




KS2 Pupil Glossary

Key for definitions: **Bold** words are examples. Underlined words can be found in this Glossary. *Italic* words are important to the explanation.

TERM	DEFINITION
Active voice	<p>The active voice is when the <u>subject</u> of the sentence 'does' the <u>verb</u>.</p> <p>For example: 'The dog chased the cat.'</p> <p>The dog is the subject and it did the chasing, so this sentence is active.</p> 
Adjective	<p>An adjective is a describing word that adds detail to a <u>noun</u>.</p> <p>In 'the young girl', the noun is 'girl'. The adjective is 'young', as it tells you more about the girl.</p>
Adverb	<p>An adverb is a describing word that adds detail to a <u>verb</u>, an <u>adjective</u> or another adverb.</p> <p>It can tell you <i>how</i>, <i>where</i> or <i>when</i> something happens.</p> <p>For example, '<i>Then</i>, he ran <i>upstairs</i>, <i>quickly</i>.'</p> <p>The adverb 'then' describes <i>when</i> he ran. The adverb 'quickly' describes <i>how</i> he ran. The adverb 'upstairs' describes <i>where</i> he ran.</p>



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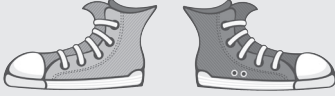
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Adverbial	<p>An adverbial is a word, a <u>phrase</u> or a <u>clause</u> that acts as an <u>adverb</u>.</p> <p>It can tell you <i>how, where</i> or <i>why</i> something happens.</p> <p>For example, '<i>After the film</i>, Joe yawned.'</p> <p>The phrase 'after the film' describes <i>when</i> Joe yawned.</p>
Agent	<p>The agent is the thing 'doing' the verb.</p> <p>In 'the dog chased the cat', the dog is the agent as it is <i>doing</i> the chasing.</p> <p>In 'the cat was chased by the dog', the dog is still the agent, as it is still the one <i>doing</i> the chasing.</p>
Ambiguity	<p>Ambiguity is when meaning is unclear. If something is <i>ambiguous</i>, it can mean more than one thing.</p> <p>For example: 'Miss Sengupta told Jill off. She was very upset.'</p> <p>In this last sentence, it is unclear whether it is Miss Sengupta or Jill who is upset!</p>



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Antonym	Antonyms are words that have opposite meanings. For example, ' love ' and ' hate ' are antonyms.
Apostrophe ,	Apostrophes can be used in two ways: - They can show where letters are missing, usually where two words have been joined together. For example, ' don't ' instead of ' do not '. - They can show who owns something (when they are called <i>possessive apostrophes</i>). For example, ' Tom's shoes '. 
Brackets ()	Brackets are punctuation marks that show that the words inside them are not as important as the rest of the sentence. Instead, they give <i>extra information</i> (see <u>Parenthesis</u>). Brackets are <i>always</i> used in pairs, with an opening bracket at the beginning of the extra information and a closing bracket at the end.



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Bullet points	<p>Bullet points organise information into a list, with each bullet point starting on a new line.</p> <p>The big, bold dots are sometimes known as 'bullets' and the words or sentences following them are sometimes known as the 'points'.</p>
Cause	<p>Cause is <i>why</i> something happens.</p> <p>For example, 'because it was raining'.</p>



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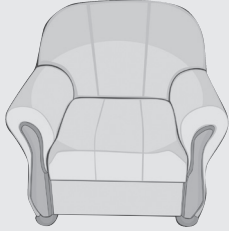
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Clause	<p>A clause is a part of a sentence that contains a <u>verb</u>. It can help to think of it like a section of meaning.</p> <p>For example, look at this sentence:</p> <p>'I packed my bag so that I would be ready to go.'</p> <p>This contains two clauses: 'I packed my bag' and 'so that I would be ready to go'.</p> <p>You can often swap clauses around in a sentence without changing the meaning. For example: 'So that I would be ready to go, I packed my bag.' Try doing this to check where the clauses are.</p> <p>For more about clauses, look up <u>Main clause</u>, <u>Subordinate Clause</u> and <u>Relative Clause</u> in this Glossary.</p>
Cohesion	<p>Cohesion is what makes a piece of writing fit together well.</p> <p>We link together the ideas in our writing with things like <u>connectives</u>, <u>adverbials</u> and <u>pronouns</u> to give it cohesion.</p>



