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# SPaG Glossary

Please find below a glossary of the terminology that children are expected to know and use in each year group. Definitions of the terminology can be found on the following page.

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# SPaG Glossary

## **Letter**

A character representing one or more of the sounds used in speech. Written words are made up of letters. E.g. *Gg Ee Ww*

## **Capital letter**

A letter of the alphabet that usually differs from its corresponding lowercase letter in form and height; A, B, Q as distinguished from a, b, q. Used as the initial letter of a proper name, the pronoun I and in the first word of a sentence. E.g. *After school Ted plays football in Huntingdon.*

## **Word**

A word is a unit of grammar: it can be selected and moved around relatively independently, but cannot easily be split. In punctuation, words are normally separated by word spaces. E.g. *farm girl she on*

## **Singular**

When a word is in singular form it means just one or by itself. E.g. *boy baby goose*

## **Plural**

When a word is plural it means more than one. E.g. *boys babies geese*

## **Sentence**

A sentence is a group of words which are grammatically connected to each other but not to any words outside the sentence. E.g. *John was at the farm.*

## **Punctuation**

Punctuation includes any conventional features of writing other than spelling and general layout. One important role of punctuation is to indicate sentence boundaries. E.g. *! " ( ) - ? / . , ; :*

## **Full stop**

A punctuation mark (.) used at the end of a sentence or an abbreviation.

## **Question mark**

A punctuation mark (?) indicating a question.

## **Exclamation mark**

A punctuation mark (!) indicating strong feelings, something unusual or high volume (shouting).

## **Noun**

Nouns are sometimes called 'naming words' because they name people, places and things. Nouns may be classified as common (e.g. *boy, day*) or proper (e.g. *Ivan, Monday*)

## **Noun phrase**

A noun phrase is a phrase that plays the role of a noun. The head word in a noun phrase will be a noun or a pronoun. Noun phrases are most often used for description and specification. E.g. *plain flour, foxes with bushy tails*

## **Statement**

The form of a sentence's main clause shows whether it is being used as a statement, a question, a command or an exclamation. E.g.

*You are my friend.*

## **Question**

*Are you my friend?*

## **Exclamation**

*What a good friend you are!*

## **Command**

*Be my friend!*

## **Suffix**

A suffix is an 'ending', used at the end of one word to turn it into another word. Suffixes cannot stand on their own as a complete word. E.g. *success - success*ful*, teach - teacher, small - smallest*

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# SPaG Glossary

## Adjective

A "describing word". The surest way to identify adjectives is by the ways they can be used: before a noun, to make the noun's meaning more specific or after the verb to be, as its complement. Adjectives cannot be modified by other adjectives. This distinguishes them from nouns, which can be. E.g. The pupils did some really **excellent** work. Their work was **excellent**.

## Adverb

Adverbs are sometimes said to describe manner or time. This is often true, but it doesn't help to distinguish adverbs from other word classes. The surest way to identify adverbs is by the ways they can be used: they can modify a verb, an adjective, another adverb or even a whole clause. E.g. Joshua **soon** started snoring **loudly**. That match was **really** exciting! We don't get to play games **very** often. **Fortunately**, it didn't rain.

## Verb

Verbs are sometimes called 'doing words' because many verbs name an action that someone does; while this can be a way of recognising verbs, many verbs name states or feelings rather than actions. Verbs can usually have a tense, either present or past (also future).

E.g. He **lives** in Birmingham. The teacher **wrote** a song for the class. He **likes** chocolate. He **knew** my father.

## Tense

Verbs in the past tense are commonly used to: talk about the past, talk about imagined situations, make a request sound more polite. Most verbs take a suffix -ed to form their past tense, but many commonly used verbs are irregular. Verbs in the present tense are commonly used to: talk about the present

## Apostrophe

Apostrophes have two completely different uses. They show the place of missing letters and they mark possessives. E.g. We're going out and we'll get something to eat. Hannah's mother went to town in Justin's car.

## Comma

A punctuation mark (,) indicating a pause between parts of a sentence or separating items in a list.

