

## Grammar Terminology by Year Group

In the 2014 National Curriculum children are expected to understand and use the terms shown in the tables that follow. The terminology for each year group is revisited and explored in subsequent years. Children may also visit some concepts earlier on depending on what they are studying in their literacy lessons.

Year 1	
letter	A character representing one or more of the sounds used in speech; any of the symbols of an alphabet.
capital letter	A letter written or printed in a size larger than and often in a form differing from its corresponding lowercase letter; an uppercase letter.
word	A sound, group of sounds which combine to make a unit of meaning.
singular	A word denoting or referring to just one person or thing.
plural	A word denoting more than one person or thing.
sentence	A sentence is a group of words that contains a verb. It should make sense on its own. In writing, a sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark.
punctuation	Punctuation is the use of special marks to make a piece of writing easier to read and understand. Punctuation marks show divisions and connections between sentences, clauses, or individual words.
full stop	A full stop shows where a sentence ends, when the sentence is neither a question nor an exclamation. For example: Our story begins in 1914, on the eve of the First World War.
question mark (?)	Question marks are used to mark a sentence that is a question. Question marks usually come at the end of a sentence. For example: Are there wild animals in this wood?
exclamation mark	You use an exclamation mark to indicate shouting, surprise, or excitement in direct speech. For

(!)	example: 'Stop! Don't drink! The goblet is poisoned!' It can also be used to express surprise, alarm, or excitement in a narrative. For example: The sun was coming up. She must hurry! Soon the spell would wear off!
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Year 2	
noun	Nouns are used to name people, places, or things and tell you who or what a sentence is about.
noun phrase	A noun phrase is a phrase that plays the role of a noun. The head word in a noun phrase will be a noun or a pronoun. I don't have a bank <b>account</b> . I've met the <u>last remaining</u> <b>chief</b> .
statement	A sentence which declares or states something. It ends with a full stop.
question	A sentence which asks a question. It ends with a question mark.
exclamation	A sentence which shows sudden cry or remark expressing surprise, strong emotion, or pain. It usually ends with an exclamation mark.
command	A sentence which gives a command. It can end with an exclamation mark or a full stop.
compound words	A word create when two smaller words are joined together. E.g. foot+ball = football, arm+chair = arm chair.
root word	Root words are words that make sense by themselves e.g. 'agree'. They can have a suffix or a prefix added to them to slightly change the meaning.
suffix	A word ending added to the end of a root word which add a certain meaning to the word. E.g. 'agreement'.
adjective	Adjectives give us more information about nouns. For example: A tall giraffe. The weather grew cold.
adverb	Most adverbs, as their name suggests, tell us more about verbs. Adverbs like these are often formed by adding '-ly' to an adjective. For example: The troll

	<p>ate ravenously. The adverb 'ravenously' tells you how the troll was eating.</p> <p>A few adverbs modify adjectives. For example: The map is very old. The adverb 'very' tells you how old it is.</p>
verb	<p>A verb can describe an action or process (for example: dive, chew, heal, thaw), a feeling or state of mind (for example: worry, think, know, believe), or a state (for example: be, remain). A sentence usually contains at least one verb.</p>
tense (past and present)	<p>The form of a verb that shows when something happens in the past, present and future.</p>
apostrophe (‘)	<p>Apostrophes have two uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To indicate a missing letter or letters in a shortened word. For example: didn't (did not); we'd (we would).</li> <li>• To show what someone or something owns or possesses. There is no apostrophe in ordinary plurals like tomatoes and videos. For example: the alien's toenails (the toenails of the alien).</li> </ul>
comma (,)	<p>Commas are used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To mark a pause in a sentence, especially to separate a subordinate clause from the main clause. For example: When the howling stopped, we ventured out from the cave.</li> <li>• To separate items in a list or series. For example: I've packed a bikini, flippers, snorkel, and a periscope.</li> <li>• In pairs before and after the name of someone who is being introduced or described. For example: The author, Roald Dahl, once lived here.</li> <li>• To mark a pause in a compound sentence. For example: The film is rated 15, but it's not that scary.</li> </ul>

