Grammar terms, Years 1 to 6

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YEAR	TERM	WHAT IT MEANS	EXAMPLE
1	**letter**	One of the 26 written symbols of the alphabet.	The word cat has three letters.
1	**capital letter**	The large form of a letter, used to start a sentence and for names and the word I.	Zara and I went to Leeds.
1	**word**	A unit of language that can stand on its own, with a space on each side when written.	A sentence is made of words.
1	**singular**	Naming just one.	one dog, one child
1	**plural**	Naming more than one.	two dogs, three children
1	**sentence**	A group of words that makes complete sense. It begins with a capital letter and ends with a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark.	The bus is late.
1	**punctuation**	The marks that make writing clear to read, such as full stops and commas.	Stop, look, listen.
1	**full stop**	The mark that ends a statement or a command.	We went to the park.
1	**question mark**	The mark that ends a question.	Where is my hat?
1	**exclamation mark**	The mark that shows strong feeling or a shout.	Watch out!
2	**noun**	A word that names a person, place, thing or idea.	teacher, Cardiff, bicycle, courage
2	**noun phrase**	A noun with extra words that describe or give more detail about it.	the tall man in the red coat
2	**statement**	A sentence that tells you something. It usually ends with a full stop.	The river is wide.
2	**question**	A sentence that asks something and ends with a question mark.	Is the river wide?
2	**exclamation**	A sentence that begins with What or How, has a verb and shows strong feeling.	What a wide river it is!
2	**command**	A sentence that tells someone to do something. It often starts with a verb.	Cross the bridge carefully.
2	**compound**	A word made by joining two words together.	football, bedroom, whiteboard
2	**suffix**	Letters added to the end of a word that change its meaning or word class.	care + ful, sad + ness
2	**adjective**	A word that describes a noun.	a tiny, silver key
2	**adverb**	A word that tells you more about a verb: how, when, where or how often. It can also modify an adjective or another adverb.	She ran quickly.

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2	**verb**	A word for an action, a feeling or a state of being.	run, think, is, seem
2	**tense**	The form of a verb that shows when something happens: past or present.	walks (present), walked (past)
2	**apostrophe**	A mark that shows missing letters in a contraction, or that something belongs to someone.	can't, Ravi's bag
2	**comma**	A mark that separates items in a list and helps the reader pause.	red, green and blue
3	**preposition**	A word that shows how a noun or pronoun relates to something else, often by place or time.	under the table, after lunch
3	**conjunction**	A word that joins words, phrases or clauses.	and, but, because, when
3	**word family**	A group of words that are related in form and meaning.	solve, solution, solver, dissolve
3	**prefix**	Letters added to the start of a word that change its meaning.	un + happy, re + build
3	**clause**	A group of words that contains a verb and its subject (or a command).	the dog barked
3	**subordinate clause**	A clause that adds information to a main clause and cannot stand alone as a sentence.	because it was raining
3	**direct speech**	The exact words someone says, written inside inverted commas.	"Come here," said Dad.
3	**consonant**	The sounds made by blocking the air in the mouth or throat. As letters: all the letters except a, e, i, o, u.	b, c, d, f, g
3	**vowel**	The sounds that are made with the mouth open. As letters: a, e, i, o, u (and y can act as one).	a, e, i, o, u
3	**inverted commas (speech marks)**	The marks placed around the words someone says.	"Look at that!" she said.
4	**determiner**	A word that goes before a noun and tells you which one or how many.	the, a, this, my, some, three
4	**pronoun**	A word that stands in the place of a noun.	Kofi lost his key. He found it later.
4	**possessive pronoun**	A pronoun that shows who owns something and stands alone.	That seat is mine. Hers is next to it.
4	**adverbial**	A word or phrase that tells you when, where or how something happens.	in the garden, very quickly
4	**fronted adverbial**	An adverbial placed at the start of a sentence, usually followed by a comma.	After lunch, we went outside.
5	**modal verb**	A verb that goes before another verb to show how likely, possible or necessary something is.	can, could, may, might, shall, should, will, would, must

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5	**relative pronoun**	A pronoun that starts a relative clause, linking it to a noun.	who, which, that, whose, where, when
5	**relative clause**	A subordinate clause that adds detail about a noun.	The girl who won the race smiled.
5	**parenthesis**	Extra information put inside a sentence using brackets, dashes or commas.	My cousin (who is nine) plays the drums.
5	**bracket**	A curved mark used in pairs to wrap round extra information.	The match (held on Friday) was cancelled.
5	**dash**	A long horizontal mark used to add extra information or to mark a break in a sentence.	The boat – old and rusty – floated away.
5	**cohesion**	How the parts of a text link together so that it flows.	Using then, after that and this to connect sentences.
5	**ambiguity**	When a sentence could be understood in more than one way.	Visiting relatives can be boring.
6	**subject**	The person or thing that does the action of the verb, or is described by it.	The dog chased the ball.
6	**object**	The person or thing that receives the action of the verb.	The dog chased the ball.
6	**active**	A sentence in which the subject does the action.	The cat chased the mouse.
6	**passive**	A sentence in which the subject has the action done to it.	The mouse was chased by the cat.
6	**synonym**	A word with a similar meaning to another word.	big and large
6	**antonym**	A word with the opposite meaning to another word.	hot and cold
6	**ellipsis**	Leaving words out because the meaning is still clear. Also the mark of three dots (…).	I like tea; you, coffee.
6	**hyphen**	A short mark that joins words or parts of words.	man-eating shark, co-operate
6	**colon**	A mark that introduces a list, an explanation or a quotation.	You will need: a pencil, a ruler and a rubber.
6	**semi-colon**	A mark that joins two related main clauses, or separates items in a long list.	It is raining; we will stay in.
6	**bullet points**	Dots or marks at the start of lines in a list.	Pack a coat, a hat and a drink.
extra	**proper noun**	A noun that names a particular person, place or thing and begins with a capital letter.	Priya, Wales, Monday
extra	**common noun**	A noun that names a general person, place or thing.	girl, town, table
extra	**article**	A, an and the. Articles are one kind of determiner.	an owl, the moon
extra	**main clause**	A clause that can stand alone as a complete sentence.	The dog barked

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extra	**co-ordinating conjunction**	A word that joins two clauses of equal weight: and, but, or, so.	I was cold but I stayed outside.
extra	**subordinating conjunction**	A word that begins a subordinate clause: because, although, when, if, while.	We stayed in because it rained.
extra	**auxiliary verb**	A helping verb used with a main verb: be, have and do.	She is running. They have gone.
extra	**progressive form**	A verb form made with be and -ing that shows an action in progress.	He was shouting. She is drumming.
extra	**present perfect**	A verb form made with have or has and the past participle, linking past and present.	I have finished.
extra	**past participle**	The verb form used after have, has or had, and in the passive.	eaten, played, broken
extra	**reporting clause**	The part of a sentence with direct speech that says who is speaking.	she whispered
extra	**contraction**	A short form of words where an apostrophe replaces missing letters.	didn't, we're
extra	**root word**	A word to which prefixes and suffixes can be added.	happy in unhappiness
extra	**homophone**	A word that sounds the same as another but is spelt differently and means something different.	there and their

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