

Grammar

at Pucklechurch Primary School



Year 6

Terminology

Word types - NOUNS

Noun

A word denoting anything that can be named (usually an object, person, place or idea).

See also *abstract nouns, common nouns and proper nouns*.

Abstract noun

A feeling or concept which cannot be touched, such as love, happiness, education.

See also *proper nouns* and *common nouns*.

Common noun

Describes a class of objects (e.g. dog, man, day) which do not have a capital letter.

See also *proper nouns* and *abstract nouns*.

Proper noun

A noun which names a particular person, place or thing (e.g. day of week or month). They always start with a capital letter.

For example: 'John', 'London', 'France', 'Monday', 'December', 'Christ Church Junior School'.

Pronoun

A pronoun is a word that replaces a person, place or thing to avoid repeating names.

For example: 'I', 'you', 'he', 'she', 'we', 'they', 'it', 'me', 'him', 'her', 'us', 'them'.

Possessive pronoun

A pronoun is a word which is used to show ownership. Some can be used on their own ('mine', 'yours', 'his', 'hers', 'ours', 'theirs'), whilst others need to be attached to a noun ('my', 'your', 'her', 'our', 'their', 'whose').

Expanded noun phrase

An expanded noun phrase is where other word types are used to add information about a noun. The information can be added before or after the noun to 'expand it'.

For example: The large dog barked. (added an adjective)

For example: The extremely large dog barked. (added an adjective and an adverb)

For example: The dog with pointed ears barked. (information after the noun)

For example: The dog in the kennels barked. (added a prepositional phrase)

ADJECTIVES

Adjective

A word which describes a noun. They can be placed:

- before a noun (e.g. big box) to modify the noun
- or after the verb 'be' (e.g. the box is big)

For example: shiny apple, fragrant flowers the fruit was rotten VERBS

Verb

Most verbs are a 'doing' or action word. You cannot have a sentence without a verb! Some verbs don't describe actions and are used to describe a state ('to be'/'to have').

For example: I went to the shops and bought a pie, which is delicious.

See the 'tenses' section for more information on the different way verbs are used.

Modal verb

A special verb which affects the other verbs in the sentence by showing:

obligation (e.g. 'You should do your homework')

possibility (e.g. 'I might have pizza for tea')

ability (e.g. 'You can ride a bike now')

permission (e.g. 'You may go out now')

ADVERBS

Adverb

A word which describes how a verb action is being carried out. They often end in 'ly' but not always (e.g. quite, soon).

For example: Bruce ran quickly. (describes ran). For example: We will go to the shops later. (describes going to the shops)

CONJUNCTIONS

Conjunction

A type of word that joins clauses. Co-ordinating conjunctions include 'and', 'but' and 'so'. Subordinating conjunctions include 'because', 'if' and 'until'.

Co-ordinating conjunction

A conjunction which joins two main clauses to create a compound sentence (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).

Subordinating conjunction

A conjunction that connects a main clause to a subordinating clause.

Children use the phrase 'I SAW A WABUB' to remember the most common subordinating conjunctions: 'if',

'since', 'as', 'when', 'after', 'while', 'although' 'because',
'until', 'before'. **DETERMINERS**

Determiner

A word that introduces a noun and identifies it in detail.

This may be:

a definite or indefinite article (a, an, the)

a demonstrative (this, that)

a possessive (your, my)

a quantifier (some, many)

a number (six, ten, half)

Article

(the = definite)

(a/an = indefinite)

Words which tell us if a noun is general or specific. See also determiner.

'The' is called the 'definite article' and refers to specific nouns:

The man's hat is blue.

The 'indefinite articles' are 'a' and 'an', referring to general nouns:

A cow eats grass. **PREPOSITIONS**

Preposition

A word used to show where things are (the position) in time or space.

For example: 'in', 'on', 'under', 'after', 'next', 'behind'

WORD FAMILIES

Synonym

A word which has exactly or nearly the same meaning as another word.

e.g. big = ginormous, small = little

Antonym

A word with the opposite meaning to another word.

For example: good/bad, wise/foolish, long/short

Word family

A group of words which may share a common root word.

For example: 'happy', 'unhappy', 'happiness', 'happily', 'unhappiness', 'unhappily'

Root word

A basic word with no prefix or suffix added to it. Adding prefixes and suffixes can change the meaning of a root word.

e.g. misbehave

(Behave is the root word. Adding the prefix 'mis-' changes its meaning). OTHER WORD TYPES

Preposition

A word used to show where things are (the position) in time or space.

For example: 'in', 'on', 'under', 'after', 'next', 'behind'

Relative pronoun

A pronoun used in a relative clause (who, where, when, whose, that or which). See relative clauses.

For example: He ate too many cakes, which made him feel ill.

For example: Julie, who loves cycling, is on holiday at the moment.

Contraction

Short words made by putting two words together and omitting some letters, which are replaced by an apostrophe.

For example: 'did not' is contracted to 'didn't'.

