

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH SPAG

Lower KS2 grammatical terms		
Grammar	Definition	Example
Conjunction	Used to join two ideas together within one sentence.	He needed his coat because it was cold. The curtains danced in the wind while the windows were open.
Preposition	A word that shows the relationship between the noun and the other words in the sentence.	The box was under the table. I was inside the house. The clouds above ...
Clause	A clause contains a subject and a verb. The subject is the noun performing the verb. There are two types of clauses: Independent – makes sense by itself. Dependent- works only as part of a whole sentence. It could begin with after, although, because, if, when, while..	Independent: She can leave the room now. she – subject leave - verb Dependent clause: because she finished all her work.
Paragraph	A section of a piece of writing. A new paragraph marks a change of focus, change of time, change of place or change of speaker.	
Nouns Including Common noun Collective noun Proper noun Abstract Noun	The name of a person, place or thing. Common- table, cat Proper- John, Sarah, England Collective- pride, gaggle, flock Abstract- love, bravery	
Subordinate clause	A clause with a subject and a verb but does not make sense by itself, it is in addition to the main clause.	Although I was scared , I crept inside. <i>'I crept inside' is the man clause because it makes sense by itself.</i>
Relative clause	A clause using who, whom, which, whose to relate back to the subject. A relative clause does not make sense by itself.	Polly's hair, which was long and brown , hung loosely around her head. The boy was funny, which made me smile .

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Possessive pronoun	Who owns something.	My pen. That pen is mine. Toby's pen.
Adverbial	A word or phrase that is used to give more detail to a verb or a clause. Adverbials of manner- how Adverbials of place- where Adverbials of time- when, how often Adverbials of probability- how certain we are	Tom shouted loudly. He cycled as fast as possible. I saw him over there. In minute I will start. Perhaps we should go. He will certainly say yes.
Fronted adverbial	The use of an adverb to begin a sentence to make the sentence more interesting.	On the table stood a vase of flowers. Next to the window was a bookcase. At the end of the lane, Bob paused.
Article	A, an, the	An elephant A bear The teddy
Determiner	Words used with nouns- this book, my friend, a book, the book	This book is yours. I've got some sweets. I will have an apple. Which colour do you prefer?
Lower KS2 punctuation		
Inverted commas (speech marks) ' '	Used to mark the beginning and end of direct speech (the speaker's words written down exactly as they were spoken).	The conductor shouted, 'Sit down!'
Comma ,	Using commas after fronted adverbials Using commas for lists.	Later that day, I heard the bad news. At the shop, I bought milk, cheese and bread.
Apostrophe '	The possessive apostrophe marks who owns something.	We met at Ben's party. The dog's tail wagged rapidly. Yesterday's weather was dreadful. The girl's name.

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		The girls' names (plural – there is more than one girl so the apostrophe comes after the s).
Upper KS2 grammatical terms		
Modal verb	To show if we believe something is certain, probable or possible, or not. Examples: can/ could, may/ might, shall/ should, will/ would, must/ ought	Perhaps I should stay behind. Can I get you a drink? Sam will be here soon. I must go now. This ride may be too scary for you.
Subject	The noun or pronoun that is carrying out the action in the sentence.	The dog broke the window. The children ripped the paper.
Active voice	Verbs can be active. In an active sentence the subject carries out the action (the verb). The 'subject' is the noun.	The dog bit Ben.
Passive voice	Verbs can be passive. In a passive sentence the subject is on the receiving end of the action.	Ben was bitten by the dog.
Relative pronoun	Word used to introduce a relative clause- who, which, that	The train was late, which annoyed me greatly. This is Nick, who can play the piano.
Object	The object in a sentence that is having the action done to it.	The dog broke the window . The children ripped the paper .
Tense	The form of an action with respective time. Past tense Present tense Future tense	The dog ran away. The dog is running away. The dog will run away.
Bullet points	Used to draw attention to important information so that the reader can find the key information quickly	I need to buy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milk • Bread • Tea
Hyphens	Used either: At the end of a line when a word has been divided or to link two parts of word.	Good-hearted Empty-handed Quick-thinking

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		Nineteenth-century
Upper KS2 punctuation		
Brackets () Dashes – Commas ,	Used to separate information that is not essential to the meaning of the rest of the sentence.	Mount Everest (8848m) is the highest mountain in the world. Thousands of people - like the man in this photograph - have been left homeless.
Commas ,	Used for lists. Used to clarify meaning/ avoid ambiguity.	The school has a vegetable garden in which the children grow cabbages, onions, potatoes and carrots. Let's eat, Dad.
Semi colon ; Dash -	Used to mark the break between two main clauses. The clause before the semi-colon and the clause after has to make sense independently.	Terry always slept with the light on; he was afraid of the dark. Terry always slept with the light on – he was afraid of the dark.
Colon :	Used to introduce lists. Used to introduce an idea.	You have one option left: leave and never come back! The cake contained some strange ingredients: dog biscuits, chicken and meat.