



Year 6 Grammar Glossary

Name	What's its purpose?	Examples
Active voice	In most sentences, the action is completed by the subject. These are known as active sentences and use the active voice	John walked home. (Active) Year 2 designed puppets. (Active) The school arranged a visit. (Active) A visit was arranged by the school. (Passive)
Adjective	An adjective describes a noun and it comes before the noun or it can come after the verb to be (I am , we are, they are, she is, it is, they were)	The pupils did some really good work. Their work was good.
Adverb	An adverb often changes a verb. They can also change another adverb or an adjective.	He moved slowly. He moved very slowly. (The very is changing the other adverb.) That match was really exciting. (The adverb is telling us how exciting the match was –exciting is an adjective.)
Adverbial	It is a word or a phrase (group of words) used to modify a verb. Adverbs can be used as adverbials. However, there are many other word classes that can be used as adverbials.	The buses leave in five minutes. (preposition phrase as an adverbial as it modifies leave) She promised to see me last night. (noun phrase modifying see or promised depending on the meaning) She worked until she had finished. (subordinate clause as an adverbial)
Ambiguity	Sentence/paragraph where the meaning is not clear: there could be two or more meanings.	Stolen painting found by tree. Meaning: Either a tree found a stolen painting, or a stolen painting was found sitting next to a tree. John saw the man on the mountain with a telescope. Meaning: Who has the telescope?

		<p>a) John; b) The man on the mountain; c) The mountain.</p>
Antonym	Words with opposite meanings.	<p>Tall-small Fat-thin Happy-angry</p>
Apostrophe (')	<p>An apostrophe can do one of two things.</p> <p>1) It can show you where two words have been joined and some of the letters have been missed out.</p> <p>2) It can show that someone or something owns (possesses) an object (something).</p>	<p>1) Do not = don't (the o from not is missing and is replaced with the apostrophe).</p> <p>2) The girl's name is Jane. The cat's bowl is empty. Bob's parents are here.</p>
Apostrophe for plural possession	<p>3) The possessive s' is used where there is more than one person or thing owning (possessing) the object.</p>	<p>3) The cats' bowl is empty. (more than one cat sharing a bowl)</p>
Brackets	Brackets are used to separate information that is not essential to the sentence	<p>On those (hopefully) very rare occasions when you need to phone in sick, please contact Mrs Smith.</p>
Bullet points	<p>These are used to separate related items. They are also used to separate items needed in the ingredients /what you need in a set of instructions.</p>	<p>Mr Mole won the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg-and-spoon race. • Toss the pancake. • Apple bobbing. (the use of full stops is the most common option) <p>Mr Mole won the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg-and-spoon race; • Toss the pancake; • Apple bobbing. (semi-colons can also be used)
Capital Letter	<p>A capital letter is used to start a sentence. It is also used for names, places, months and days of the week.</p> <p>A capital is used for I and I'm.</p>	<p>This is a sentence so the t is a capital t.</p> <p>My name is James.</p> <p>We are in Copnor Primary School. Here I am! I'm six years old.</p>

