**Why Teach Language Conventions**

The [Conventions](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/programs/lsp/mod2-2.htm#2) of language enable children and young people to understand each other by successfully using expressive and receptive language. They describe how students combine and unpack sounds in words, words in sentences and sentences in discourse.  Students at all stages of schooling use these conventions for saying words, linking words into sentences, and linking sentences into narratives or dialogues.

[Phonological conventions](http://www.weebly.com/studentlearning/programs/lsp/mod2-2.htm#2) are used to combine sounds to make spoken words.  To say words accurately, speakers need to know the sound pattern for the words and articulate the sound pattern. To accurately comprehend words heard, listeners need to know the sound pattern for the words, and perceive and recognise the sound pattern.

[Grammatical conventions](http://www.weebly.com/studentlearning/programs/lsp/mod2-2.htm#2) are the rules the child or young person uses to combine (that is, use) and unpack (that is, understand) words in sentences. Every language has conventions or rules which the language users need to know in order to communicate with each other.  Children and young people who have not learned grammatical conventions will have difficulty understanding and producing correct grammatical structures

[Genre conventions](http://www.weebly.com/studentlearning/programs/lsp/mod2-2.htm#2) can also be described as ‘discourse conventions’. They are rules about how particular goals are achieved through language. Genres are specific types of language used for different purposes in varying contexts and interactions.  When speaking and listening, children, young people and adults expect sentences to flow in a cohesive manner. Cohesion is achieved when the speaker links the ideas in sentences with conjunctions to indicate the connections between sentences, and with pronouns to refer to people, places and/or objects previously mentioned.

Source:  <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/programs/lsp/mod22icpalconv.htm>