## Preposition

Words which show the relationship between two things. They often tell you where one thing is as apposed to another. E.g. **about, above, across, after, against, along, amid, amidst, among, amongst, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, between, beyond, by, down, during, except, for, from, in, into, near, of, off, on, over, round, since, though, till, to, towards, under, underneath, until, unto, up, upon, with, within, without.**

## Conjunction

A conjunction links two words or phrases together. E.g. **and, but, when**

## Prefix

A prefix is added at the beginning of a word in order to turn it into another word. E.g. **overtake, unappealing, disappear**

## Clause

A clause is a group of words which does contain a verb; it is part of a sentence. A main clause makes sense on its own. E.g. **my sister is older than me.**

## Subordinate clause

A subordinate clause does not make sense on its own. E.g. My sister is older than me **and she is very annoying.**

## Direct speech

When you write down the words that have been spoken and use speech marks. E.g. **"Who's there?"** said Marvin.

## Consonant

Consonants are specific letters from the alphabet. E.g. **b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, and z.**

## Vowel

Vowels are specific letters from the alphabet. E.g. **a, e, i, o, u.**

## Determiner

Determiners are the most frequently used words in English. They are used with nouns to give more information about that noun - who it belongs to, how many, or sometimes to ask questions. E.g. **This** car **is** yours.

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# SPaG Glossary

## Pronoun

Words used to avoid repeating a noun. E.g. *I, you, me, he, she, you, him, her, mine, his, hers, its, we, they, us, them, ours, yours, theirs*

## Adverbial phrase

A fronted adverbial phrase goes at the beginning of a sentence. It describes the verb in the sentence. It describes where, when and how. E.g. *As soon as the train had left the station, Tom jumped from the carriage door.*

## Modal verb

Modal verbs are a type of auxiliary verb that expresses degrees of possibility, probability and certainty. The core modal verbs are: *can, could, may, might, shall, should, will, would, must.*

## Relative pronoun

Relative pronouns introduce a relative clause. E.g. *who, whom, whose, which, that.* I enjoy my swimming, *which* keeps me fit.

## Relative clause

A clause which is connected to a main clause by a word such as *that, which, who, whose, or where.* E.g. *I first saw her in Paris, where I lived in the early twenties.*

## Bracket

Punctuation used for additional information or explanation. E.g. *Jamie's bike was red (bright red) with a yellow stripe.*

## Dash

Punctuation which indicates a stronger pause than a comma. Can be used like a comma or bracket to add parenthesis. E.g. *The woman - only 25 years old - was the first to win a gold medal for Britain.*

## Cohesion

How ideas are lined within paragraphs, i.e. within and between sentences using connectives, pronouns, vocabulary choices, and punctuation. E.g. *I always save my pocket money whereas my brother spends his straightaway.*

## Subject

The subject is the noun, pronoun or noun phrase that stands before a verb, and which is involved in subject-verb agreement. It normally expresses the 'do-er' or 'be-er' of the verb. E.g. *We* were going shopping.

## Object

The object is a noun that refers to a person or thing, other than the subject, which is involved in or affected by the action of a verb. The verb's object normally follows it. E.g. He ate the *tomato*.

## Active

When the subject of the verb carries out an action. E.g. *David Beckham scored the penalty.*

## Passive

When a subject or verb has an action done to them. Often, the subject is not even mentioned. E.g. *A window was smashed.*

## Synonym

Words which have the same, or nearly the same meaning as each other. E.g. *Bad - awful, terrible, horrible*

## Antonym

Words which mean the opposite to each other. E.g. *The antonym of up is down.*

## Ellipsis

Punctuation used to show a pause in someone's speech or thoughts, and to build tension or show that a sentence is not finished.

E.g. "The sight was awesome... truly amazing."

## Hyphen

Punctuation which joins one or more words or adds a prefix to a word. E.g. *Happy-go-lucky*

## Colon

Punctuation (:) which indicates that an example, a list, or more detailed explanation follows.

## Semi-colon

Punctuation (;) used in place of a connective. It separates two sentences which are related and can be used in lists of phrases.

## Bullet points

Bullet points are used to draw attention to important information.

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