

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/primary-grammar-glossary-for-parents> is also a useful website. See Year 6 section of our school website for the link.

### **Abstract noun**

An abstract noun is a feeling or concept that you cannot touch, such as happiness or love.

### **Adverbial phrase**

A phrase is a small group of words that does not contain a verb. An adverbial phrase is built around an adverb and the words that surround it, for example: very slowly, as fast as possible.

### **Active voice**

A sentence is written in active voice when the subject of the sentence is performing the action (for example, "The cat chased the mouse.")

### **Adjective**

An adjective is a word used to describe and give more information about a noun, which could be a person, place or object. Adverb An adverb is a word which modifies a verb, which means that it tells you how, when, where or why something is being done.

### **Antonym**

Two words are antonyms if their meanings are opposites e.g. light – dark. Weak – strong.

### **Apostrophe**

Apostrophes are punctuation marks used to show possession and to show contraction (also known as omission).

### **Article**

Articles are words which tell us whether a noun is general (any noun) or specific. There are three articles: 'the' is a definite article and 'a' and 'an' are indefinite articles.

### **Clause**

Clauses are the building blocks of sentences, groups of words that contain a subject and a verb. Clauses can be main or subordinate.

### **Collective noun**

A collective noun is a noun used to refer to a group of things e.g. pack, flock, herd

### **Colon**

A **colon (:)** is a punctuation mark that can be used to introduce a list or to separate two independent but linked clauses e.g. I have a lot to do this weekend: horse-riding, cleaning and revising or He got what he worked for: he really earned that promotion.

## **Common noun**

A common noun describes a class of objects (car, friend, dog); unlike proper nouns it does not have a capital letter (Honda, Jenny, Smudge).

## **Complex sentence**

A complex sentence is formed when you join a main clause and a subordinate clause with a conjunction.

## **Compound sentence**

A compound sentence is formed by joining two main clauses with a conjunction.

## **Concrete noun**

A concrete noun is something you can touch, such as a person, an animal, a place or a thing. Concrete nouns can be common nouns (man, city, film) or proper nouns (Mr Edwards, London, Gone with the Wind).

## **Conjunction**

A conjunction joins two clauses together and can be co-ordinating (for, and, nor, but, or, yet or so) or subordinating (e.g. because, if and until).

## **Contracted words or contractions**

Contracted words are short words made by putting two words together. Letters are missed out in the contraction and replaced by an apostrophe, for example I'm (I am) or it's (it is).

## **Dash**

A dash is a versatile punctuation mark that can be used within a sentence (instead of brackets or a colon) to show parenthesis.

## **Determiner**

A determiner is a word that introduces a noun and identifies it in detail. Determiners can be articles (a, an, the), demonstratives (this, that), possessives (your, his), quantifiers (some, many), numbers (six, sixty).

## **Direct and indirect speech**

Direct speech is a sentence in which the exact words spoken are reproduced in speech marks (quotation marks or inverted commas). Indirect speech or reported speech is when the general points of what someone has said are reported, without actually writing the speech out in full.

## **Embedded clause**

An embedded clause is a clause used in the middle of another clause. It is usually marked by commas.

## **Expanded noun phrase**

A noun phrase describes a noun in even more detail e.g. My prize was a fluffy green pencil case with a gold zip.

## **Formal/informal**

Formal language is words or phrases that you use when you want to sound official and you would use it with people you don't know. Informal language is words or phrases that you would use every day with your friends and family or people you know.

## **Fronted adverbials**

Fronted adverbials are words or phrases at the beginning of a sentence, used like adverbs to describe the action that follows.

## **Homophone**

Homophones are words that sound the same but have different meanings. Some homophones are pronounced the same way and spelled the same way but have different meanings; others are pronounced the same way but are spelled differently and have different meanings e.g. bare and bear.

## **Hyphenated words**

Hyphens are shorter than dashes and are used to connect words e.g. red-blooded, friendly-looking.

## **Modal verbs**

A modal verb is a special type of verb which changes or affects other verbs in a sentence. Modal verbs are used to show the level of possibility, indicate ability, show obligation or give permission e.g. might, could, should

## **Noun**

A noun is a naming word. It is a thing, a person, an animal or a place. Nouns can be common, proper, abstract or collective.

## **Noun phrase**

A phrase is a small group of words that does not contain a verb. A noun phrase includes one noun as well as words that describe it, for example: the red shoe.

## **Object**

The object of a sentence is the thing or person that is involved in an action, but does not carry it out ("The cat chased the mouse.").