Year 3	
preposition	<p>A preposition sits before a noun (or a pronoun) to show the noun's relationship to another word in the</p>

	sentence. (It tells you the <i>position</i> of the noun. E.g. around, in, under, on, through, near.
conjunction	Conjunctions are used to join words, phrases, or clauses in a sentence. For example: and, but, for, or, neither, nor, yet, although, because, if, until, unless, when, where, while, whereas.
word family	Groups of words that are sufficiently closely related to <u>each</u> other to form a 'family'. Often built up by adding a prefix or a suffix.
prefix	A word beginning added to the start of a root word which add a certain meaning to the word. E.g. 'disagree'.
clause	A clause is a part of a sentence that has its own verb.
subordinate clause	A subordinate clause begins with a subordinating conjunction such as: <b>because, if, or, and when.</b> It can come before or after the main clause. For example: <u>Because they eat aphids</u> , ladybirds are useful in the garden.
direct speech	The reporting of speech by repeating the actual words of a speaker, for example "I'm going," she said. Direct speech is always indicated using speech marks (inverted commas).
consonant	Every letter in the English alphabet that is not a vowel.
vowel	The letters a, e, i, o, u in the English alphabet.
inverted commas	Inverted commas occur in pairs and can surround a single word or phrase, or a longer piece of text. For example: 'Look!' said a voice behind me. 'Look at the sky!' Inverted commas are also known as speech marks, quotation marks, or (informally) quotes. Pairs of quotation marks can be single ('...') or double ("..."), but are never mixed.

Year 4	
determiner	A word (such as “a,” “the,” “some,” “any,” “my,” or “your”) that comes before a noun and is used to show which thing is being referred to
pronoun	Pronouns are used to replace a noun in a sentence or clause, and help to avoid having to repeat words.
possessive pronoun	A pronoun indicating possession, for example mine, yours, hers, theirs.
adverbial	Quite often, an adverb in a sentence comprises several words. E.g: A crow attacked your cat <u>while I was waiting for the bus</u> . <u>If I have the time</u> , I will show you the cellar after the shift. We were forced to abandon the match <u>because the skies opened up</u> .

Year 5	
modal verb	Verbs used to express ideas such as possibility, intention, obligation and necessity. E.g. Can, could, will, would, shall, ought, to, dare and need.
relative pronoun	A relative pronoun is used to connect a clause or phrase to a noun or pronoun. They are used frequently. The most common are: who, whom, which, whoever, whomever, whichever, and that.
relative clause	A relative clause explains or describes something that has just been mentioned, and is introduced by that, which, who, whom, whose, when, or where. A relative clause can either restrict meaning: For example: Of all Tolkien's books, the one which I prefer is The Hobbit. Or it can simply add further information, in which

	case you put a comma before it: For example: The book, which Tolkien wrote for his children, was an instant success.
parenthesis	A word or phrase inserted as an explanation or afterthought into a passage which is grammatically complete without it, in writing usually marked off by brackets, dashes, or commas.
bracket ( )	A pair of marks ( ) useful for separating off parts of a sentence which introduce subordinate information which could be omitted.
dash (-)	A pair of marks - - useful for separating off parts of a sentence which introduce subordinate information which could be omitted. Also used to introduce afterthoughts, particularly those of a surprising or unexpected nature.
cohesion	Using words and phrases to link paragraphs and sentences to help guide a reader through a piece of writing.
ambiguity	Something that does not have a single clear meaning: something that is ambiguous.

