one.' If something isn't working, model it: 'Neither the blue balloons nor the red ones look right — let's try yellow.' Encourage your child to use neither...nor when rejecting two options during the birthday planning role-play. This structure immediately elevates the sophistication of their spoken English.

### 4. Role-play the birthday planning

Re-enact the story's planning scene. One person is the dad and one is the child — together they plan a birthday party for Mum. Every decision must use a correlative conjunction: 'Should we get both flowers and a cake, or just one?' 'We can either bake at home or order from a bakery.' 'Neither a plain cake nor a shop-bought one feels special enough.' This immersive role-play produces natural, fluent use of all four pairs.

## FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Plan a real mini-event together using all four correlative pairs — a family dinner, a weekend trip, or a class party. Write the plan out as a list, making sure each item uses one of the four pairs. For example: 'We will invite both friends and family. We can either have the party inside or outside. We will use neither plastic plates nor paper cups. Not only will we have cake but also ice cream!' This planning activity produces beautiful, balanced writing — and results in a genuine event to look forward to!

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## TEACHER'S NOTES AND TIPS

Correlative conjunctions are a hallmark of organised, balanced, and sophisticated English — they are used extensively in formal writing, speeches, and persuasive texts. The most important grammatical point is parallel structure: both...and, either...or, and neither...nor must connect grammatically equivalent elements. A common error is 'She is both talented and she works hard' — the correct form is 'She is both talented and hardworking' (adjective + adjective). For classroom settings, the birthday planning role-play works brilliantly as a group activity, with each group presenting their plan to the class using at least three different correlative pairs. The heartwarming story theme also makes this a wonderful book to revisit around Mother's Day or any family celebration.