



KS2 Grammar and Punctuation Glossary for Parents

This glossary has been created to help parents understand the key grammar and punctuation terms children learn in Key Stage 2. Each definition is written in clear language with simple examples to show how each term is used in writing.

Abstract noun

A word for something you cannot touch, like a feeling or idea. Example: love, courage, happiness.

Adjective

A word that describes a noun (a person, place, or thing). Example: The tall tree, a red balloon.

Adverb

A word that describes a verb – it tells how, when, or where something happens. Example: She ran quickly.

Apostrophe

A punctuation mark (') used for possession or contractions. Example: Sarah's coat, it's (it is) cold.

Clause

A group of words with a subject and a verb. Example: She smiled because she was happy.

Colon

Used to introduce a list or example. Example: I need three things: milk, eggs, and bread.

Comma

Used to separate items in a list or clauses in a sentence. Example: I bought apples, oranges, and grapes.

Conjunction

A word that joins clauses or sentences. Example: and, but, because, although.

Determiner

A word that goes before a noun to show which one. Example: a, an, the, my, some.

Direct Speech

Shows the exact words someone said using speech marks. Example: "I love reading," said Emma.

Exclamation Mark

Used to show strong feeling or surprise. Example: What a beautiful day!



Fronted Adverbial

A word or phrase at the start of a sentence that describes when, where or how. Example: Early in the morning, the birds began to sing.

Full Stop

Used at the end of a sentence. Example: I went to the park.

Homophone

Words that sound the same but have different meanings or spellings. Example: two/too, sea/see.

Noun

A naming word for a person, place, or thing. Example: dog, London, happiness.

Noun Phrase

A noun with extra words that describe it. Example: The tall, kind teacher.

Paragraph

A group of sentences about one main idea. Example: Each paragraph starts on a new line.

Preposition

A word that shows where or when something happens. Example: under, after, between, in.

Pronoun

A word used instead of a noun. Example: he, she, it, they.

Question Mark

Used at the end of a question. Example: What time is it?

Relative Clause

Adds more information about a noun, often starting with who, which, or that. Example: The girl, who was very tall, played basketball.

Semi-colon

Links two related sentences without using a conjunction. Example: It was raining; we stayed inside.

Sentence

A group of words that makes sense and has a capital letter and full stop. Example: The cat sat on the mat.

Subject

The person or thing doing the action in a sentence. Example: The dog (subject) barked loudly.



Suffix

A group of letters added to the end of a word to change its meaning. Example: -ful (hopeful), -less (careless).

Synonym

A word that means the same or nearly the same as another word. Example: happy and joyful.

Verb

A word that shows an action or a state of being. Example: run, jump, is, was.

Adverbial Phrase

A group of words that act as an adverb. Example: in the morning, very quickly.

Compound Word

Two words joined to make a new one. Example: football, sunflower.

Modal Verb

A verb that shows possibility or necessity. Example: can, should, might, must.

Prefix

Letters added to the start of a word to change its meaning. Example: unhappy (prefix un-).