

Listen, Direct, Critique

Use a story to practice four connected oral-language skills.

7.1 "Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, discussion, and thinking--oral language. The student develops oral language through listening, speaking, and discussion..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the story. Mark a detail that shows a change in Mira and another that makes the change uncertain. Later, you will give and follow spoken instructions and present your own critique.

The Spare Key - original classroom fiction

- ① Mira kept the workshop key on a string inside her sleeve. At the neighborhood repair day, she set every tool in a straight line before allowing anyone near the tables. Last year, a borrowed wrench had vanished. This year, she decided, nothing would leave her sight. When Theo offered to label the repaired bicycles, Mira told him to wait. She could print the labels more neatly herself. A line of owners began to curl around the doorway.
- ② Theo pointed to a bicycle with two blue ribbons on its handlebars. "That one is ready," he said. Mira agreed, then noticed that three more finished bicycles still had no labels. Theo proposed writing the owners' names while she checked the repairs. She handed him a marker but watched his first two letters. A bell rang at the next table. When she looked back, Theo had made four readable labels, each matched to the correct bicycle. The line began to move.
- ③ At closing time, Mira found the missing wrench in a pocket of her own old apron. Theo was stacking the last chair. She held up the wrench but did not explain where it had been. "Will you help next Saturday?" she asked. Then she placed the workshop key beside his marker. Her hand rested on it for a moment before she turned to switch off the light. Theo left the key on the table. "If you want me to," he said.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE ————— Use the passage**1** What evidence shows that Mira's way of working creates a problem?

2 What detail makes the ending more complicated than "Mira now completely trusts Theo"?

3 Name one choice in the writing that you could evaluate in a critique, and explain its effect.

3 YOUR TURN ————— Your own words

Work with a partner. Each person needs this worksheet and a pencil. Complete every stage in both roles. The spoken directions, completed listener work, individual critique, and feedback exchange are all required.

1. Design complex spoken instructions

Plan four numbered, connected instructions for your partner to analyze the story. Include selecting exact text, comparing details, making an inference, and writing a brief evaluation supported by the selected details. Specify paragraphs and the output for each step. Keep your plan covered when speaking; your partner must not read it.

2. Give, listen, and act

A gives the four instructions aloud; B listens, asks about anything unclear, and completes the four numbered outputs here. A answers questions and checks the results against the spoken plan. Switch roles with B's different plan. Keep your actual completed work as evidence; repeating the directions alone does not finish the task.

3. Present an individual critique

Each person presents a concise critique of the story to the partner. Evaluate a writing choice using two specific details and explain their effects; do more than retell. Plan brief notes here, then speak with eye contact, clear enunciation, suitable rate and volume, natural gestures, and appropriate language.

4. Discuss and use feedback

After each critique, the listener restates its main idea and asks a clarifying question that builds on it. The speaker answers. Discuss one strength and one improvement in the ideas or delivery; each person gives and accepts specific feedback. Record a question/answer, feedback you gave, feedback you received, and how you will use it. Explain any respectful disagreement.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Read the story. Mark a detail that shows a change in Mira and another that makes the change uncertain. Later, you will give and follow spoken instructions and present your own critique. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What evidence shows that Mira's way of working creates a problem?	She insists on printing labels herself while owners wait. Several repaired bicycles are ready but still unlabeled.
2	What detail makes the ending more complicated than "Mira now completely trusts Theo"?	Her hand rests on the key before she leaves; she does not explain the wrench. Theo leaves the key and gives a conditional reply. Accept any supported explanation.
3	Name one choice in the writing that you could evaluate in a critique, and explain its effect.	The pause with Mira's hand on the key shows hesitation without saying exactly what she thinks. Readers infer how far she has changed. Other supported evaluations are valid.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Stage 1 - example spoken plan: First, copy Mira's decision in paragraph 1 about keeping tools in sight. Next, find two details in paragraph 3 that contrast with or complicate that decision. Then, infer how much her trust has changed. Finally, write a two-sentence evaluation of how the ending shows that change, using your selected details.

Stage 2 - possible completed listener work: 1. "nothing would leave her sight"; 2. she puts the key by Theo's marker but rests her hand on it; 3. she is beginning to trust him but still hesitates; 4. The ending makes Mira's change believable because it is unfinished. Giving Theo access to the key suggests trust, while her lingering hand shows doubt.

Stage 3 - illustrative critique: The ending shows a small, believable change instead of a sudden transformation. At first, Mira wants every tool in her sight. Near the end, she puts the key beside Theo's marker, which could let him take more responsibility. Yet her hand rests on it. That brief action makes her uncertainty visible without explaining every feeling. Theo's answer also leaves their cooperation unsettled. I find that ambiguity effective, although a reader might want Mira to admit her mistake about the wrench.

Stage 4 - illustrative exchange: "You called the change small. How does Theo's final reply support that?" / "His conditional reply suggests he is not yet sure she wants his help." Feedback: "Your two key details supported your judgment; pause after the second one so I can connect them." Response: "I will add that pause while keeping both details."

Observe every learner giving and following complex oral directions, asking a linked clarifying question, presenting a literary critique, and giving/accepting constructive feedback. Inspect the actual four listener outputs. Evaluate all named delivery features during the critique; written notes cannot prove speaking performance. The model plan and discussion are teacher examples, not required student results. Accept different supported judgments of the ambiguous ending. These tasks address TEKS 7.1 A-D as specified in the official TEKS Guide.