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Colon :	<p>A colon is a punctuation mark used to introduce a list, a quotation, an example or an explanation.</p> <p>For example: 'It was cold in the room: the window had been open all day.'</p>
Comma ,	<p>A comma is a punctuation mark used to separate parts of a sentence, including items in a list and different <u>clauses</u>.</p>
Compound word	<p>A compound word is made from two smaller words.</p> <p>For example, 'armchair' is a compound word made from the words 'arm' and 'chair'.</p> 



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Conjunction

A conjunction is a word that links words, phrases and clauses together inside a sentence.

In '**it was always cold *or* rainy**', the conjunction '**or**' links the words '**cold**' and '**rainy**'.

In '**with bright eyes *and* red cheeks, she ran into the room**', the conjunction '**and**' links the phrases '**bright eyes**' and '**red cheeks**'.

In '**she was tired *but* she wanted to stay up**', the conjunction '**but**' links the two clauses together.



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Connecting Adverb	<p>A connecting adverb is an <u>adverb</u> that can connect a sentence to the one before.</p> <p>For example, 'It was too hot to run. <i>Moreover</i>, they were all too tired.' The connecting adverb 'moreover' links the two sentences.</p> <p>Sometimes, you can link two <u>clauses</u> in a sentence with a connecting adverb, too. To do this, you need to use a <u>semicolon</u> – never a <u>comma</u>!</p> <p>For example, 'It was raining; <i>therefore</i>, we could not go out to play.' The connecting adverb 'therefore' links the two clauses.</p>
Connective	<p>'Connective' is an informal name for words that can be used to link the ideas across different <u>clauses</u>.</p> <p><u>Conjunctions</u> and <u>connecting adverbs</u> are types of connective.</p>



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Consonant	<p>'Consonant' can mean:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A sound that you use your lips, tongue or teeth to make, when speaking.- A letter that (usually) makes a consonant sound when read aloud. These are all the letters that are not <u>vowels</u>.
Contraction	<p>Contraction is when two words are put together and letters are removed to make one word. An <u>apostrophe</u> is used to show where the letters are missing.</p> <p>For example, 'don't' instead of 'do not'.</p>
Dash –	<p>A dash can be used instead of a <u>colon</u> or a <u>semicolon</u> in informal writing.</p> <p>Dashes can also be put around <u>parenthesis</u> in informal writing.</p> <p>A dash is longer than a <u>hyphen</u> and always has a space before and after it.</p>
Definition	<p>A definition is an explanation of the exact meaning of a word.</p>



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Derivation or Derivative	<p>Derivation is when you make a new word from a <u>root word</u>, usually by adding <u>prefixes</u> or <u>suffixes</u>. The new word is called a derivative.</p> <p>For example, the <u>adverb</u> 'gladly' is a derivative of the <u>adjective</u> 'glad'.</p>
Determiner	<p>A determiner is a word, like 'the', 'a', 'this', 'that' and so on, that comes before a noun. It helps to make the noun more specific.</p> <p>For example, instead of 'book', we can say 'that book' so that we know which book we mean.</p> <p><u>Possessive pronouns</u>, like 'his' and 'my', are determiners.</p> <p>Numbers can also be determiners, such as 'four mice'.</p>
Dialect	<p>A dialect is a way of speaking that is only used in a particular area or region.</p>
Dictionary	<p>A dictionary is a book that lists the words of a language in alphabetical order, along with their meanings.</p>



