Once upon a time, a hungry fox went hunting for food. After running a long time, he came to a vineyard of a rich man. The fox saw many large grapes hanging high above the ground. They looked sweet and delicious. The fox licked his lip. He jumped as high as he could, but he couldn’t get any of the grapes. He jumped and jumped. Soon he was very tired and hungrier than before. After resting a short time, he tried once more to reach the grapes. Gathering all of his strength, a fox jumped one last time. He still couldn’t reach the grapes, even the lowest ones. Finally the fox said, “I don’t want to eat the grapes. I’m sure they are sour!”
Sour Grapes

Sentence A is incorrect because it uses **at Miami**, Sentence B is correct and Sentence C is incorrect because the pronoun **my** is missing.

Put students into groups of three and give Section A to one, Section B to another and Section C to the third. Explain that the story is the same but the sections are different, listening is important. One (and only one) sentence among the three sections, is grammatically correct; the other two sentences have grammar or syntax mistakes.

**Getting Started:** Students silently read the ten sentences and try to decide which of the sentences are correct and which are incorrect. (Each student has at least 3 grammatically correct sentences.) These should be marked with either a check or an X on the left side of the section.

If students are not sure about the correctness of their sentences, they can read their sentences to each other, one by one. Through comparative readings, students should be able to identify which of the three sentences (either Section A, B or C) is grammatically correct.

When errors are identified, they should be corrected on the paper.

Once students have finished, they need to look to the right side of their Section sheets. For every correct sentence within a section, there is a corresponding letter. For example, Section A, Sentence #1 has the corresponding letter “S,” Section B, Sentence #1 has the corresponding letter “N” and Section C, Sentence #1 has the corresponding letter “D.” Since Section A, Sentence #1 is the correct sentence (B & C contain mistakes), all students should write the letter “S” in Box #1 at the top. After writing the corresponding letters in the boxes at the top, students
will know immediately if they have identified all of the grammatically correct sentences. When finished, the title should read: SOUR GRAPES.

If the title doesn’t say SOUR GRAPES, students will need to return to the sentences and examine them more carefully.

**Variation 1:** Gambling. Assign an imaginary amount of money to each student in the group, e.g., $100. After silently reading Sentence #1 from their section, students bet on their sentence, they can bet that it is correct or that it is incorrect. They can bet any amount of money they like, up to the maximum.

When two students bet that their sentence is correct, obviously one of them is wrong. They can raise their bets (if they are confident). Finally, after all bets have been taken, the sentences are read aloud and the grammatically correct sentence is identified. They money is then paid out to the winner.

This is also true when all each student claims that his/her sentence is incorrect. One of them must be correct.

**Variation 2:** Rotation. Students Look only at the first sentence of each section, make a mental note of its correctness then rotate their section. After rotating the three sections among the three students, everyone will have read all three sentences. Then, students discuss which one they believe is correct.

**Building Fluency:** The story of Sour Grapes is, of course, from Aesop’s Fables. These fables have morals which can teach us about life. Discuss the meaning of Sour Grapes and see if students can offer other examples.

**Writing Practice:** Students write the story of Sour Grapes in their own words. –OR- Students write an essay of a real life “Sour Grapes” incident.

**Similar Lessons:**
- The Lazy Grasshopper  
  (Lesson Collection Set #3 – Lesson 14b)
- The Smart Crow  
  (Lesson Collection Set #3 – Lesson 14c)
- The Clever Fox  
  (Lesson Collection Set #3 – Lesson 14d)
- The Greedy Dog  
  (Lesson Collection Set #3 – Lesson 14e)
- The Silly Crab  
  (Lesson Collection Set #3 – Lesson 14f)
- Sun vs Wind  
  (Lesson Collection Set #3 – Lesson 14g)

**Answers:** The following are the correct sentences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence #</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sentence # 1</td>
<td>Section A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence # 2</td>
<td>Section B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence # 3</td>
<td>Section A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence # 4</td>
<td>Section C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence # 5</td>
<td>Section B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence # 6</td>
<td>Section A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence # 7</td>
<td>Section C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence # 8</td>
<td>Section B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence # 9</td>
<td>Section C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence # 10</td>
<td>Section B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contributed by Kurt Scheibner

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