<p>Clause</p>	<p>A clause includes a verb. Sometimes a clause can be a complete sentence.</p>	<p>It was raining. (single-clause sentence) It was raining but we were indoors. (two clauses joined using a coordinating conjunction) If you are coming to the party, please let us know. (two clauses: a subordinate clause followed by the main clause).</p>
<p>Cohesion</p>	<p>Where the whole of the sentence/ paragraph makes sense.</p>	<p>A visit has been arranged for Year 6, to the Mountain Peaks Field Study Centre, leaving school at 9.30am. This is an overnight visit. The centre has beautiful grounds and a nature trail. During the afternoon, the children will follow the trail. In the above example, we know that the visit is to Mountain Peaks Field Study Centre and therefore we do not need to refer to its full name: instead we can just write The Centre.</p>
<p>Colon</p>	<p>Colons have different usages: colon used before list colon used before a description colon before definition colon before explanation</p>	<p>William was so hungry he ate everything in the house: chips, cold pizza, carrots with dip, hot dogs, peanut butter and a packet of sweets. Jane is so friendly and will play with anyone, even Tom: he's been horrible to everyone but she still involves him in her games. For years while I was reading Shakespeare's Othello, I had to constantly look up the word "egregious" since the villain uses that word: outstandingly bad or shocking. I had a horrible weekend: I had a sore throat and spent all Saturday and Sunday in bed</p>
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<p>Comma (,)</p>	<p>A comma is used to separate items in a list.</p> <p>They are also used after a fronted adverbial.</p> <p>Commas are also used to mark clauses.</p> <p>Commas are also used in speech.</p>	<p>I went on a picnic and I took a banana, an apple and a packet of crisps.</p> <p>Slowly, I walked home. After breakfast, I walked home.</p> <p>John, who was hungry, walked home quickly. Although she was tired, Jane still kept running.</p> <p>Jill responded, "Yes that is a good idea!"</p> <p>"There are seven," replied Bill</p>
<p>Command</p>	<p>These sentences tell you to do something. They sometimes have an exclamation mark.</p>	<p>Be quiet.</p> <p>Go and get it then.</p>
<p>Conjunction</p>	<p>A conjunction links two words or phrases (a group of words) together.</p> <p>Coordinating conjunction A coordinating conjunction is used to join two words using: and, but, or.</p> <p>Subordinating conjunction Subordinating conjunctions include: when, before, after, while, so, because. These are used to introduce a subordinate clause.</p>	<p>The cat and the dog walked home. Is it that one or that one?</p> <p>It could come today but it might come tomorrow.</p> <p>When I am tired, I have a sit down. I have a sit down when I am tired.</p>
<p>Consonant</p>	<p>Most letters of the alphabet are consonants.</p> <p>You use a before words starting with these letters.</p>	<p>b,c,d,f,g,h,j,k,l,m,n,p,q,r,s,t,v,w,x,z are consonants.</p> <p>Y is a vowel and a consonant! A banana</p>
<p>Dash</p>	<p>These show added emphasis, an interruption or a change in thought.</p>	<p>You are the friend—the only friend—who offered to help me. I wish you would—oh, never mind.</p>

Degrees of possibility	Use adverbs or modal verbs in order to show how likely something is going to happen.	Perhaps I will attend. (adverb) It is definitely happening. (adverb) I should visit him. (modal)
Determiner	A determiner shows whether a noun is known or unknown. Articles (the, a, an) Demonstratives (e.g. this, those) Possessives (e.g. my, your) Quantifiers (e.g. some, every)	The cat (a specific/known cat) a cat (we are not sure which cat) an apple (Any apple but we use an rather than a because apple starts with a vowel) Is this the right one? That is my book. Here are some bananas.
Direct Speech	Direct speech is the actual words someone says.	"I am twelve years old," said the boy.
Ellipsis	A word or phrase is missing. In the first two examples, there is no need for ... Sometimes ... is used in order to how that a sentence is unfinished especially in speech. It can also show a pause.	Frank waved to Ivana and he watched her drive away. (The her is not required) She did it because she wanted to do it. (The do it is not required as we know that she wanted to participate based upon the rest of the sentence) "But I thought he was..." "What... what...happened?"
Exclamation	These sentences always end in an exclamation mark.	Stop! Don't do that! Hooray!
Fronted Adverbial	An adverbial used at the start of a sentence. It has a comma after it.	Later that night, the moon disappeared behind a cloud. Suddenly, it stopped
Homonym	Words with the same sound and the same spelling but with different meanings	Trees have bark. Did you hear the dog bark? She leaves it outside. Trees have leaves. Ducks live on the river bank. I put my money in the bank.
Homophone	Words with the same sound but different meanings.	Red and read, some, sum, son, sun won, one

