



# Year 6

## Grammar Glossary

Below is an explanation of all the grammar terminology that is taught to children in Year 6. Some of these terms are introduced in previous year groups and re-visited and some are covered for the first time in Year 6.

### English

Abstract Noun	A feeling or concept which cannot be touched. <i>love, happiness, friendship</i>
Active Voice	In a <b>sentence</b> with an active <b>verb</b> , the <b>subject</b> of the verb is doing the action. This is called the <b>active voice</b> . Hilda <i>strode</i> into the goal area. The meteorite <i>crashed</i> to Earth.
Adjective	A word which modifies a <b>noun</b> . The landscape is <i>delightful</i> . The <i>fearless</i> girl climbed the mountain.
Adjectival Phrase	A <b>phrase</b> built around an <b>adjective</b> . <i>bright red</i> <i>frighteningly bad</i>
Adverb	A word which modifies a <b>verb</b> , <b>clause</b> , <b>adjective</b> or other <b>adverb</b> . An <b>adverb</b> tells you how, when, where or how often something happens. Some are also used for linking ideas ( <i>fortunately</i> , <i>however</i> ), how likely or possible something is ( <i>definitely</i> ) or are used for emphasis ( <i>very</i> , <i>quite</i> ) Mr Fox stalked <i>silently</i> into the chicken house.
Adverbial Phrase	A phrase built around an <b>adverb</b> . Some adverbial phrases can also be a <b>subordinate clause</b> . <i>Five minutes later</i> , lunch time ended. <i>As she took a handful of popcorn</i> , she gazed in awe at the screen.
Antonym	A word with the opposite meaning to another. <i>good/bad, wise/foolish, long/short</i>

<p>Article</p>	<p>The words <b>the</b>, <b>an</b> and <b>a</b> are articles and are all types of <b>determiner</b>.  <b>'The'</b> is called a <b>definite article</b> because is is used before a specific <b>noun</b> (<b>the</b> dog).  <b>'An'</b> and <b>'a'</b> are called <b>indefinite articles</b> because they are used before non-specific <b>nouns</b> (<b>a</b> dog).</p>
<p>Auxiliary Verb</p>	<p>A <b>verb</b> which forms the tense, mood and voice of other <b>verbs</b>. The <b>auxiliary verbs</b> are <b>be</b>, <b>do</b> and <b>have</b> plus all the <b>modal verbs</b>.  For example, <b>be</b> is used to form the <b>progressive tense</b>: I <b>am</b> running.</p>
<p>Brackets</p>	<p>A punctuation mark used to set a non-essential section of the sentence apart (also known as <b>parenthesis</b>).  My friend (<b>who is two years older than me</b>) is coming to my house.</p>
<p>Clause</p>	<p>A <b>phrase</b> which contains a <b>verb</b>. The other words in the <b>clause</b> add meaning to the <b>verb</b>.  There are different types of <b>clause</b>: <b>main clause</b>,</p>
<p>Cohesion</p>	<p>A <b>sentence</b> will have <b>cohesion</b> if all the parts fit together, for example, if the <b>tenses</b> and <b>pronouns</b> are consistent and <b>determiners</b> refer to the correct <b>noun</b>.</p>
<p>Colon</p>	<p>A punctuation mark used in a <b>sentence</b> to indicate that something is about to follow, such as a quotation, an example or a list.  A <b>colon</b> can also be used between two <b>main clauses</b> where the second <b>clause</b> explains or expands upon the first in some way.  <b>I need three things at the shop: eggs, milk and break.</b>  <b>He asked for help: he got it.</b></p>
<p>Comma</p>	<p>A punctuation mark used to separate items in a list.  <b>The warrior was fearless, strong, tall and skilled.</b>  <b>Before picking up his sword, he lifted his heavy shield.</b></p>
<p>Common Noun</p>	<p>Describes a class of objects which are non-specific and do not require a capital letter.  <b>dog, man, school, country</b></p>