Year 6	
subject	The subject is usually the thing or person within a sentence who is carrying out an action. E.g. <u>The man</u> ate a cream cake.
object	The object is the thing or person in a sentence that is involved in an action, but does not carry it out. E.g. The man ate a <u>cream cake</u> .
active	When the verb of a sentence is in the <b>active voice</b> , the subject is doing the acting, as in the sentence “Kevin hit the ball.” Kevin (the subject of the sentence) acts in relation to the ball.
passive	A verb is in the <b>passive voice</b> when the subject of the sentence is acted on by the verb. For example, in “The ball was thrown by the pitcher,” the ball (the subject) receives the action of the verb, and was thrown is in the passive voice. The same

	sentence cast in the active voice would be, “The pitcher threw the ball.”
synonym	A word or phrase that means exactly or nearly the same as another word or phrase in the same language, for example <i>shut</i> is a synonym of <i>close</i> .
antonym	A word opposite in meaning to another (e.g. bad and good).
ellipsis (...)	An ellipsis is used to show that one or more words have been missed out or that a sentence is not finished. For example: "No! Don't tell Dad about the ..."
hyphen (-)	Hyphens connect two or more words which make up a compound noun or adjective. For example: close-up; an ultra-huge sandwich.
colon (:)	A colon is used to precede a list of items, a quotation, or an expansion or explanation.
semi-colon (;)	You use a semicolon to mark a break in a sentence that is longer, or more important, than a break made with a comma: For example: The castle was desolate; no one had lived there for three centuries or more. Semicolons can separate a series of connected clauses introduced by a colon. For example: There were three clues: there was mud on the carpet; the door had been forced; and the air in the room smelled of fish. A single semicolon can also separate two contrasting or balancing clauses. For example: You bring cups and plates; I'll bring juice and sandwiches.
bullet point (•)	Bullet points are used to show items in a list; the bullet symbol (•) is used for emphasis.

Other terminology which will also be studied is shown in the table below.

Other	
main clause	A sentence can contain one or more main clauses, linked by a conjunction such as and, but, or, or yet, or by a semicolon. For example: We approached cautiously; the lioness was beginning to stir.
coordinating conjunctions	Coordinating conjunctions join words or clauses which are of equal importance in a sentence. They form compound sentences. For example: and, but, for, or, neither, nor, yet (Would you prefer tea and biscuits, or coffee and cake?)
subordinating conjunctions	Subordinating conjunctions are used to link a main and a dependent clause. They are used to form complex sentences. For example: although, because, if, until, unless, when, where, while, whereas (Mira felt brave because she had her lucky pebble.)
connective	Connectives are used to link ideas in a piece of writing. They often occur at the start of a sentence and connect it with a previous sentence or paragraph. For example: moreover, nevertheless, finally, furthermore, and, thus (Nevertheless, he still remains popular with his millions of fans and continues to have hit records all over the world.)
homophone	A noun with the same sound as another. For example: son and sun
mnemonics	Memory joggers such as a rhyme, a phrase or a shape. For example, seeing a dinosaur in the shape of a letter d to help your child to associate the dinosaur with the letter and sound d.
common noun	Common nouns name people or things in general. Common nouns only begin with a capital letter when they start a sentence. For example: dancer, lizard, sandwich, television.

proper noun	Proper nouns give the name of a specific person, place or thing. Proper nouns always begin with a capital letter. For example: Max, Antarctica, Friday.
collective noun	Collective nouns name groups of people or things. For example: a team of athletes, a herd of sheep, a swarm of bees.
abstract noun	An abstract noun is a thing that cannot be seen or touched, such as an idea, a quality or a feeling. For example: happiness, truth, friendship.
phonemes	The smallest unit of sounds in a word represented by letters/ groups of letters.
simple sentence	A simple sentence consists of one main clause. For example: The cat is sleeping.
compound sentence	A compound sentence consists of two or more main clauses joined by conjunctions such as and or but. For example: The cat is sleeping but the dog is awake.
complex sentence	A complex sentence contains a main clause and at least one other clause. The two clauses are joined by conjunctions such as although.
present tense	For example: I am walking.
past tense	For example: I have walked.
future tense	For example: I will walk.