



Year 2

English

Grammar Glossary

Below is an explanation of all the grammar terminology that is taught to children in Year 2. Some of these terms are introduced in previous year groups and re-visited and some are covered for the first time in Year 2.

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| Abstract Noun | A feeling or concept which cannot be touched. <i>love, happiness, friendship</i> |
| Adjective | A word which modifies a noun . The landscape is <i>delightful</i> . The <i>fearless</i> girl climbed the mountain. |
| Adverb | A word which modifies a verb, clause, adjective or other adverb . An adverb tells you how, when, where or how often something happens. Some are also used for linking ideas (<i>fortunately, however</i>), how likely or possible something is (<i>definitely</i>) or are used for emphasis (<i>very, quite</i>) Mr Fox stalked <i>silently</i> into the chicken house. |
| Antonym | A word with the opposite meaning to another. <i>good/bad, wise/foolish, long/short</i> |
| Clause | A phrase which contains a verb . The other words in the clause add meaning to the verb . There are different types of clause : main clause , subordinate clause and relative clause . |
| Comma | A punctuation mark used to separate items in a list. <i>The warrior was fearless, strong, tall and skilled.</i> |
| Command | A type of sentence which instructs or orders an action to take place. A command contains an imperative verb which does not need a subject. Often a command will begin with an imperative verb . <i>Eat your dinner.</i> |

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| Common Exception Word | A word which does not follow the common phonetic spelling rules of the language or where the usual rules act in an unusual way. |
| Common Noun | Describes a class of objects which are non-specific and do not require a capital letter. dog, man, school, country |
| Complex Sentence | Formed by joining a main clause with a subordinate clause using a subordinating conjunction . I was tired because I had worked all day. |
| Compound Sentence | A sentence formed by joining two main clauses with a coordinating conjunction . I like dogs but my friend likes cats. |
| Compound Word | A combination of two or more individual words that have a single meaning. football (foot+ball), sunflower (sun+flower) |
| Concrete Noun | A noun that you can touch. bed, pencil, cat |
| Conjunction | A word that joins clauses. Conjunctions can be co-ordinating or subordinating . A co-ordinating conjunction joins a main clause to a main clause . Examples are for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so A subordinating conjunction joins a main clause to a subordinate clause . Examples include because, when, as, since, whereas, even, though, however, despite |
| Consonant | Any letter which is not a vowel . |
| Contraction | Shortened words created by putting two words together, omitting some letters and replacing the omitted letters with an apostrophe. did not → didn't was not → wasn't |
| Digraph | Two letters that represent a single phoneme. may, been, glue |

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| Exclamation | <p>A sentence which expresses surprise or wonder and is punctuated with an exclamation mark instead of a full stop. Exclamation sentences must contain a verb and begin with 'what' or 'how'.</p> <p>What big eyes you've got! How terrifying the wolf was!</p> <p>Interjections can also be punctuated with an exclamation mark but they are not exclamation sentences because they do not contain a verb.</p> <p>Wow! Phew!</p> |
| Expanded Noun Phrase | <p>A phrase containing a noun but no verb. An expanded noun phrase must contain one or more adjectives that modify the noun which are placed before the noun in the phrase.</p> <p>the big, bad wolf the heroic, fearless dragon</p> |
| First Person | <p>A sentence written from the point of view of the subject using the pronouns 'I' or 'me'.</p> <p>There was darkness surrounding me.</p> |
| Full Stop | <p>A punctuation mark used to demarcate the end of a statement or command.</p> |
| GPC | <p>Stands for grapheme-phoneme correspondence and refers to the way that sounds heard in words can be written down.</p> |
| Grapheme | <p>A letter or group of letters that represents a phoneme.</p> |
| Homophone | <p>Words that sound the same but have different meanings and sometimes different spellings.</p> <p>they're/their/there, which/witch, where/wear</p> |
| Main Clause | <p>The leading clause in a sentence which indicated the main subject and verb. It can stand alone without any additional clauses.</p> <p>I will go for a walk. Even though the weather is bad, I will go for a walk.</p> |
| Noun | <p>A person, place, thing, animal or idea.</p> <p>boy, school, table, tiger, kindness</p> |
| Object | <p>The object of a sentence is involved in the action but does not carry it out.</p> <p>I dropped my cup on the floor.</p> |

