



Grammar Glossary for Children – Key Stage 2

Term	Explanation	Example
Active voice	When the subject of the verb carries out an action.	David Beckham scored the penalty
Adjective	A describing word.	The pupil did some really <u>excellent</u> work
Adverb	An adverb is simply a word that describes a verb (an action or a doing word). Adverbs are sometimes said to describe manner or time.	He ate his breakfast <u>quickly</u> .
Antonyms	Words which mean the opposite to each other.	The antonym of “up” is “down” The antonym of “tall” is “short” The antonym of “add” is “subtract”
Apostrophe	Apostrophes have two completely different uses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omission (showing the place of missing letters, for example I’m for I am) • Possession (marking possessives) 	<u>We’re</u> going out and <u>we’ll</u> get something to eat (showing missing letters) Hannah’s mother went to town in <u>Justin’s</u> car (showing possessives)
Brackets (parenthesis)	Punctuation used for additional information or explanation.	Jamie’s bike was red (bright red) with a yellow stripe. His first book (The Colour or Magic) was written in 1989.
Colon (:)	Punctuation which indicates that an example, a list or more detailed explanation follows.	On the school trip you will need to bring: a waterproof coat, wellies, lunch and a snack. Marvin was stunned: he had never seen a firework display like it!
Clauses	A clause is a group of words which contains a verb; it is part of a sentence. There are two kinds of clauses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A main clause makes sense on its own, eg Sammy bought a new jumper. • A subordinate clause does not make sense on its own; it depends on the main clause for its meaning. 	Main clause: My sister is older than me. Subordinate clause: My sister is older than me and she is very annoying.



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Comma (,)	A punctuation mark indicating a pause between parts of a sentence or separating items in a list.	Tony went to the supermarket and bought tomatoes, onions, mushrooms and potatoes (note – no comma before “and”).
Compound	They combine two or more words to form a new one with a unique meaning.	white + board = whiteboard super + hero = superhero pop + corn = popcorn
Conjunction / Connective	A conjunction links two words or phrases together.	James bought a bat <u>and</u> ball (<u>and</u> links the words bat and ball). Other examples are: also, as well as, moreover, furthermore, besides, in addition, because
Dash (-)	Dashes can be used to add extra information within a longer sentence, so are a way of showing parenthesis , similar to the way brackets and commas can. We can also use a single dash to show parenthesis at the <i>end</i> of a sentence, or as an after-thought.	The superstar player – who is loved by many fans – decided to stay at the club. Please call my mum – she’s at home!
Dialogue	A conversation between two or more people.	“Where are you going?” asked Tom “I’m going to play football” said Tim.
Direct speech	When you write down the words that have been spoken and use speech marks.	“Who’s there?” said Marvin
Determiner	Determiners are words that come before a noun. They introduce the noun and can give the reader important information about it, for example who it belongs to, how many there are.	I’ve had <u>enough</u> cake, thank you. <u>Five</u> seagulls landed on the beach. <u>The</u> river is just beyond those trees.
Ellipsis	Punctuation used to show a pause in someone’s speech or thoughts, and to build tension or show that a sentence is not finished.	“The sight was awesome really amazing.”
Exclamation mark (!)	A punctuation mark indicating strong feelings, something unusual or high volume (shouting).	Stop that now! What a tricky question this is!



