

Y4 Grammar, punctuation and spelling glossary

Name	Explanation	Examples
Adjective	a describing word	pink, big, horrible, beautiful
Noun	a word used to identify something	table, snow, door, sky, cat, dog, jumper
Proper noun	the formal name given to something	Mary, Corby, Spain, Monday, July
Verb	an action or doing word	skip, hopped, jumping, eats
Adverb	a word that adds detail to a verb (tells you how, where, when etc.)	Quickly, suddenly, yesterday
Adverbial	As above, but can be a phrase or group of words rather than a single word	After lunch, without hesitation, on Monday
Fronted adverbial	An adverb or adverbial used at the very beginning of a sentence. Must have a comma after	Tomorrow night , we are going to watch some fireworks.
Pronoun	A word used instead of a noun or noun phrase	He, she, it, they
Determiner	The word that refers to a noun	The, each, a, every
Conjunction	A joining word, used to link ideas/clauses together	We were going to go for a walk but it is raining.
Time conjunction	A joining word as above, that related to time. Most of these are also subordinating conjunctions and can be used as fronted adverbials	After lunch, we will play on the computer. Wash your hands before you eat.

Preposition	A word that relates something to something else in terms of position, time etc.	On, under, above, after, before
Subordinating conjunction	A conjunction that introduces a subordinate clause	If, when, because, although
Subordinate clause	A clause, starting with a subordinating conjunction. This type of clause does not make sense on its own. Can also be called a dependent clause. Needs a comma after if it is the first clause in the sentence.	When you see her, tell her I said hello. You can come to the party if you want to.
Co-ordinating conjunction	A conjunction placed between two clauses of equal rank (e.g. two main clauses)	FANBOYS For, and, but, or, yet, so
Main clause	A clause that makes sense on its own. Can also be called an independent clause.	We will go outside if it stops raining.
Singular	One of something	Cat, baby, match
Plural	More than one of something	Cats, babies, matches
Expanded noun phrase	A noun phrase with more detail added to it (e.g. determiner + adjective + noun)	The blue bow A shaggy, brown dog My best friend
Noun phrase	Determiner + noun	The girl, a boy

Prefix	A group of letters added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning	pre-, re-, sub-, in-, un- etc. e.g. un lucky
Suffix	A group of letters added to end of a word to change its meaning	-ful, -ness, -less, -tion, -ly, -ment, -ate, -ise, -ify etc. e.g. harm less
Root word	The word without any prefixes or suffixes added	Beautiful = beauty Quickly = quick
Statement	A sentence that tells you a piece of information. Ends with a full stop or exclamation mark.	It is raining. My brother is called Tom.
Question	A sentence that asks something. Ends with a question mark.	What time is it? Where are you going?
Exclamation	A sentence that starts with what or how and ends with an exclamation mark.	What a beautiful day it is! How lovely you look!
Command	A sentence that gives an instruction. Starts with an imperative (or bossy) verb and ends with a full stop or exclamation mark.	Go to your room. Bring me the eggs!
Paragraph	Sentences that are grouped or chunked because they are linked.	N/A
Reporting clause	The part of a sentence containing direct speech that tells you who said something	"Look over there!" said John.

Simile	Describing something by comparing it to something else	As brave as a lion, as clever as a fox, as cold as ice
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Full stop	.
Comma	,
Exclamation mark	!
Question mark	?
Inverted commas	" "
Apostrophe	'

Structuring direct speech:

- Comma after speech/reporting clause where these are not at the end of a sentence
- Inverted commas around all speech
- New speaker, new line
- Reporting clause can be dropped when a conversation has built up and it is clear who is speaking

e.g.

"Hi Tom," said Ava, "where are you going?"

"To the post office," replied Tom.

Ava asked, "What are you going to post?"

"A parcel for my auntie."

"Does she live far away?"

"Yes, in Manchester."