Complex Sentence	<p>Formed by joining a <b>main clause</b> with a <b>subordinate clause</b> using a <b>subordinating conjunction</b>.</p> <p><i>I was tired because I had worked all day.</i></p>
Concrete Noun	<p>A noun that you can touch.</p> <p><i>bed, pencil, cat</i></p>
Conjunction	<p>A word that joins clauses. Conjunctions can be <b>co-ordinating</b> or <b>subordinating</b>.</p> <p>A co-ordinating conjunction joins a <b>main clause</b> to a <b>main clause</b>. Examples are <i>for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so</i></p> <p>A subordinating conjunction joins a <b>main clause</b> to a <b>subordinate clause</b>. Examples include <i>because, when, as, since, whereas, even, though, however, despite</i></p>
Consonant	<p>Any letter which is not a <b>vowel</b>.</p>
Contraction	<p>Shortened words created by putting two words together, omitting some letters and replacing the omitted letters with an apostrophe.</p> <p><i>did not → didn't</i> <i>was not → wasn't</i></p>
Dash	<p>Used in a similar way to <b>brackets</b> to set information apart in a sentence. It can also be used in a similar way as a <b>colon</b> to introduce further information</p> <p><i>My three friends – Jack, Sam and Callum – are coming for dinner.</i> <i>There were beautiful things everywhere – china figures, glass animals and delicate tea sets.</i></p>
Determiner	<p>Used before a <b>noun</b> and its <b>adjectives</b> to help tell you which person or thing the <b>sentence</b> is about, or how much/how many of them there are.</p> <p><i>Articles: a/an, the</i> <i>Demonstratives: this, that, these, those</i> <i>Possessives: my, your, his, her, its</i> <i>Quantifiers: fewer, many, much, most, some</i> <i>Numbers: one, two, three etc.</i></p>
Direct Speech	<p>When a person's exact words are written down inside <b>inverted commas</b>.</p> <p><i>“ Grammar is so exciting,” exclaimed Miss Helm.</i></p>

Embedded Clause	A <b>clause</b> used in the middle of another <b>clause</b> . It is usually marked by <b>commas</b> . The man, <b>walking along with his dog</b> , hummed merrily.
Ellipsis	Three dots which are used to show missing words or to create a pause for effect. <b>Please...tell me what happened.</b>
Etymology	The origin of words and how they have changed over time. For example, knowing that words with 'ch' pronounced 'sh' are often of French origin ( <b>machine, chef, brochure</b> ).
First Person	A sentence written from the point of view of the subject using the pronouns 'I' or 'me'. <b>There was darkness surrounding me.</b>
Fronted Adverbial	An <b>adverb</b> or <b>adverbial phrase</b> used at the beginning of a <b>sentence</b> which is used to describe the action that follows. A <b>fronted adverbial</b> is followed with a <b>comma</b> . <b>With a scream, she stormed into the room.</b>
Future Tense	Describes actions that are going to take place in the future. Most often, the <b>modal auxiliary verb 'will'</b> is used. <b>Tomorrow, I will do my shopping.</b>
Homophone	Words that sound the same but have different meanings and sometimes different spellings. <b>they're/their/there, which/witch, where/wear</b>
Hyphen	Can be used to join two or more words that should be read as a single unit ( <b>fair-haired</b> ) to help avoid confusion (a man eating fish; <b>a man-eating fish</b> ) sometimes between a <b>prefix</b> and <b>root word</b> , especially if the hyphen makes the word easier to read ( <b>co-ordinating, re-educate</b> )
Imperative Verb	A <b>verb</b> that stands alone without a <b>subject noun</b> or <b>pronoun</b> in a <b>command</b> . <b>Mix the flour into the egg.</b>
Inverted Commas	Punctuation marks used to demarcate <b>direct speech</b> in a sentence. Also known as <b>speech marks</b> . <b>"How delightfully exciting grammar is!" Miss Siddorn exclaimed.</b>

