Thank You's & Mad Libs

Thank you notes were one of the most common types of letters that appeared in 18th-century letter writing manuals. Thank you notes, whether handwritten or sent as an e-mail, are still common today.

Check out these three letter templates. Partner with a family member or friend. Ask them to provide a word to fill in the blank spaces based on the parts of speech listed below the line. Fill it in, and when complete, read them aloud.

This letter is adapted from the sample "Letter of Thanks for a Seal" from *The Art of Letter-Writing* (p.

A Letter of Thanks for a Seal (18th century)

66). Benjamin Franklin owned a copy of this book. It is a thank you note for a seal, which was used to stick wax to a letter to keep it closed and private. This was before envelopes were used!
Dear,
The seal you sent me is the thing I ever saw, and I am vexed superlative adjective
I cannot praise it sufficiently. But, let me tell you, that the who
would seal up their's mouth, because not very reserved in keeping relation/family member
their secrets, ought to have had such a seal, to be worthy of so adjective
nice an application. The most excellent engravers are botchers to yours; nay, I may
say,''s pencil never delineated any
favorite author's name noun
with the art and delicacy of your figures. But as I do not so much regard your present
as a masterpiece in its kind, than as a pledge of your friendship, I cannot thank you
enough for it nor express to what a degree I am, &c

Benjamin Franklin's Letter of Thanks for an Electrical Tube (March 14, 1747)

This letter is adapted from an actual letter of thanks that Franklin wrote to his friend, Peter Collinson, who lived in London. Collinson sent Franklin and his colleagues at the Library Company of Philadelphia an electrical tube with descriptions of experiments to be performed with it. You can see the actual letter printed here, in Franklin's *Experiments and Observations on Electricity* (pp. 1-2).

honorific ,	
Youradjective	present of an electric tube, with directions for
using it, has put several of u	s on making, in which we
have verb (not ending in	n -ing) adjective
phenomena that we look up	oon to be new. I shall, therefore, communicate them to
you in my next letter, thoug	h possibly they may not be new to you, as among the
numbers daily employed in	those experiments on your side of the water, 'tis probable
someone or other has hit or	n the same observations. For my own part, I never was
before engaged in any study	that so engrossed my attention adverb
and my	as this has lately done; for what with making
noun	when I can be alone, and repeating them to my
Friends andn	, who, from the
adjective	of the thing, come continually in crowds to see them, I
have, during some	past, had little leisure for anything else
I am, &c. B. Franklin.	

A Letter of Thanks for a Mask (2020)

This is a template that might be used to write a thank you note today. Many people are sending masks to loved ones to wear during the pandemic. Here's an example of a letter you might write thanking someone for their gift. This is adapted from the 18th century letter of thanks for a seal.

Dear			
name			
The mask you sent me is	the	thing	I ever saw, and I
·		ve adjective	
am	I cannot praise	it	But let
adjective	-	adverb	
me tell you that any		who would cov	er their
	person		
	's mouth, because	e not careful in keepin	ng isolated, should
family member		_	
have such a		mask. The most	
	adjective		
d	esigners are	to yo	ours. No, I may
adjective	negativ		
say,	never creat	ted any	with
favorite artist		noun	
the	and art of your creat	ion. But as I think of	your present as a
noun	·		•
sign of your friendship, ra	ither than as a master	piece, I cannot thank	you enough.
	,		
closing	name		