



*Parents' Guide to
Vocabulary, Grammar
and Punctuation at
The Bythams Primary
School*

Years 1 - 6

Year 1

Vocabulary, Grammar and Punctuation Terminology

Letter

A written mark that stands for a speech sound; specific character of an alphabet.

'A' and 'Z' are the first and last letters of our alphabet.

f

C

Sentence

A complete unit of words in either writing or speech with a clear beginning and a full stop. A sentence usually has a subject and a verb. Sentences can state things, ask questions, give commands, or be exclamations.

- I got a bike and a football for my birthday.
- Would you like chips for tea?
- What a dreadful noise!



Full Stop

A full stop is used at the end of a sentence or abbreviation.

- All their meals arrived at the same time.
- The girl put away her bike.
- etc.
- e.g.

Exclamation Mark

An exclamation mark is used after a word or words that express strong feelings.

- "Look up there!" she yelled.
- Ow! That hurt!

Capital Letter

A letter of the alphabet used for proper nouns and to start a sentence.

- Look at Gary!
- My dog is called Peaches.



Word

A sound, group of sounds, or the symbols for such sounds in writing that have some meaning. Words are a basic unit of language.

Punctuation Marks

Punctuation marks are essential when you are writing. They show the reader where sentences start and finish and if they are used properly they make your writing easy to understand.

Question Mark

A question mark is used at the end of a sentence that asks a question.

- What time are you going to the fair?



Plural

The form of a word that names or refers to more than one thing. The plural of 'cat' is 'cats.'



Singular

The form of a word that names or refers to only one person or thing. You used the plural, 'cats,' when you should have used the singular, 'cat.'



Year 2

Vocabulary, Grammar and Punctuation Terminology

Noun

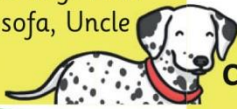
A word that names a person, place, thing, or condition. A noun may be the subject of a sentence or the object of a verb or preposition.

In the sentence, 'Ayan likes to eat popcorn at the cinema,' 'Ayan' 'popcorn,' and 'cinema' are nouns.

Noun Phrase

A noun phrase includes a noun and the modifiers which distinguish it.

If 'dog' is a noun, a noun phrase is a way of giving more information about the dog: That dog, the dog on the sofa, Uncle Eric's dog.



Statement

Something stated in words.

The primary school have changed the school uniform so that everybody wears red jumpers.

Apostrophe

An apostrophe is used to show where one or more letters or numbers have been left out. 'Wouldn't' for 'would not' and '87' for '1987' use apostrophes this way. It is also used to show possession. 'Susan's clothes' and 'Charlie's bike' use apostrophes this way.

Question

A sentence that asks for a reply.

- Did you take my apple?
- How long did it take you to get to school?
- What did you get for your birthday?



Exclamation

A sentence to express strong feelings. They begin with 'What' or 'How' and end with an exclamation mark.

'What a dangerous mountain to climb!'

'How hot it is today!'

Compound

Compound words are made up of two or more different words to make a new one:

police + man = policeman
play + ground = playground
hair + cut = haircut

Suffix

A letter or group of letters added to the end of a word to make a new word with a slightly different meaning. The 'ed' in 'wanted' is a suffix.



Command

To order or instruct.

'Leave the building now.'

Adjective

A word that describes or modifies a noun or pronoun. In the sentence, 'It was a hard test,' the word 'hard' is an adjective.

Adverb

A word that describes or modifies a verb, adjective, or other adverb. Adverbs are also used to modify a whole sentence.

In the sentence 'Unfortunately, she spoke so slowly that most of the audience was very bored,' the words 'unfortunately,' 'slowly,' and 'very' are adverbs.

Verb

An action word. Verbs usually have different forms to express tense, voice, mood, and number.

'Read,' 'blew,' 'drives,' 'seemed,' and 'skip' are examples of verbs.

Tense

The aspect of verbs that shows when an action takes place. Verbs can be in past, present, or future tense: Played (past tense), playing (present tense) and to play (future tense).

Comma

A comma is used to separate words, phrases or other parts of a sentence. It can also be used in a list or to show a pause in speech: "I went to the market and bought eggs, chicken, milk and cheese."

Year 3

Vocabulary, Grammar and Punctuation Terminology

Clause

A clause is a phrase of two or more words. It has a verb as the key word.

- It's raining.
- Samira has four pets because she likes animals.

Direct Speech

Direct speech is the words which actually come out of someone's mouth, like the speech bubbles in a cartoon.

Consonant letter

A consonant is a letter sound made when you use your teeth, lips and/or tongue to change how the air comes through your mouth. Most letters are consonants, like these:

- The sounds /p/ and /b/ are made when you close your lips then open them quickly.
- The sound /t/ is made when you press your tongue behind your top teeth.

Word family

Words in a word family are related by meaning, grammar or spelling.

- Teach, teacher, teaching.
- Child, children, childish(ly).

Conjunction

A conjunction links two words, phrases or clauses together as part of a sentence.

There are two main types of conjunction:

Words such as **and**, **but** and **so** link two words or phrases which are equally important.

- Words such as **because**, **if** or **when** introduce a subordinate clause.
- I got a bike and a football for my birthday.
- If you like, we can have chips for tea.
- There's no tennis today because it's raining.

Vowel letter

A vowel letter is one that you make by just changing the shape of your open mouth.

