

Grammar



A Parents' Guide

A guide to the new national curriculum's grammatical terms
for those of us who weren't taught grammar at school.

www.thepunctuationshow.com



Many parents were not taught grammar at school and therefore might not be confident with the topic.

The purpose of this guide is to help explain some of the terms, which your son or daughter is expected to know as part of the new national curriculum.

The following terms are covered:

Year 1

Words
Letters vs. Capitals
Punctuation
Full Stops
Exclamation Marks
Singular vs. Plural
Sentences

Year 2

Nouns
Adjectives
Verbs
Tense
Progressive
Adverbs
Noun Phrases
Statements
Questions
Exclamations
Commands
Suffixes
Apostrophes
Commas
Compound Sentences

Year 3

Consonants vs. Vowels
Word Families
Clauses
Conjunctions
Prefixes
Perfect
Prepositions
Inverted Commas

Year 4

Articles
Adverbials
Determiners
Pronouns
Possessive Pronouns

Year 5

Ambiguity
Auxiliary Verbs
Modal Verbs
Brackets
Cohesion
Relative Clauses
Dashes
Parenthesis

Year 6

Active and Passive Voice
Synonyms and Antonyms
Subject vs. Object
Ellipsis
Semicolons
Colons
Bullet Points
Hyphens

ARTICLES

YEAR 4

Articles don't really have a meaning of their own, but they affect the sentence they are a part of.

There are two types of article.

The definite article

the

When 'the' is used, it generally indicates the noun is familiar or specific.

The indefinite article

a or an

When 'a' or 'an' is used it normally gives less emphasis or shows less importance.

REMEMBER!

Articles are determiners.



ADVERBIALS

YEAR 4

Adverbials modify verbs. They tell us something about the clause of which they are a part.

They can be single words, phrases, or clauses.

	Where?	When?	How?
words	here	usually	quickly
phrases	to work	for a day	by train
clauses	travelling by train	after we had eaten	as he always did

REMEMBER!

A fronted adverbial is always followed by a comma.



DETERMINERS

YEAR 4

A determiner will normally give more information about a noun.

Common determiners are

a/an, the
this, these
my, your
some, many

articles
demonstratives
possessives
quantifiers

They can determine whether a noun is singular or plural; how definite or specific a noun is, or how many.

REMEMBER!

Find the noun that affects the verb to find the head.



PRONOUNS

YEAR 4

Pronouns are words used in place of nouns or noun phrases.

Personal pronouns are the most common type.

FOR EXAMPLE

I - first person singular
you - second person singular
he/she - third person singular
we - first person plural
you - second person plural
they - third person plural

Verbs can react differently, depending on the pronoun that has been used.

REMEMBER!

Pronouns help to avoid repetition.



POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

YEAR 4

Possessive pronouns are used to show ownership.

FOREXAMPLE

mine, yours, his, hers, their,
ours, its

'Its' doesn't require a possessive apostrophe.

When possessive words are determiners, they often change form.

FOREXAMPLE

mine becomes my
yours becomes your