

Year 5 and 6 Grammar Terminology

Active voice When the subject of the verb carries out an action. David Beckham scored the penalty.

Adjective A “describing word”.

Adverb Adverbs can be used to modify a verb, an adjective, another adverb or even a whole clause. Joshua soon started snoring loudly. [adverbs modifying the verb snoring] That match was really exciting! [adverb modifying the adjective exciting] We don't get to play games very often. [adverb modifying the other adverb, often] Fortunately, it didn't rain. [adverb modifying the whole clause ‘it didn't rain’ by commenting on it]

Antonyms Words which mean the opposite to each other. The antonym of up is down. The antonym of tall is short. The antonym of add is subtract

Apostrophe Apostrophes have two completely different uses: □ showing the place of missing letters (e.g. I'm for I am) □ marking possessives (Hannah's mother went to town in Justin's car.)

Article A type of determiner – a /an/ the.

Brackets (Parenthesis) Punctuation used for additional information or explanation. His first book (The Colour Of Magic) was written in 1989.

Capital letter A letter of the alphabet that usually differs from its corresponding lowercase letter in form and height; A, B, Q as distinguished from a, b, q. Used as the initial letter of a proper noun, the pronoun I and in the first word of a sentence. After school Ted plays football in Royston.

Colon Punctuation which indicates that an example, a list, or more detailed explanation follows. On School journey you will need to bring: a waterproof coat, wellies, warm jumpers and any medication. Marvin was stunned: he had never seen a firework display like it!

Clauses A clause is a group of words which does contain a verb; it is part of a sentence. There are two kinds of clauses: 1. A main clause needs a subject and a verb (makes sense on its own) e.g.: Sue bought a new dress. 2. A subordinate clause (does not make sense on its own; it depends on the main clause for its meaning) Main clause: My sister is older than me. Subordinate: My sister is older than me, although she can be very annoying. A relative clause is a type of subordinate clause introduced by a relative pronoun.

Comma A punctuation mark (,) to separate items in a list, fronted adverbials and clauses.

Command See ‘sentence’

Conjunction (old connective) A conjunction links two phrases or clauses together. There are two main types of conjunctions: □ co-ordinating conjunctions (e.g. and) link two words or phrases together as an equal pair James bought a bat and ball. □ subordinating conjunctions (e.g. when) introduce a subordinate clause. Everyone watches when Joe does back-flips.

Dash Punctuation which indicates a stronger pause than a comma. Can be used like a comma or bracket to add parenthesis. The woman – who was only 25 years old – was the first to win a gold medal for Britain.

Dialogue A conversation between two or more people. “Who's there?” asked Marvin. “Doctor”, replied the mysterious man behind the door. “Doctor Who?” Marvin enquired. “Exactly...” came the ominous response.

Direct speech When you write down the words that have been spoken and use speech marks. "Who's there?" said Marvin

Determiner Determiners are the most frequently used words in English. They are used with nouns to give more information about that noun - who it belongs to, how many, or sometimes to ask questions. Some new cars. This car is yours. Which colour do you prefer?

Ellipsis Punctuation used to show a pause in someone's speech or thoughts, and to build tension or show that a sentence is not finished. "The sight was awesome... truly amazing."

Exclamation See 'sentence'

Exclamation mark A punctuation mark (!) indicating strong feelings, something unusual or high volume (shouting). Stop that now!

Full stop A punctuation mark (.) used at the end of a sentence or an abbreviation.

First person When the writer speaks about himself or herself. Only 'I/we/me/us' are used as pronouns when writing in the first person. My family all went to the park. We all loved it, me especially. I always love the slide.

Future tense Writing about what will happen. We usually place will in front of verbs when writing

in the future tense. Next week, Emma will be going to Secondary school. She will have to wear a blazer and tie!

Fronted adverbial phrase A fronted adverbial phrase goes at the beginning of a sentence It describes the verb in the sentence. It describes where, when and how. As soon as the train had left the station, Tom jumped from the carriage door. After my tooth fell out, I went I went to the dentist to get a false one!

Homophones Words which sound the same but are spelt differently and have different meanings. Their, there, they're I, eye Our, are To, too, two

Hyphen Punctuation which joins one or more words or adds a prefix to a word. Happy-go-lucky/ twenty-one.