Punctuation

Apostrophe

,

A punctuation mark used to show possession or to represent missing letters in a contraction.

For example: This is Sally's coat. (possession)

For example: The boys' toilets are out of order.
(possession)

For example: I didn't go shopping yesterday.
(contraction)

Colon

:

Used to indicate that something is about to follow, such as an example or list.

Colons can also be used to join two sentences, where the second sentence explains the first.

For example: I like cheese: it is delicious.

Semi-colon

;

A semi-colon can be used between two closely related sentences, provided they are not already joined by a conjunction.

For example: My car is red; my friend's car is blue.

Parenthesis

() -- ,,

A punctuation mark used to add additional information to a sentence. See brackets and dashes. Commas can also be used to show parenthesis.

For example: My three friends (Jack, Sam and Callum) are coming to my house for tea.

For example: My three friends – Jack, Sam and Callum – are coming to my house for tea.

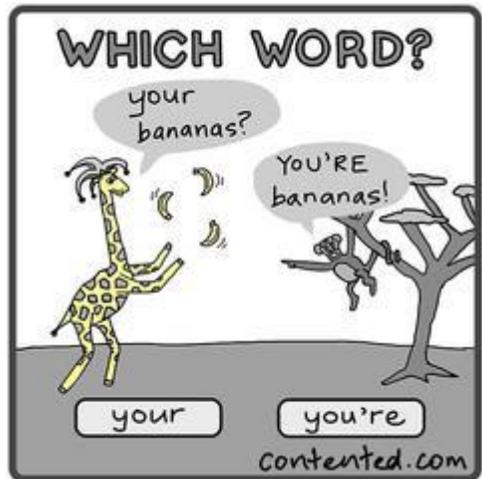
For example: My three friends, Jack, Sam and Callum, are coming to my house for tea.

Brackets

()

A punctuation mark used to add additional information to a sentence. Also known as parenthesis.

For example: My three friends (Jack, Sam and Callum) are coming to my house for tea.



Dash

-

Not to be confused with a hyphen.

Used in a similar way to brackets or parentheses to add additional information to a sentence.

For example: My three friends – Jack, Sam and Callum – are coming to my house for tea.

Inverted commas

“ ”

Punctuation marks used to demarcate direct speech in a sentence. Also known as speech marks.

Children need to recognise and understand the terminology ‘inverted commas’ as this will be used in their SATS papers.

Speech marks

“ ”

See inverted commas.

Hyphen

-

Not to be confused with a dash.

A punctuation mark used to link and join words, and often used to reduce ambiguity in sentences.

For example: twenty-seven, brother-in-law, man-eating, long-legged.

Ellipsis

...

Three dots which are used to show missing words or to create a pause for effect (e.g. a cliff-hanger).

Clauses

Clause

Clauses are the building blocks of a sentence.

They are groups of words that contain a subject and a verb.

They can be 'main' or 'subordinate'.

Main clause

The leading clause in a sentence which indicates the main subject and action of the sentence. It may be joined with other clauses but it can always stand alone without any additional clauses.

For example: Even though the weather is bad, I will still go for a walk.

Subordinate clause

A clause that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence, but is linked to a main clause using a subordinating conjunction.

It does not express a complete thought, and if read on its own it requires additional information.

For example: I take my dog to the park every day even though sometimes it is raining.

Relative clause

A relative clause is a type of subordinate clause that adds information about a noun by using a relative pronoun (who, where, when, whose, that or which). A

relative clause is separated from the rest of the sentence using commas. The rest of the sentence should make sense on its own when the relative clause is removed.

For example: He ate too many cakes, which made him feel ill.

For example: Julie, who loves cycling, is on holiday at the moment.

Active/passive voice

Active voice and passive voice

A sentence written in the active voice has the subject of the sentence carrying out the main action.

For example: Grandad ate a cake. (Grandad is the subject).

A sentence is written in the passive voice when the subject is having something done to it.

For example: The cake was eaten by Grandad.

Subject

The subject of a sentence is the thing or person carrying out the main action.

For example: Grandad ate a cake.

Object

The object of a sentence is involved in the action but does not carry it out.

For example: Grandad ate a cake.

Sentence types

Statement

A sentence that conveys a simple piece of information.

For example: It is a sunny day today.

Command

A type of sentence which instructs or orders an action to take place.

For example: Eat your dinner. Next add the eggs to the mixture.

Question

A type of sentence which asks a question. It either begins with one of the question words (who, what, where, when, how, why) or reverses the (pro)noun/verb order in a statement.

For example: 'Sarah is washing the dishes' becomes 'Is Sarah washing the dishes?'

Exclamation

A sentence which expresses surprise or wonder, and ends with an exclamation mark in place of a full stop.

Begins with the words 'how' or 'what' and must also contain a verb.

For example: What big eyes you have, Grandma!

For example: How cold it is today!

Simple sentence

Has a subject and one verb.

For example: Grandad ate a cake.

See also compound sentence and complex sentence.

