

## Write it Short

### Purpose

Students will practice recognizing common abbreviations.

### Materials

*For the teacher:* chalk, chalkboard, *Today is Monday* by Eric Carle (Big Book version if possible), *Chicken Soup with Rice* by Maurice Sendak (Big Book version if possible), large sticky notes

### Activity

#### A. Pre-Activity Preparation

Prepare large sticky notes with the abbreviations of the days of the week and the months of the year.

#### B. Pre-Activity Discussion

1. Write the word “abbreviation” on the chalkboard.
2. Ask students if they know what the word *abbreviation* means.
3. Discuss its meaning using a dictionary if necessary.
4. Write a basic abbreviation that students should recognize (e.g., “Mrs.” or “St.”) on the chalkboard and ask students what word the abbreviation stands for.
5. Ask students why we use abbreviations, and reinforce with your students that abbreviations are shortened forms of words. Explain that some abbreviations are used more often than the actual words (e.g., *Mrs.*).

#### C. Activity

1. Read *Today is Monday* with the class.
2. Talk about how we often abbreviate the days of the week.
3. Go back into the story and, with the students’ help, place a sticky note with the proper abbreviation over each day of the week as it is mentioned.
4. Reread the story, reading the abbreviations on the sticky notes instead of the whole words for the days of the week.
5. Repeat this activity with *Chicken Soup with Rice*, abbreviating the months of the year.

(continued)

EXTENDING  
THE



ACTIVITY

Continue to model using both whole words and abbreviations when writing the date each day in your classroom.

connecting  
across the  
curriculum



#### Science/ Social Studies

Encourage students to look for abbreviations in their social studies and science textbooks. Make a class abbreviation chart that students can add to as they note abbreviations in their textbooks and in the world around them.

Standards Link  
**2.6.7**

**Activity (continued)** 

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**D. Close the Activity**

Allow students to reread these two books during self-selected reading time, with the sticky notes in place.

**Questions for Review** 

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**Basic Concepts**

Ask students the following questions about abbreviations:



Why do we use abbreviations?



Can you give me an example of a word and its abbreviation?

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