Letter A character representing one or more of the sounds used in speech. Written words are made up of letters. In KS1 children have to be able to identify letters from phonemes or sounds. The word 'cat' has three letters and three phonemes. The word 'catch' has five letters and three phonemes. The word 'caught' has six letters and three phonemes. By KS2 children often refer to letters or syllables rather than phonemes.

Metaphor Compares different things by saying one thing is another.

Noun Nouns are sometimes called 'naming words' because they name people, places and things

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. Noun phrases are most often used for description and specification e.g. plain flour, foxes with bushy tails. He knows the back streets. I've met the last remaining chief.

Prefix A prefix is added at the beginning of a word in order to turn it into another word. overtake, unappealing, disappear

Paragraph 'Chunks' of related thoughts Term Explanation Example or ideas. They make reading easier to understand. A new paragraph usually means a change of topic, idea, time, place or argument.

Passive voice When a subject or verb has an action done to them. Often, the subject is not even mentioned. A window was smashed.

Personification Giving human qualities to animals or objects. The Sun smiled on the World.

Plural More than one person, place or thing. A plural noun normally has a suffix –s or –es and means ‘more than one’. There are a few nouns with different morphology in the plural (e.g. mice, formulae).

Preposition Words which show the relationship between two things. They often tell you where one thing is as opposed to another. About, above, across, after, against, along, amid, amidst, among, amongst, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, between, betwixt, beyond, by, down, during, except, for, from, in, into, near, of, off, on, over, round, since, though, till, to, towards, under, underneath, until, unto, up, upon, with, within, without. Tom jumped over the cat. The monkey is in the tree.

Pronoun Words used to avoid repeating a noun. I, you, me, he, she, it, you, him, her, mine, yours, his, hers, its, we, they, us, them, ours, yours, theirs. Relative pronouns are who, which, that whose.

Question See ‘sentence’

Question mark A punctuation mark (?) indicating a question. What time is it?

Sentence A sentence is a group of words which are grammatically connected to each other. The form of a sentence’s main clause shows whether it is being used as a statement, a question, a command or an exclamation. A sentence may consist of a single clause or it may contain several clauses held together by subordination or co-ordination. You are my friend. [statement] Are you my friend? [question] Be my friend! [command] What a good friend you are! [exclamation]

Singular A word or form referring to just one person or thing.

Statement See ‘sentence’

Simile Compares two or more things, usually using the words ‘like’ or ‘as’. The water was as hot as lava. He was as scared as a mouse.

Semi-colon Punctuation used in place of a conjunction. It separates two complete sentences which are closely related and can be used in lists of phrases. The children came home today; they had been away for a week.

Suffix A suffix is an ‘ending’, used at the end of one word to turn it into another word. Suffixes cannot stand on their own as a complete word. success – successful teach – teacher small – smallest

Synonym Words which have the same, or nearly the same meaning as each other. Bad - awful, terrible, horrible Happy - content, joyful, pleased Look - watch, stare, glaze Walk - stroll, crawl, tread

Tense (past, present)

Verbs in the past tense are commonly used to:

- talk about the past
- talk about imagined situations
- make a request sound more polite. Most verbs take a suffix –ed to form their past tense, but many commonly used verbs are irregular. John went on holiday to France [an event in the past] I wish I had a puppy. [an

imagined situation] I was hoping you'd help tomorrow. [makes an implied request sound more polite]

Verbs in the present tense are commonly used to:

- talk about the present Paula goes to the pool every day. [describes a habit that exists now] She can swim. [describes a state that is true now] Her friends are coming to join her. [describes a plan in progress now]
- talk about the future.

Present	Past	Future	Present perfect	Past perfect	Future perfect	Present progressive	Past progressive	Future progressive
I play	I played	I will play	I have played	I had played	I will have played	I am playing	I was playing	I will be playing
I go	I went	I will go	I have gone	I had gone	I will have gone	I am going	I was going	I will be going

Third person When the writer speaks about someone or something else. The pronouns 'he/she/it/they/him/ her/it/them' are used when writing in the third person He walked to the shops because he wanted to taste the new chocolate bar.

Verb Verbs are sometimes called 'doing words' because many verbs name an action that someone does; while this can be a way of recognising verbs, many verbs name states or feelings rather than actions. Verbs can usually have a tense, either present or past (also future). He lives in Birmingham. [present tense] The teacher wrote a song for the class. [past tense] He likes chocolate. [present tense; not an action] He knew my father. [past tense; not an action]