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Inverted commas (speech marks)	These show where speech begins and where it ends. “ ”	“Hello,” said the boy. The boy said, “Hello.” “Hello,” said the boy, “how are you?”
Main clause	A sentence contains at least one clause which is not a subordinate clause (so makes sense on its own).	I always take my coat. (main clause) If I walk to the shop (subordinate clause: it does not make sense on its own. This is because we need to know why the person is walking to the shop). If I walk to the shop, I always take my coat. (The main clause is in bold).
Modal verb	These change the meaning of other verbs. The main modal verbs are: will, would, can, could, might, shall, should and ought (to).	Here the modal is changing the meaning of the verb do. I will do my homework. I should do my homework. I might do my homework. I can't do my homework

<p>Noun</p>	<p>A noun is the name of something.</p> <p>Nouns made by compounding Some nouns are made by putting two or more words together to make a new one:</p> <p>super + man = superman</p> <p>white + board = whiteboard</p>	<p>Cat is a common noun.</p> <p>Flock is a collective noun. It names a group of things.</p> <p>Portsmouth is a proper noun. Proper nouns have a capital letter.</p> <p>Kindness is an abstract noun. You cannot touch an abstract noun. It names an idea or a quality in a person.</p> <p>Table is a concrete noun. You can touch a concrete noun.</p>
<p>Noun phrase</p>	<p>This is where detail is added to describe the noun.</p>	<p>the beautiful butterfly Adult foxes</p>
<p>Expanded Noun Phrases</p>	<p>This is where a noun or noun phrase is expanded to provide more detail.</p>	<p>The strict teacher expanded to: The strict maths teacher with curly hair.</p>
<p>Object</p>	<p>An object is what the verb is acting upon.</p> <p>Objects can be turned into the subject of a passive verb</p>	<p>Year 2 designed puppets. (noun acting as object) I like that. (pronoun acting as object)</p> <p>The puppets were designed by Year 2. (puppets is now the subject)</p>
<p>Parenthesis</p>	<p>This is shown using a pair of commas, dashes or brackets. The section of text within the parenthesis is not needed for the rest of the sentence to make sense.</p>	<p>John, who was eleven, walked home on his own. The president (and his assistant) travelled by private plane. John- even though he was tired- continued to work.</p>
<p>Passive voice</p>	<p>The sentence "It was eaten by our dog" is the passive of "Our dog ate it."</p>	<p>A visit was arranged by the school. (Passive)</p> <p>A visit was arranged.</p>

	Passive voice is often less personal because you can remove the part of the sentence that tells the reader who did the action.	(passive without the people who organised it the school) The school arranged a visit. (Active)
Past tense	This is what happened. It is shown by using the past verb.	He walked home. She liked the film.
Phrase	See noun phrase and preposition phrase.	The strict teacher expanded to: The strict maths teacher with curly hair.
Plural	There is more than one. It is shown with an s, es, ves or ies. Be careful as there are a number of irregular plurals e.g. sheep, children and cacti.	cats bananas babies wishes
Prefix	A prefix is added to the front of a word and it turns it into another word.	Un + happy = unhappy Anti + freeze = antifreeze Auto + graph = autograph
Preposition	These link the noun or noun phrase to some other words in the sentence. They often describe: place (where the noun is); or time (at, in, on, before, last, next) or cause	The book is over there. Make sure your book is in the bag. The book is due back next week. She was sent home because of her cold. She will be back from America in two weeks. (Two prepositions in a sentence!)
Preposition phrase	A preposition phrase includes a preposition in it.	She waved to her mother. She was sent home because of her cold. The book is due back next week.
Present tense.	This is happening now. It is shown by using the present verb.	He walks home. She likes the film.

