



Year 4

Grammar Glossary

Below is an explanation of all the grammar terminology that is taught to children in Year 4. Some of these terms are introduced in previous year groups and re-visited and some are covered for the first time in Year 4.

English

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.
Adverbial Phrase	A phrase built around an adverb . Some adverbial phrases can also be a subordinate clause . <i>Five minutes later</i> , lunch time ended. <i>As she took a handful of popcorn</i> , she gazed in awe at the screen.
Article	The words <i>the, an</i> and <i>a</i> are articles and are all types of determiner . 'The' is called a definite article because it is used before a specific noun (<i>the</i> dog). 'An' and 'a' are called indefinite articles because they are used before non-specific nouns (<i>a</i> dog).
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	<p>A punctuation mark used to separate items in a list.</p> <p>The warrior was fearless, strong, tall and skilled. Before picking up his sword, he lifted his heavy shield.</p>
Common Noun	<p>Describes a class of objects which are non-specific and do not require a capital letter.</p> <p>dog, man, school, country</p>
Complex Sentence	<p>Formed by joining a main clause with a subordinate clause using a subordinating conjunction.</p> <p>I was tired because I had worked all day.</p>
Compound Sentence	<p>A sentence formed by joining two main clauses with a coordinating conjunction.</p> <p>I like dogs but my friend likes cats.</p>
Concrete Noun	<p>A noun that you can touch.</p> <p>bed, pencil, cat</p>
Conjunction	<p>A word that joins clauses. Conjunctions can be co-ordinating or subordinating.</p> <p>A co-ordinating conjunction joins a main clause to a main clause. Examples are for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so</p> <p>A subordinating conjunction joins a main clause to a subordinate clause. Examples include because, when, as, since, whereas, even, though, however, despite</p>
Consonant	<p>Any letter which is not a vowel.</p>
Contraction	<p>Shortened words created by putting two words together, omitting some letters and replacing the omitted letters with an apostrophe.</p> <p>did not → didn't was not → wasn't</p>

Determiner	Used before a noun and its adjectives to help tell you which person or thing the sentence is about, or how much/how many of them there are. Articles: a/an, the Demonstratives: this, that, these, those Possessives: my, your, his, her, its Quantifiers: fewer, many, much, most, some Numbers: one, two, three etc.
Direct Speech	When a person's exact words are written down inside inverted commas . "Grammar is so exciting," exclaimed Miss Helm.
First Person	A sentence written from the point of view of the subject using the pronouns 'I' or 'me'. There was darkness surrounding me.
Fronted Adverbial	An adverb or adverbial phrase used at the beginning of a sentence which is used to describe the action that follows. A fronted adverbial is followed with a comma . With a scream, she stormed into the room.
Homophone	Words that sound the same but have different meanings and sometimes different spellings. they're/their/there, which/witch, where/wear
Imperative Verb	A verb that stands alone without a subject noun or pronoun in a command . Mix the flour into the egg.
Inverted Commas	Punctuation marks used to demarcate direct speech in a sentence. Also known as speech marks . "How delightfully exciting grammar is!" Miss Siddorn exclaimed.
Main Clause	The leading clause in a sentence which indicated the main subject and verb . It can stand alone without any additional clauses. I will go for a walk. Even though the weather is bad, I will go for a walk.
Noun	A person, place, thing, animal or idea. boy, school, table, tiger, kindness
Object	The object of a sentence is involved in the action but does not carry it out. I dropped my cup on the floor.

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 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)
Personal Pronoun	A pronoun which replaces a person, place or thing. he, she, we, they, it, me, him, her, us, them
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.
Possessive Apostrophe	An apostrophe to show ownership. If the owner of the possession ends in: - a single 's' – only an apostrophe is added (Mr Williams' car) - a double 's' (ss) – an apostrophe and an additional 's' is added (my boss's chair) - any other letter – an apostrophe and an additional 's' (the girl's bike)
Possessive Pronoun	A pronoun 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).
Prefix	Letters that go in front of a root word and change its meaning. -un + happy = unhappy -dis + appear = disappear
Preposition	A linking word in a sentence used to show where things are in time and space. The dinosaur is behind the tree. Under the table, there is a mouse.
Present Perfect Tense	A tense 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 tense is formed by the have/has + the past participle. You have been my class since September. A large proportion of the rainforest has been destroyed.

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. Coten End, London, England, Monday
Reported Speech	Reported speech focuses more on the content of what someone said rather than their exact words. Inverted commas are <u>not</u> used. The teacher said that we don't have any homework today.
Root Word	A basic word with no prefix or suffix added to it.
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 .
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.
Suffix	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 . noun + -ful = adjective fear + -ful = fearful verb + -ment = noun pay + -ment = payment

Third Person	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. <i>They are very quiet.</i>
Verb	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 . I <i>write</i> . (present) I <i>wrote</i> . (past) I <i>will write</i> . (future)
Vowel	The letters <i>a, e, i, o</i> and <i>u</i> .
Word Family	A group of words that share common roots or morphology . <i>happy, unhappy, happiness, happily, unhappiness, unhappily</i>