



## 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 <b>adverb</b> 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 <b>determiner</b> .  'The' is called a <b>definite article</b> because it is used before a specific noun ( <i>the dog</i> ). 'An' and 'a' are called <b>indefinite articles</b> because they are used before non-specific nouns ( <i>a dog</i> ).
Clause	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, subordinate clause</b> and <b>relative clause</b> .
Comma	A punctuation mark used to separate items in a list and to demarcate clauses.  <i>The warrior was fearless, strong, tall and skilled.</i> <i>Before picking up his sword, he lifted his heavy shield.</i>
Common Noun	Describes a class of objects which are non-specific and do not require a capital letter.  <i>dog, man, school, country</i>
Complex Sentence	Formed by joining a <b>main clause</b> with a <b>subordinate clause</b> using a <b>subordinating conjunction</b> .  <i>I was tired because I had worked all day.</i>

Concrete Noun	A <b>noun</b> that you can touch.  <i>bed, pencil, cat</i>
Conjunction	A word that joins clauses. Conjunctions can be <b>co-ordinating</b> or <b>subordinating</b> .  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> 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>
Consonant	Any letter which is not a <b>vowel</b> .
Contraction	Shortened words created by putting two words together, omitting some letters and replacing the omitted letters with an apostrophe.  <i>did not → didn't</i> <i>was not → wasn't</i>
Determiner	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.  <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>
Direct Speech	When a person's exact words are written down inside <b>inverted commas</b> .  <i>"Grammar is so exciting," exclaimed Miss Helm.</i>
First Person	A <b>sentence</b> written from the point of view of the <b>subject</b> using the pronouns 'I' or 'me'.  <i>There was darkness surrounding me.</i>
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> .  <i>With a scream, she stormed into the room.</i>
Homophone	Words that sound the same but have different meanings and sometimes different spellings.  <i>they're/their/there, which/witch, where/wear</i>
Imperative Verb	A <b>verb</b> that stands alone without a <b>subject noun</b> or <b>pronoun</b> in a <b>command</b> .  <i>Mix the flour into the egg.</i>

Inverted Commas	<p>Punctuation marks used to demarcate <b>direct speech</b> in a sentence. Also known as <b>speech marks</b>.</p> <p><i>“How delightfully exciting grammar is!” Miss Siddorn exclaimed.</i></p>
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> Even though the weather is bad, <i>I will go for a walk.</i></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 sentence is involved in the action but does not carry it out.</p> <p><i>I dropped my cup on the floor.</i></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>
Past Tense	<p>Any one of a set of verb tenses which describe action that took place in the past. (see also <b>simple past tense</b>, <b>past perfect tense</b> and <b>past progressive tense</b>)</p>
Personal Pronoun	<p>A pronoun which replaces a person, place or thing.</p> <p><i>he, she, we, they, it, me, him, her, us, them</i></p>
Phrase	<p>A small group of words that does not contain a verb.</p>
Plural	<p>More than one. Using plurals can affect both the <b>nouns</b> and <b>verbs</b> in a sentence.</p>
Possessive Apostrophe	<p>An apostrophe to show ownership. If the owner of the possession ends in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a single 's' – only an apostrophe is added (<i>Mr Williams' car</i>)</li> <li>- a double 's' (ss) – an apostrophe and an additional 's' is added (<i>my boss's chair</i>)</li> <li>- any other letter – an apostrophe and an additional 's' (<i>the girl's bike</i>)</li> </ul>
Possessive Pronoun	<p>A pronoun used to show ownership. Some can be used on their own (<i>mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs</i>) whilst others need to be attached to a noun (<i>my, your, her, our, their, whose</i>).</p>
Prefix	<p>Letters that go in front of a root word and change its meaning.</p> <p><i>-un + happy = unhappy</i> <i>-dis + appear = disappear</i></p>
Preposition	<p>A linking word in a sentence used to show where things are in time and space.</p> <p>The dinosaur is <i>behind</i> the tree. <i>Under</i> 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. A large proportion of the rainforest <b>has been</b> destroyed.</p>
Present Tense	<p>Any one of a set of tenses that describe actions which are happening now. (see also present perfect tense and present progressive tense)</p>
Proper Noun	<p>A <b>noun</b> which names a particular person, place or thing.</p> <p><b>Coten End, London, England, Monday</b></p>
Reported 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>
Root Word	<p>A basic word with no <b>prefix</b> or <b>suffix</b> added to it.</p>
Sentence	<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>. <b>Sentences</b> usually contain a <b>subject</b> and always contain a <b>verb</b>.</p>
Simple Past Tense	<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><b>We played in the park.</b></p>
Simple Sentence	<p>A <b>sentence</b> that contains a <b>subject</b> and one <b>verb</b>.</p>
Singular	<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>
Subject	<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>
Subordinate Clause	<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>
Suffix	<p>A string of letters that go at the end of a <b>root word</b> 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> = <b>fearful</b></p> <p>verb + <b>-ment</b> = noun pay + <b>-ment</b> = <b>payment</b></p>

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