## **Parenthesis**

Parenthesis is a word, phrase, or clause inserted into a sentence to add extra, subordinate or clarifying information by using brackets, dashes or commas. When a parenthesis is removed, the sentence still makes sense on its own.

## **Passive voice**

A sentence is written in passive voice when the subject of the sentence has something done to it by someone or something. For example: "The mouse was being chased by the cat."

## **Present continuous (progressive), past continuous and future continuous**

The present continuous, past and future continuous are used when we are describing actions that continue for a period of time in the present, in the past or the future.

Present continuous example: I am walking. We are walking. You are walking.  
Past continuous example: I was walking. You were walking. We were walking.  
Future example: I will be walking. We will be walking. You will be walking.

## **Perfect tense (present, past and future)**

The 'perfect' tenses (present perfect, past perfect and future perfect) are usually used to talk about actions that are completed by the present or a particular point in the past or future.

Present perfect example: I have walked. You have walked.  
past perfect example: I had walked. You had walked.  
future perfect example: I will have walked. You will have walked.

## **Personal pronoun**

A personal pronoun is a word which can be used instead of a person, place or thing: I, you, he, she, it, we, they, me, him, her, us and them.

## **Plural**

When a noun is plural it means there is more than one e.g. dogs, boxes

## **Possessive pronoun**

Possessive pronouns are used to show ownership. Some can be used on their own (mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs, whose); others must be used with a noun (my, your, his, her, its, our, their, whose).

## **Prefix**

A prefix is a string of letters that are added to the beginning of a root word, changing its meaning e.g. the prefix re can be added to play to create replay.

## **Preposition**

Prepositions are linking words in a sentence. We use prepositions to explain where things are in time or space e.g. under, on, in

## **Prepositional phrase**

A phrase is a small group of words that does not contain a verb. Prepositional phrases contain a preposition, for example: on the mat, in the morning, under the chair, during the film.

## **Pronoun**

A pronoun is a word used to replace a noun. Examples of pronouns are: he, she, it, they. Pronouns can be personal and possessive.

## **Proper noun**

A proper noun identifies a particular person, place, or thing (for example, James or Brazil or Monday or Glasgow). Proper nouns always start with a capital letter.

## **Relative clause**

A relative clause is a type of subordinate clause that adapts, describes or modifies a noun by using a relative pronoun e.g. My nan, who is very good at baking, lives in Sheffield.

## **Relative pronoun**

A relative pronoun is a word which is used to refer back to nouns which have already been mentioned in the sentence (who, that or which).

## **Root word**

A root word is a basic word with no prefix or suffix added to it. By adding prefixes and suffixes to a root word we can change its meaning.

## **Semi-colon**

A semi colon is a punctuation mark (;) indicating a pause, typically between two main clauses, that is more pronounced than that indicated by a comma e.g. I have a test tomorrow; I can't go out tonight.

## **Simple sentence**

A simple sentence has a subject and one verb. A compound sentence is formed when you join two main clauses with a connective. A complex sentence is formed when you join a main clause and a subordinate clause with a connective.

## **Singular**

A singular noun names only one person, place, thing, or idea e.g. dog, box.

## **Standard English**

Standard English is the usual "correct" form of English, taught in schools and used in formal written communication.

## **Subject**

The subject of a sentence is the thing or person who is carrying out the action described by the verb ("The cat chased the mouse.").

## **Subjunctive**

The subjunctive is a verb form used to express things that could or should happen, for example: If I were to go... / I demand that he answer! This is usually used in more formal pieces of writing.

## **Subordinate clause**

A subordinate clause needs to be attached to a main clause because it cannot make sense on its own, although it contains a subject and a verb e.g. If I can find my wallet, we can all go for ice cream

## **Suffix**

A suffix is a string of letters that go at the end of a word, changing or adding to its meaning. Suffixes can show if a word is a noun, an adjective, an adverb or a verb e.g. -ing, -ly, -ness

## **Superlative**

The superlative form of an adjective or adverb is used to compare one person, thing, action or state to all the others in its class. Examples of superlatives: saddest, lightest, most famous, worst, most angrily. The superlative is usually formed by adding the suffix -est.

## **Synonym (opposite of antonym)**

Two words are synonyms if they have the same meaning, or similar meanings e.g. talk – speak. Old – elderly.

## **Time conjunctions**

Time conjunctions are words or phrases which tell the reader when something is happening e.g. When, after, before.

## **Verbs and powerful verbs**

A verb expresses a physical action, a mental action or a state of being. Powerful verbs are descriptive, rich words.

## **Verb tense**

Verb tenses tell us the time when an action took place, in the past, the present or the future.