



Grammar Dictionary for Parents

Children will encounter and learn about the following by the end of Year 2.

adjective	An adjective gives more information about a noun. It often goes before the noun or after the verb 'to be': <i>is, am, are, was, were, have been, etc.</i> For example: The little, green bird pecked the juicy apple. The apple was delicious .
adverb	An adverb gives more information about a verb, an adjective, another adverb or a clause. An adverb tells you how, when, where or how often something happens. For example: Later , a cat crept up the tree as the little green bird eagerly pecked the juicy apple twice and ate it noisily .
apostrophes (contraction)	An apostrophe can be used to show when a word has been made shorter by dropping one or more letters. This is called a contraction. You usually use contractions in informal writing or when writing direct speech. For example: I am = I'm did not = didn't could not = couldn't we are = we're you have = you've she will/she shall = she'll
apostrophes (possession)	An apostrophe can also show ownership or possession. This is called a possessive apostrophe. Possessive apostrophes show that something belongs to, or is for, someone or something. Often, a possessive apostrophe is used with a possessive s. For example: the boy's pen
comma ,	A comma can be used to separate items in a list. For example: I like peas, carrots, beans and pizza.
command	A command is a sentence which gives an order or instruction. For example: Take this food away. A sentence that is a command or instruction is usually in the imperative, with the verb first.
compound word	A compound word is made up of two words joined together. <i>Bedroom</i> and <i>football</i> are compound words.
conjunction (co-ordinating)	A coordinating conjunction joins groups of words which are of the same importance in the sentence. For example: bread and cheese; Jack and Jill Main clauses can be joined with coordinating conjunctions such as <i>and, but</i> and <i>or</i> .
conjunction (subordinating)	A subordinating conjunction introduces a subordinate clause, such as: <i>after, although, as, because, before, if, since, when, while</i> For example: The cat watched the bird quietly because he didn't want to scare it away.
exclamation	An exclamation is something you say or shout that shows you are very happy, angry, or surprised. In writing you use an exclamation mark after an exclamation. For example: What big teeth you have, Grandma! Note: the Standards and Testing Agency currently state that 'an exclamation <i>must be introduced by a phrase with 'what' or 'how' and should be followed by a subject + verb + any other elements.</i> '
exclamation mark !	It shows that something is being exclaimed, or said with a lot of feeling. For example: I'm so late! Hurrah! It's a goal! No! Note: exclamation marks can be used at the end of a variety of sentence types – not just for exclamations.
full stop .	A full stop comes at the end of a sentence. It shows that a sentence is complete and finished. For example: It is a full sentence. I am the tallest in my class.
homophone	Homophones are words that have the same pronunciation but different meanings, origins or spelling. For example: new and knew; threw and through; waste and waist



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inverted commas “ “	<p>Inverted commas, or speech marks, show when people are actually speaking. For example: “I’m beginning to understand,” he said. The punctuation at the end of the spoken words always comes inside the final set of inverted commas. For example: “I can’t hold on any longer!” Alex cried.</p>
noun	<p>A noun names a person, place or thing. For example: apple, dog, team, chair, Manchester, Wednesday, beauty.</p> <p>A common noun is a noun that refers to people or things in general. For example: dog, tree, bridge, chair, beauty, excitement, advice, bread</p> <p>A proper noun is a noun that identifies a particular person, place or thing. Proper nouns begin with capital letters. For example: James, Africa, Friday, December</p>
prefix	<p>A prefix is a morpheme that can be added to the beginning of a root word. Different prefixes have different meanings so, when you add a prefix to a word, you change its meaning and make a new word. For example: dis + appear = disappear im + possible = impossible un + well = unwell</p>
preposition	<p>A preposition usually comes before a noun or pronoun. It often shows place or direction. For example: Later, a cat crept up the tree. Suddenly, the cat tried to pounce on the little green bird, but crashed into the tree.</p>
question	<p>A question is a sentence that is used to find out information. You can tell that a sentence is a question because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it ends with a question mark • it asks something • it might start with how, when, what, why or where.
question mark	<p>A question mark comes at the end of a sentence which is asking a question. For example: Where are you? What is your favourite colour?</p>
statement	<p>A statement is a sentence that tells you something. For example: I love fruit.</p>
suffix	<p>A suffix is a morpheme that can be added to the end of a root word. Different suffixes have different meanings so, when you add a suffix to a word, you change its meaning and make a new word. For example: fast + er = faster sad + ness = sadness joy + ful = joyful hope + less = hopeless</p>
synonym	<p>Synonyms are words that mean the same – or nearly the same – as each other, such as <i>big</i> and <i>huge</i>, or <i>horrible</i> and <i>nasty</i>. For example: They lived in a big house. They lived in an enormous house.</p>
tense	<p>The present tense shows that something is happening now or is true now. For example: The bird likes apples and often pecks them to see if they are good.</p> <p>The past tense is used to describe something that has happened. The past tense is normally shown by adding <i>-ed</i> but some verbs change completely. For example: The bird pecked the apple. I went to the cinema.</p> <p>Progressive forms of the present and past tense are also taught: For example: I am skipping. (action is in progress at present) I was skipping. (action was in progress in the past)</p>
verb	<p>A verb tells you what is happening in a sentence. A verb often names an action but it can also describe feelings or states. For example: The bird pecks the apple and eats it. The bird is happy.</p>

