Year 5 Grammar Glossary

Name	What's its purpose?	Examples
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	The pupils did some really good work.
	is, they were)	Their work was good.
Adverb	An adverb often changes a verb. They can also change another adverb or an	He moved slowly.
	adjective.	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?a) John;b) The man on the mountain;c) The mountain.
Apostrophe (')	An apostrophe can do one of two things. 1) It can show you where two words have	1) Do not = don't (the o from not is missing and is replaced

	been joined and some of the letters have been missed out.	with the apostrophe). 2) The girl's name is Jane.
Apostrophe	2) It can show that someone or something owns (possesses) an object (something).	The cat's bowl is empty. Bob's parents are here.
for plural possession	3) The possessive s' is used where there is more than one person or thing owning (possessing) the object.	3) The cats' bowl is empty. (more than one cat sharing a bowl)
Brackets	Brackets are used to separate information that is not essential to the sentence	On those (hopefully) very rare occasions when you need to phone in sick, please contact Mrs Smith.
Capital Letter	A capital letter is used to start a sentence. It is also used for names, places, months and days of the week.	This is a sentence so the t is a capital t.
	A capital is used for I and I'm.	My name is James. We are in Copnor Primary School. Here I am! I'm six years old.
Clause	A clause includes a verb. Sometimes a clause can be a complete sentence.	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).
Cohesion	Where the whole of the sentence/ paragraph makes sense.	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.
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Comma (,)	A comma is used to separate items in a list.	I went on a picnic and I took a banana, an apple and a packet of crisps.
	They are also used after a fronted adverbial.	Slowly, I walked home. After breakfast, I walked home.
	Commas are also used to mark clauses.	John, who was hungry, walked home quickly. Although she was tired, Jane still kept running.
	Commas are also used in speech.	Jill responded, "Yes that is a good idea!"
		"There are seven," replied Bill
Command	These sentences tell you to do something. They	Be quiet.
	sometimes have an exclamation mark.	Go and get it then.
Conjunction	A conjunction links two words or phrases (a group of words) together.	
	Coordinating conjunction A coordinating conjunction is used to join two words	The cat and the dog walked home. Is it that one or that one?
	using: and, but, or.	It could come today but it might come tomorrow.
	Subordinating conjunction Subordinating conjunctions include: when,	
	before, after, while, so, because. These are used to introduce a subordinate clause.	When I am tired, I have a sit down. I have a sit down when I am tired.
Consonant	Most letters of the alphabet are consonants.	b,c,d,f,g,h,j,k,l,m,n,p,q,r,s,t,v,w,x,z are consonants.
	You use a before words starting with these letters.	Y is a vowel and a consonant! A banana

Dash	These show added emphasis, an interruption or a change in thought.	You are the friend—the only friend—who offered to help me. I wish you would—oh, never mind.
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.
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	These show where speech begins and where	"Hello," said the boy.
commas	it ends.	The boy said, "Hello."
(speech	<i>u n</i>	"Hello," said the boy, "how
marks)		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

Noun	A noun is the name of something.	Cat is a common noun.
	Nouns made by compounding Some nouns are made by putting two or more words together to make a new one:	Flock is a collective noun. It names a group of things. Portsmouth is a proper noun. Proper nouns have a
	super + man = superman	capital letter.
	white + board = whiteboard	Kindness is an abstract noun. You cannot touch an abstract noun. It names an idea or a quality in a person.
		Table is a concrete noun. You can touch a concrete noun.
Noun	This is where detail is added to describe the	the beautiful butterfly
phrase	noun.	Adult foxes
Expanded	This is where a noun or noun phrase is	The strict teacher
Noun Phrases	expanded to provide more detail.	expanded to: The strict maths teacher with curly hair.
Parenthesis	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.	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.
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)	The book is over there. Make sure your book is in the bag.
	or cause	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.
		The he refers to John, while the it refers to the
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	refrigerator. Look at these pictures. Mine is the big one. (subject) Do you like mine ? (object)
		Yours is good. His is amazing.
Relative pronoun	Who, which, where, when, whose, that are examples of relative pronouns (see relative clauses).	Our car is over there.

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.
Singular	There is only one.	cat banana baby wish

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Statement	This is a form of sentence where a	You are my friend.
	fact is shared.	It is at ten o'clock.
Subordinate clause	The two clauses are unequal and one is subordinate to the other	Whenever I a hungry, I eat a banana.
	clause. They cannot stand on their	Whenever I am hungry. (On its own
	own and make sense, whereas the	it does not make sense unless it is
	main clause they are connected to	an answer to a question: this is a
	can.	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	Call + ed = called
	one word into another word.	Teach + er = teacher
		Kind + ness = kindness
Verb	A verb is sometimes called a 'doing'	Brian walked home.
	word. They often show you what	He lives in Portsmouth.
	action is happening. However, many	She loves Portsmouth. (This is a
	verbs name feelings rather than	feeling.)

	actions. Also, some nouns name an action!	
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.
	Use have and the past tense form of a verb to create a	I have done so much in my life.
Present	verb in the present perfect	He has already arrived in Spain
perfect		
verb	A reference to what is happening in	
	the future, involves	He will leave tomorrow.
Future tense	the use of a present tense verb.	He may leave tomorrow.
	There are many ways of showing it	He leaves tomorrow.
	is in the future rather than now	He is going to leave tomorrow.
Vowel	There are only a few vowels.	a, e , i, o , u are vowels.
	Use an before a word starting with a	Y is a vowel and a consonant!
	vowel	An egg, an apple
Word family	A word family is a group of words	Teach – teacher
	joined together because they are	Exit –extent- extensive
	from a similar root word/ have a	Electric -electrical-electrician
	similar meaning.	Solve –solution – solver –dissolve – insoluble