Compound sentence

Formed by joining two main clauses with a co-ordinating conjunction. The two clauses can stand on their own as sentences.

For example: I like dogs but my friend likes cats.

Complex sentence

Formed by joining a main clause with a subordinate clause using a subordinating conjunction.

The main clause can stand alone but the subordinate clause cannot.

For example: 'I burned dinner when I was on the phone'.

'I burned dinner' = main clause

'when I was on the phone' = subordinate clause

Tenses

PRESENT TENSES

Present tense

A tense which describes an action that is currently going on or often happens.

For example: I learn French every day.

Present progressive tense

Also known as present continuous tense, a tense which describes an action which began in the past but is still happening now.

For example: I am learning to speak French.

FUTURE TENSES

Future tense

A verb tense which describes actions that are going to take place in the future. Often uses the verb 'will'.

For example: Tomorrow I will do the shopping.

Subjunctive voice

The subjunctive voice is a formal form of verb which is used to talk about things that should or could happen. In English, we only regularly encounter the subjunctive when using 'I' and talking about something that could happen in the future.

For example: If I were rich, I would donate my money to charity. ('were' not 'was') For example: If I were you, I would report that to the authorities. ('were' not 'was')

It can also be used to express insistence or demands:

For example: We insist that John complete his homework by 8am. (not 'completes') For example: Mr Jones demanded that the class be quiet. (not 'was')

PAST TENSES

Past tense

(or simple past tense)

Any one of a set of verb tenses which describe action that took place in the past. Often ends in '-ed' but can be irregular (for example: ate not eated).

For example: I walked in the park.

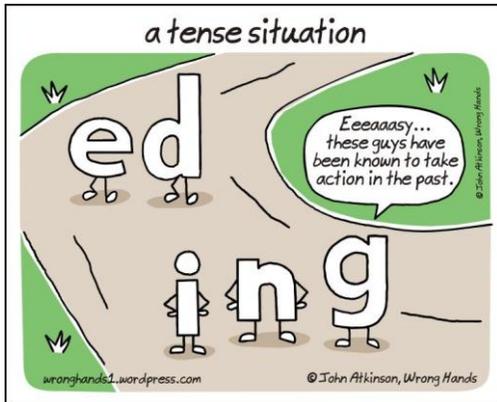
Past progressive tense

Also known as past continuous tense, a form of the past tense where something goes on for a period of time in the past. Usually formed by adding the suffix '-ing' to a verb

For example: I was walking in the park.

Past perfect tense

A tense used to describe actions that were completed by a certain time in the past. Uses the verb 'had'.



For example:
 Yesterday, I was late
 because I had walked
 to school.

Present perfect tense

The tense which describes actions that are completed at an unspecified time before this moment. Uses the verb 'have'.

For example: I have walked two miles already.

Other grammatical terminology

Adverbial phrase

An adverbial phrase behaves like an adverb. They can add information about where, how or when something happens.

See also fronted adverbial.

For example:

There are many trees in the forest. (where)

Bruce ran to the shops in a hurry. (how)

I ate my tea at six o'clock. (when)

Ambiguity

A sentence contains ambiguity if it could be open to more than one meaning. Pupils are taught to use hyphens to avoid ambiguity; for example, the sentence 'Jaws is about a man eating shark' could be ambiguous, but with the insertion of a hyphen becomes much clearer: 'Jaws is about a man-eating shark'.

Consonant

Any letter of the alphabet other than the vowels (a, e, i, o, u).

Direct speech

A sentence where the exact words spoken are represented, and shown in speech marks (also known as inverted commas).

For example: "Tidy your room, please," said Mum.

First person

A sentence is written in the first person if it is written from the point of view of the subject – in other words, using the pronouns 'I' or 'we'.

Formal and informal language

A type of speech or writing used in formal, 'serious' texts and situations.

Children in primary school should be taught the difference between the language we use when speaking informally (for example, to our friends) and

the language we may use for a formal text, such as a letter of complaint.

Fronted adverbial

Fronted adverbials are adverbial phrases that are placed at the front of a sentence. They require a comma between the adverbial and the rest of the sentence.

For example:

In the forest, there are many trees. (where)

In a hurry, Bruce ran to the shops. (how)

At six o'clock, I ate my tea. (when)

Phrase

A small group of words that does not contain a verb.

For example: a can of worms

Prepositional phrase

A phrase which contains a preposition.

For example: 'under the carpet', 'behind the door', 'after school'.

Reported speech

Also known as 'indirect' speech. In reported speech, the writer reports the words someone has said rather than using them directly. The writer needs to change verbs to the past tense and change pronouns to report

the words that were said. Inverted commas (speech marks) are not needed. See also direct speech.

For example: direct speech = Bruce said, "I like cheese."

For example: reported speech = Bruce said that he liked cheese.

Third person

A sentence is written in the third person if it is written from the point of view of a person being spoken about – in other words, using the pronouns 'he', 'she', 'it' or 'they'.

Vowel

The letters a, e, i, o and u.