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| Paragraph | 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. |
| Past Progressive Tense | A form of the past tense 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. <i>I was walking in the park.</i> |
| Past Tense | Any one of a set of verb tenses which describe action that took place in the past. (see also simple past tense , past perfect tense and past progressive tense) |
| Phrase | A small group of words that does not contain a verb . |
| Plural | More than one. Using plurals can affect both the nouns and verbs in a sentence. |
| Phoneme | The smallest unit of sound that can be heard in a word. The English language contains 44 phonemes. <i>The word light is made up of three phonemes: /l/, /igh/, /t/</i> |
| Possessive Apostrophe | An apostrophe to show ownership. If the owner of the possession ends in: - a single 's' – only an apostrophe is added (<i>Mr Williams' car</i>) - a double 's' (ss) – an apostrophe and an additional 's' is added (<i>my boss's chair</i>) - any other letter – an apostrophe and an additional 's' (<i>the girl's bike</i>) |
| Prefix | Letters that go in front of a root word and change its meaning. <i>-un + happy = unhappy</i> <i>-dis + appear = disappear</i> |
| Present Progressive Tense | 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. The cat <i>is chasing</i> a mouse. I <i>am learning</i> to speak French. |
| Present Tense | Any one of a set of tenses that describe actions which are happening now. (see also present progressive tense) |
| Proper Noun | A noun which names a particular person, place or thing. <i>Coten End, London, England, Monday</i> |

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| Root Word | A basic word with no prefix or suffix added to it. |
| Question | A type of sentence that asks for information and requires an answer. It begins with a question word (who, what, where, when, how, why) or reverses the noun/verb order in the sentence. Eg. Sarah is washing the dishes. (statement) becomes Is Sarah washing the dishes? (question) |
| Sentence | One word or a group of words that makes grammatical sense in isolation. It begins with a capital letter and ends with a full stop , question mark or exclamation mark . Sentences usually contain a subject and always contain a verb . |
| Simple Past Tense | The simple past tense shows that you are talking about something that has already happened. Unlike the past continuous tense , which is used to talk about past events that happened over a period of time, the simple past tense emphasises that the action is finished. We played in the park. |
| Simple Sentence | A sentence that contains a subject and one verb . |
| Singular | Referring to only one. Use of the singular may affect the nouns , verbs and pronouns in a sentence . |
| Split Digraph | A digraph that is split by a consonant. Split digraphs usually represent long vowel sounds. cake, five, code, rule |
| Statement | A sentence that conveys as simple piece of information. It is a sunny day today. |
| Subordinate Clause | A clause that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence but is linked to a main clause using a subordinating conjunction . I played out today until it went dark. |
| Subject | The subject of a sentence is the thing or person carrying out the main action. The cow ate the grass. |
| Syllable | A sequence of speech sounds in a word. The number of syllables in a word are like its 'beats' and can help to break words down to spell. Monosyllabic words include: dog, when, that, bath Polysyllabic words contain more than one syllable: beautiful, powerful, blossom |

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| <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 noun, verb, adjective or adverb.</p> <p>noun + -ful = adjective fear + -ful = fearful verb + -ment = noun pay + -ment = payment</p> |
| <p>Synonym</p> | <p>A word that has exactly or nearly the same meaning as another word.</p> <p>big/large/huge, quiet/silent</p> |
| <p>Third Person</p> | <p>A sentence in the third person is written from the point of view of someone being spoken about using the pronouns he, she, it or they.</p> <p>They are very quiet.</p> |
| <p>Trigraph</p> | <p>Three letters that represent a single phoneme.</p> <p>night, hear, flair</p> |
| <p>Verb</p> | <p>A word to describe an action, occurrence or state. Sentences must contain a verb and verb forms change depending on the tense of the sentence.</p> <p>I write. (present) I wrote. (past) I will write. (future)</p> |
| <p>Vowel</p> | <p>The letters a, e, i, o and u.</p> |