You don't use your teeth, tongue or lips.

- The letters **a**, **e**, **i**, **o** and **u** are vowels. They can be spoken or written.
- Letter **y** can also be used to represent a vowel sound.

Preposition

A preposition links a noun or noun phrase to another word. They often mark direction or locations, but can also make time links.

- Please put your pens in the tub.
- We went to the USA on holiday.
- I haven't seen her since playtime.

Subordinate clause

A subordinate clause adds to another clause. It can't be a sentence by itself.

- Here's the book that I promised you.
- When I grow up, I want to be a pilot.

Prefix

A prefix is added to the beginning of a word to turn it into a different word.

- submerge, disappear, return

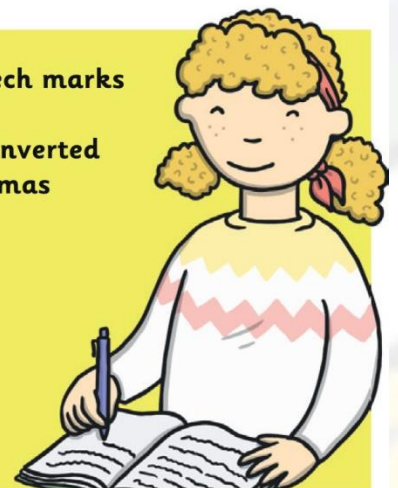
Inverted commas

Inverted commas (speech marks) go around the speaker's words only. Use them in stories to show when a character is speaking.

- "Why didn't anyone tell me I had my underpants on the outside?" asked Flashman.

Speech marks

See **inverted commas**



Year 4

Vocabulary, Grammar and Punctuation Terminology

Adverbial

Adverbials are words or phrases that we use to add information to a verb or clause. They act like adverbs.

- She laughed like a hyena.
- Please hang up your coats over there.
- We had a sleepover last night.



Possessive Pronoun

Possessive pronouns take the place of a noun + apostrophe + s to show who something belongs to.

It is Rachel's birthday.
It is her birthday.

Determiner

Determiners are words which specify which noun we mean. They come before any adjectives or other describing phrases.

- a, an and the are common determiners. They are called **articles**.
- that small book, his own name, some flowers.

Pronoun

A pronoun takes the place of a noun which is already known, perhaps from a previous sentence.

- I like cheese.
- They come from London.
- These socks are smelly!



Year 5

Vocabulary, Grammar and Punctuation Terminology

Relative Pronoun

Relative pronouns (who, which, where, that, when) introduce a **relative clause**. They refer back to a noun or clause that we already know.

Parenthesis

We use parenthesis to add extra detail to a sentence which is already grammatically correct without it. We can use brackets, dashes or commas to separate the parenthetical information from the main sentence.

- Mrs Jones (my teacher) works in Year 5.
- The product of four and nine – 36 – is a square number.
- Michael, who sits next to me, is brilliant at Art.



Ambiguity / Ambiguous

If a phrase, clause or sentence is ambiguous, the meaning is not clear. Often, you can solve this problem by re-ordering the sentence or using more precise punctuation.

- I rode my horse wearing red pyjamas. *Is it the horse that's wearing pyjamas?* Try... Wearing red pyjamas, I rode my horse.



Modal Verb

Modal verbs change or affect other verbs in a sentence. They are used to show the level of possibility, indicate ability, show obligation or give permission. Some common modal verbs are:

- Will, shall, should, can, could, must.

Cohesion

A text which has cohesion fits logically together. The reader can see how one part moves on to another or how the end links back to the beginning. We use **cohesive devices**, such as connective phrases and determiners, to achieve cohesion.

Relative Clause

A relative clause is a special type of subordinate clause which adds extra information to another noun or clause.

- James, who never does his homework, is very lazy. [the extra clause tells us more about James]
- All the chocolate pudding was gone by the time I got in to lunch, which really annoyed me. [this refers to the whole previous clause about chocolate pudding]

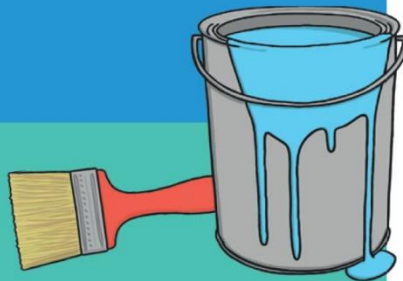
Year 6

Vocabulary, Grammar and Punctuation Terminology

Passive

When a sentence is in the passive voice, the verb is being done to the subject rather than the subject doing the verb.

- The window has been broken.
- The playground was painted (by the PTA).



Active

When a sentence is in the active voice, the pattern is subject-verb-object. The **subject** of the verb is more important.

- James broke the window.
- The PTA painted the playground.

Synonym

A synonym is a word or phrase with the same or similar meaning to another. You can find synonyms in a **thesaurus**.

- talk = speak = mention
- sleep = doze = kip

Antonym

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings.

- young – old
- straight – bendy
- full - empty



Subject

The subject is the person, noun phrase, pronoun or thing which does the verb in a clause.

- Wednesday is my favourite day.
- Cheryl's mum is picking me up today.
- Are you coming to the sleepover?

Object

The object is the person, noun phrase, pronoun or thing which usually comes directly after the verb. It shows what the verb is acting on.

- Wednesday is my favourite day
- Cheryl's mum is picking me up today.
- Are you coming to the sleepover?