

Grammar Glossary Year 5 and Year 6

Noun	A person, place or thing e.g. cat, man, Mr Morel, England
Verb	A doing or being word e.g. jump, run, am, was
Adjective	A describing word used before a noun to make the noun's meaning more specific e.g. tall, blue
Adverb	Adverbs describe how the verb is being done (modifies) the verb.
Tense	Shows whether you are writing about the past, present or future
Main Clause	A group of words (it can be a sentence) that has a subject and a verb and makes sense on its own e.g. the cat sat on the mat
Noun phrase	A phrase where an adjective is used before a noun to describe it e.g. blue table, fierce fox
Pronoun	Word that takes the place of a noun to avoid repetition of the noun e.g. it, he, she
Possessive pronoun	Words that demonstrate ownership e.g. his, her, their
Co-ordinating conjunctions	Words which join together two main clauses: FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but or, yet, so)
Subordinating conjunctions	Words which connect two complete ideas by making one of the ideas subordinate or less important than the other e.g. AWHITEBUS (Although, after, as, when, if that, even though, because, until, unless, since) The tree will fall over unless we replace the top soil.
Question	Asks something e.g.: Why aren't you my friend?
Statement	States a fact or something that has happened e.g. You are my friend.
Command	Something you have to do e.g. Be my friend!
Exclamation	When something is exclaimed - start with 'what' or 'how' e.g. What a good friend you are!
Inverted commas	Used to indicate speech
Apostrophe	Apostrophes are used for possession and omission: I'm going out and I won't be long. [showing missing letters] Hannah's mother went to town in Justin's car. [marking possessives]
Comma	Used to separate a list and can be used to separate clauses
Fronted adverbials	Words or phrases at the beginning of a sentence, used to describe the action that follows e.g. Later that day, I heard the bad news
Subordinate clause	A part of the sentence which does not make sense on its own but still has a subject and a verb e.g. He watched her <u>as she disappeared</u> . Tom, <u>who was feeling tired</u> , went to bed early.
Modal verb	An auxiliary verb that expresses necessity or possibility e.g. might, should, will, must
Auxiliary Verb	A verb that helps the sentence make sense e.g. They have walked the dog earlier today.
Determiner	A modifying word that determines the kind of reference a noun or noun group has e.g. a, the, every.
Synonyms and Antonym	Synonym: words with a similar meaning e.g. beautiful/pretty Antonym: words meaning the opposite e.g. awful/wonderful
Hyphen	Hyphens can be used to make compound adjectives e.g. yellow-bellied, tight-lipped
Parenthesis	A word or phrase inserted as an explanation or afterthought into a passage that is grammatically complete without it; in writing usually marked off by brackets, dashes, or commas.
Brackets	Brackets are used to include information that is not essential to the main point e.g. We agreed to meet on my birthday (2nd January) outside the cinema.
Dashes	When we wish to provide additional information and emphasize it, we use a pair of dashes.
Semi colon	Used to join two main clauses – replacing a FANBOYS (co-ordinating conjunctions). They can also be used in a descriptive list.
Colon	Colons can be used to introduce a list. They can also be used between independent clauses when the second clause explains, illustrates, paraphrases, or expands on the first.
Active/Passive voice	An active verb has its usual pattern of subject and object (in contrast with the passive). Active: The school arranged a visit . Passive: A visit was arranged by the school .
Subjunctive Form	A verb in the subjunctive mood is used to indicate a situation or condition that is hypothetical, doubtful, or conditional
How to help?	Useful links
Remind your child to speak in grammatically accurate sentences	National Curriculum - available on the School Website