Main Clause	<p>The leading clause in a sentence which indicated the main <b>subject</b> and <b>verb</b>. It can stand alone without any additional clauses.</p> <p><i>I will go for a walk.</i></p> <p>Even though the weather is bad, <i>I will go for a walk.</i></p>
Modal Verb	<p>A <b>verb</b> which affects the other verbs in a sentence by showing:</p> <p>obligation (You <b>should</b> do your homework.)</p> <p>possibility (I <b>might</b> have pizza for dinner.)</p> <p>permission (You <b>may</b> leave now.)</p>
Morphology	<p>The study of words, how they are formed and their relationship to other words in the same language. It analyses the structure of words and parts of words such as <b>root words</b>, <b>prefixes</b> and <b>suffixes</b>.</p>
Noun	<p>A person, place, thing, animal or idea.</p> <p><i>boy, school, table, tiger, kindness</i></p>
Object	<p>The <b>object</b> of a <b>sentence</b> is involved in the action but does not carry it out.</p> <p>I dropped <i>my cup</i> on the floor.</p>
Paragraph	<p>A distinct section of a piece of writing which usually has a single theme. It is indicated by starting a new line or indenting the first word of the new paragraph.</p>
Parenthesis	<p>A word or <b>phrase</b> that is separated from the main part of the <b>sentence</b> as an explanation. Parenthesis is demarcated by <b>brackets</b>, <b>commas</b> or <b>dashes</b>.</p> <p>Suddenly, <i>from the shadows</i>, a creature crept forward.</p>
Passive Voice	<p>You can tell that a sentence is <b>passive</b> because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the subject of the verb has the action done to it</li> <li>- there is a part of the verb 'to be' (such as was or is) or a verb like 'get' followed by the past participle</li> <li>- the person or thing carrying out the action is introduced by the word 'by' or not at all</li> </ul> <p><i>The dog was picked up by his owner.</i></p>
Past Tense	<p>Any one of a set of verb tenses which describe action that took place in the past.</p> <p>(see also <b>simple past tense</b>, <b>past perfect tense</b> and <b>past progressive tense</b>)</p>

Past Perfect Tense	<p>A <b>tense</b> used to describe actions that were completed by a certain time in the past. It is formed by using the auxiliary verb 'to have' (had) + the past participle.</p> <p>Yesterday I was late because I <b>had walked</b> to school.</p> <p>If I <b>had woken</b> up earlier, I would have had breakfast.</p>
Past Progressive (Continuous) Tense	<p>A form of the <b>past tense</b> where something goes on for a period of time in the past. It is usually formed by the auxiliary verb 'to be' (was) and adding the suffix -ing to the verb.</p> <p><b>I was walking in the park.</b></p>
Personal Pronoun	<p>A <b>pronoun</b> which replaces a person, place or thing.</p> <p><b>he, she, we, they, it, me, him, her, us, them</b></p>
Phrase	<p>A small group of words that does not contain a <b>verb</b>.</p>
Plural	<p>More than one. Using <b>plurals</b> can affect both the <b>nouns</b> and <b>verbs</b> in a sentence.</p>
Possessive Apostrophe	<p>An apostrophe to show ownership.</p> <p>If the owner of the possession ends in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a single 's' – only an apostrophe is added (<b>Mr Williams' car</b>)</li> <li>- a double 's' (ss) – an apostrophe and an additional 's' is added (<b>my boss's chair</b>)</li> <li>- any other letter – an apostrophe and an additional 's' (<b>the girl's bike</b>)</li> </ul>
Possessive Pronoun	<p>A <b>pronoun</b> used to show ownership. Some can be used on their own (<b>mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs</b>) whilst others need to be attached to a noun (<b>my, your, her, our, their, whose</b>).</p>
Prefix	<p>Letters that go in front of a root word and change its meaning.</p> <p><b>-un + happy = unhappy</b></p> <p><b>-dis + appear = disappear</b></p>
Preposition	<p>A linking word in a sentence used to show where things are in time and space.</p> <p>The dinosaur is <b>behind</b> the tree.</p> <p><b>Under</b> the table, there is a mouse.</p>