Pronoun	A pronoun replaces a noun.	John walked home and then he opened the fridge. It was empty.
Possessive pronoun	Possessive pronouns are used to refer to a specific person/people or thing/things belonging to a person/people (and sometimes belonging to an animal/animals or thing/things). They can be the subject or the object	The he refers to John, while the it refers to the refrigerator. Look at these pictures. Mine is the big one. (subject) Do you like mine? (object) Yours is good. His is amazing. Our car is over there.
Relative pronoun	Who, which, where, when, whose, that are examples of relative pronouns (see relative clauses).	
Punctuation	A capital letter, full stops, question marks, exclamation marks and spaces between words are examples of punctuation.	. ? ! , “ ”
Question	Asks someone something. They always end in a question mark	Who are you? What time is dinner? How old are you? Can I come round to your house for tea
Relative clause	A relative clause is a special type of subordinate clause because it modifies (changes) the noun. It often uses a relative pronoun but it does not need to.	That's the boy who lives down our road. A girl, who lives down our road, has purple hair extensions. The prize that I won is a book. The prize I won is a book. (relative pronoun absent) Tom broke the toy, which made everyone unhappy.
Semi-colon	A semi-colon can be used to link two independent clauses instead of: and, but, or, yet. Use a semicolon to link to related clauses or where there is a contrast. They can also be used as a super comma! They are	The ice cream man drove down my road today. (take a breath) He has big, hairy knuckles. Could become: The ice cream man drove down my road today and he has big,

	used in lists where the items are being listed in detail	<p>hairy knuckles. Using a semi-colon it becomes: The ice cream man drove down my road today; he has big, hairy knuckles.</p> <p>When John went on holiday, he packed: two pairs of sunglasses; three towels; an inflatable in the shape of a crocodile; and a massive container of sun cream.</p>
Singular	There is only one.	cat banana baby wish

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Statement	This is a form of sentence where a fact is shared.	You are my friend. It is at ten o'clock.
Subject	The subject of a verb is usually the noun, noun phrase or pronoun that names the 'do-er' or 'be-er'.	Rula's mother went out. That is uncertain. The children will study the animals. Will the children go to the beach today?
Subjunctive	In many languages, when a verb is changed (e.g. walk to walked or walking), the use of these in subordinating clauses is referred to as subjunctives. In English we have very few such forms and they tend to be in formal writing.	The school requires that all pupils be honest. The school demands that children not enter the classrooms at lunchtime. If Zoe were the class president, things would be much better.
Subordinate clause	The two clauses are unequal and one is subordinate to the other clause. They cannot stand on their own and make sense, whereas the main clause they are connected to can.	Whenever I am hungry, I eat a banana. Whenever I am hungry. (On its own it does not make sense unless it is an answer to a question: this is a subordinate clause)

		I eat a banana. (this makes sense on its own: it is the main clause)
Suffix	A suffix is an 'ending' used to turn one word into another word.	Call + ed = called Teach + er = teacher Kind + ness = kindness
Synonym	A word with a similar meaning is called a synonym.	Talk- speak Old-ancient
Verb	A verb is sometimes called a 'doing' word. They often show you what action is happening. However, many verbs name feelings rather than actions. Also, some nouns name an action!	Brian walked home. He lives in Portsmouth. She loves Portsmouth. (This is a feeling.)
Progressive verb	This is a way to show that something is happening now. It uses the verb to be as well as the verb used to describe what is happening. The verb to be changes: I am, he/she/it is, they/we are.	She is drumming. They are walking. I am singing.
Present perfect verb	Use have and the past tense form of a verb to create a verb in the present perfect	I have done so much in my life. He has already arrived in Spain
Future tense	A reference to what is happening in the future, involves the use of a present tense verb. There are many ways of showing it is in the future rather than now	He will leave tomorrow. He may leave tomorrow. He leaves tomorrow. He is going to leave tomorrow.
Vowel	There are only a few vowels. Use an before a word starting with a vowel	a, e , i , o , u are vowels. Y is a vowel and a consonant! An egg, an apple
Word family	A word family is a group of words joined together because they are from a similar root word/ have a similar meaning.	Teach – teacher Exit –extent- extensive Electric -electrical-electrician Solve –solution – solver –dissolve – insoluble