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First person	When the writer speaks about himself or herself. Only “I / we / me / us” are used as pronouns when writing in the first person.	My family all went to the park. We all loved it, <u>me</u> especially. <u>I</u> always love the slide.
Future tense	Writing about what will happen in the future.	<u>Next week</u> , Emma will be going to High School. She will have to wear a blazer and tie!
Fronted adverbial phrase	Fronted adverbials are words or phrases placed at the beginning of a sentence which are used to describe the action that follows.	<u>Before sunrise</u> , Zack ate his breakfast. <u>After the rain stopped</u> , Sophie went outside.
Homophones	Words which sound the same but are spelt differently and have different meanings	Their, there, they're I, eye Our, are To, too, two
Hyphen	Punctuation which joins one or more words, or adds a prefix to a word	Happy-go-lucky Six-foot table Ice-skating
Idiom	An expression or “saying” that is not taken literally.	You look a bit <u>under the weather</u> today.
Metaphor	A word or a phrase used to describe something as if it were something else.	For example, “ A wave of terror washed over him. ” The terror isn't actually a wave, but a wave is a good way of describing the feeling.
Modal Verb	These are verbs that indicate likelihood, ability, permission or obligation.	Words like: can/could, may/might, will/would, shall/should and must.
Noun	A noun is the name of a thing, such as an object, a place, or a person. Nouns are often described as naming words.	I have broken my <u>pencil</u> again. Italy is a beautiful <u>country</u> .
Paragraph	“Chunks” of related thoughts or ideas. They make reading easier to understand. A new paragraph usually means a change of topic, idea, time, place or argument.	
Passive voice	When a subject or verb has an action done to them. Often, the subject is not mentioned.	A window was smashed. The man was chased by the dogs.
Personification	Giving human feelings and actions to objects or ideas is called personification.	Lightning <u>danced</u> across the sky.



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		The thunder was <u>grumbling</u> in the distance.
Plural	A plural noun is a word that indicates that there is more than one person, animal place, thing, or idea. When you write about more than one of anything, you usually use the same word, simply adding s , es , or ies to the end.	Dog / Dogs Wish / Wishes However: There are some words that change entirely to represent the plural noun eg Mouse = Mice
Prefix	A prefix is added at the beginning of a word in order to turn it into another word.	O vertake Dis appear Un appealing
Preposition	Words which show the relationship between two things. They often tell you where one thing is in relation to another.	About, above, across, after, against, along, amid, before, below, beneath, between, by, down, during
Pronoun	Pronouns are short words like it , she , he , you , we , they , us and them . They are used to describe either individuals or groups of people, rather than repeating their name or names.	Tom went upstairs to the bedroom. <u>He</u> opened the door and <u>he</u> sat on the bed.
Relative Clause and Pronouns	A relative clause can be used to give additional information about a noun. They are introduced by a relative pronoun like 'that', 'which', 'who', 'whose', 'where' and 'when'.	I won't stand by the man who smells of slime. In this example, the relative clause is 'who smells of slime'. It provides more information about the man. The relative pronoun, 'who', is used to connect these clauses in the sentence.
Sentence	A sentence is one word or a group of words that makes sense by itself. Sentences begin with a capital letter and end with a <u>full stop</u> , a <u>question mark</u> or an exclamation mark. There are four types of sentence: <u>statements</u> , <u>commands</u> , <u>questions</u> and <u>exclamations</u> .	You are my friend (statement) Are you my friend? (question) Be my friend (command) What a good friend you are! (exclamation)
Subordination	A subordinate clause contains both a subject and a verb. A subordinate clause must be attached to a main clause as it would not make sense on its own.	For example, "I was hungry because I missed breakfast". In this sentence "because I missed breakfast" is the subordinate clause to the main clause "I was hungry".



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Simile	A simile describes something by comparing it to something else, using like or as. A simile is a useful way to describe something without using a long list of adjectives	As busy as a bee. He was as scared as a mouse.
Semi colon (;)	A semi-colon is a punctuation mark that is used to separate two independent (main) clauses that are closely related.	The children came home today; they had been away for a week.
Suffix	A suffix is an “ending”, used at the end of one word to turn it into another word.	Success – <u>Successful</u> Teach – <u>Teacher</u> Small - <u>Smallest</u>
Synonym	Words which have the same, or nearly the same, meaning as each other.	Bad – awful, terrible, horrible Happy – content, joyful, pleased Look – watch, stare, gaze Walk – stroll, crawl, tread
Third person	When the writer speaks about someone or something else. The pronouns “he / she / it / they / him / her / them” are used when writing in the third person.	<u>He</u> walked to the shops because <u>he</u> wanted to buy some chocolate.
Verb	Verbs are sometimes called “doing words” because many verbs name an action that someone does.	He <u>lives</u> in Birmingham (present tense) The teacher <u>wrote</u> a poem for the class (past tense)