Present Perfect Tense	<p>A <b>tense</b> that refers to an action or state that occurred at an indefinite time in the past or that began in the past and continued to the present. This <b>tense</b> is formed by the have/has + the past participle.</p> <p>You <b>have been</b> my class since September.</p> <p>A large proportion of the rainforest <b>has been</b> destroyed.</p>
Present Progressive Tense	<p>A tense which describes a continuous action which is happening in the present. It is formed using the auxiliary verb 'to be' (am, is, are) + verb.</p> <p>The cat <b>is chasing</b> a mouse.</p> <p>I <b>am learning</b> to speak French.</p>
Present Tense	<p>Any one of a set of tenses that describe actions which are happening now.</p> <p>(see also present progressive tense)</p>
Proper Noun	<p>A noun which names a particular person, place or thing.</p> <p><b>Coten End, London, England, Monday</b></p>
Reported Speech (indirect speech)	<p>Reported speech focuses more on the content of what someone said rather than their exact words. Inverted commas are <u>not</u> used.</p> <p><b>The teacher said that we don't have any homework today.</b></p>
Relative Clause	<p>A type of <b>subordinate clause</b> that adapts, describes or modifies a <b>noun</b> by using a <b>relative pronoun</b>.</p> <p>He ate too many cakes <b>which made him feel ill</b>.</p> <p>The wardrobe <b>that has the fur coats in it</b> leads to Narnia.</p>
Relative Pronoun	<p>A <b>pronoun</b> used in a <b>relative clause</b>.</p> <p><b>who, that, which</b></p>
Root Word	<p>A basic word with no <b>prefix</b> or <b>suffix</b> added to it.</p>
Second Person	<p>A sentence written from the point of view of someone being spoken to using the pronoun 'you'.</p> <p><b>Would you like to find out more?</b></p>

<p>Semi-colon</p>	<p>A punctuation mark used in a sentence to separate major sentence elements. A semi colon can be used to join two closely related main clauses if they are not already joined by a co-ordinating conjunction.</p> <p>My car is red; my friend's car is blue.</p> <p>You can also use semi-colons to divide items in a list if the items are long or contain internal punctuation.</p> <p>You will need to bring the following: sleeping bag, pillow, and pyjamas for the overnight stay; water bottle, waterproof jacket, sweatshirt, and walking boots for the afternoon trek; and a swimming kit for the river activities.</p>
<p>Sentence</p>	<p>One word or a group of words that makes grammatical sense in isolation. It begins with a capital letter and ends with a <b>full stop</b>, <b>question mark</b> or <b>exclamation mark</b>.</p> <p><b>Sentences</b> usually contain a <b>subject</b> and always contain a <b>verb</b>.</p>
<p>Simple Past Tense</p>	<p>The <b>simple past tense</b> shows that you are talking about something that has already happened. Unlike the <b>past continuous tense</b>, which is used to talk about past events that happened over a period of time, the <b>simple past tense</b> emphasises that the action is finished.</p> <p>We played in the park.</p>
<p>Simple Sentence</p>	<p>A <b>sentence</b> that contains a <b>subject</b> and one <b>verb</b>.</p>
<p>Singular</p>	<p>Referring to only one. Use of the <b>singular</b> may affect the <b>nouns</b>, <b>verbs</b> and <b>pronouns</b> in a <b>sentence</b>.</p>
<p>Subordinate Clause</p>	<p>A <b>clause</b> that cannot stand alone as a complete <b>sentence</b> but is linked to a <b>main clause</b> using a <b>subordinating conjunction</b>.</p> <p>I played out today until <b>it went dark</b>.</p>
<p>Subject</p>	<p>The <b>subject</b> of a sentence is the thing or person carrying out the main action.</p> <p>The <b>cow</b> ate the grass.</p>
<p>Suffix</p>	<p>A string of letters that go at the end of a root word that change or add to its meaning. Suffixes can also show if a word is a <b>noun</b>, <b>verb</b>, <b>adjective</b> or <b>adverb</b>.</p> <p>noun + <b>-ful</b> = adjective  fear + <b>-ful</b> = fearful  verb + <b>-ment</b> = noun  pay + <b>-ment</b> = payment</p>



<p>Synonym</p>	<p>A word that has exactly or nearly the same meaning as another word.</p> <p><i>big/large/huge, quiet/silent</i></p>
<p>Third Person</p>	<p>A sentence in the <b>third person</b> is written from the point of view of someone being spoken about using the pronouns he, she, it or they.</p> <p><i>They are very quiet.</i></p>
<p>Verb</p>	<p>A word to describe an action, occurrence or state. <b>Sentences</b> must contain a <b>verb</b> and <b>verb</b> forms change depending on the <b>tense</b> of the <b>sentence</b>.</p> <p>I <i>write</i>. (present)  I <i>wrote</i>. (past)  I <i>will write</i>. (future)</p>
<p>Vowel</p>	<p>The letters <i>a, e, i, o</i> and <i>u</i>.</p>
<p>Word Family</p>	<p>A group of words that share common roots or <b>morphology</b>.</p> <p><i>happy, unhappy, happiness, happily, unhappiness, unhappily</i></p>