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Direct speech	<p>Direct speech is what a person in a piece of writing actually says. It always goes inside <u>inverted commas</u>. For example, ‘He said, “I like ice cream.”’.</p> <p>Don’t confuse this with <i>indirect speech</i>, which is when the writer reports what a person said, e.g. ‘He said that he liked ice cream.’</p> 
Ellipsis or Elision	<p>Ellipsis, or elision, means missing out a word or <u>phrase</u>, so that the text still makes sense.</p> <p>For example, instead of ‘I can whistle but you can’t whistle’, you can simply say ‘I can whistle but you can’t’.</p> <p>Sometimes, you can use three dots (...) to show where words or sentences are missing. This is also called ellipsis and can be used to create suspense in your writing.</p>
Etymology	<p>Etymology is the history of a word and how it has changed over time.</p>



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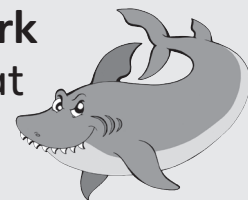
Formal language	<p>Formal language is language that is suitable for formal purposes.</p> <p>It uses <u>Standard English</u> rather than <u>slang</u> or <u>dialect</u> and uses more precise or polite words.</p> <p>Formal language avoids <u>contraction</u> and <u>personal language</u> or opinions.</p>
Fronted	<p>When a word or <u>phrase</u> that normally comes <i>after</i> a <u>verb</u> is put at the beginning of its <u>clause</u> or sentence, we say that it has been fronted.</p> <p>For example, 'Suddenly, he ran off.' Here, the <u>adverb</u> comes before the verb, at the beginning of the sentence, so it is fronted.</p>
Grammatical terminology	<p>Grammatical terminology means technical words that can be used to talk about language.</p>
Guide words	<p>Guide words are the words that appear at the top of each page in a <u>dictionary</u> or <u>thesaurus</u>. They show the first and last words on the page.</p>



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Head word	A head word is a word in a <u>thesaurus</u> that starts a new group of <u>synonyms</u> . It will usually be in bold.
Homophones	Homophones are words that sound the same but mean different things. For example, ' two ' is a number but ' too ' means ' as well '.
Hyphen -	A hyphen is a punctuation mark used to make the meaning clear in some <u>compound words</u> and <u>phrases</u> . For example, instead of ' we saw a <i>man eating</i> shark at the aquarium ', we could write ' we saw a <i>man-eating</i> shark at the aquarium '. This shows that we saw a shark that eats men, not a man eating a shark!
Imperative verb	A type of <u>verb</u> that gives an instruction or a command. For example: ' <i>Sit</i> in your chair and <i>read</i> this book. '





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Inverted commas or Speech marks “ ” / ‘ ’	Inverted commas (also called ‘speech marks’) are a type of punctuation mark that goes around <u>direct speech</u> .
Lead-in phrase or Lead-in sentence	A lead-in phrase or sentence is used to introduce a list of <u>bullet points</u> . It usually ends in a <u>colon</u> . For example, ‘ I need to buy: • eggs, • bread, • milk. ’ ‘ I need to buy: ’ is the lead-in phrase.
Main clause	A main clause is a <u>clause</u> that could be used as a complete sentence on its own. For example, ‘ I eat fruit ’ is a main clause in the sentence ‘ I eat fruit when I am hungry. ’ 



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Modal verb	<p>Modal verbs are <u>verbs</u> that come before another verb to show how possible, likely or necessary it is.</p> <p>Common modal verbs are 'will', 'would', 'can', 'could', 'may', 'might', 'shall', 'should' and 'must'.</p>
Morphology	<p>Morphology is the structure of a word and how it is formed from smaller parts.</p> <p>For example, 'teacher' is made from the <u>verb</u> 'teach' and the <u>suffix</u> '-er'. The suffix could be changed to make, for example, 'teaches' or 'teaching'.</p>
Noun	<p>A noun is a word used to mean a person, a place or a thing.</p> <p>For example, 'boy', 'home' and 'bridge' are all nouns.</p> <p>A noun can also be an <i>idea</i>, like 'love' or 'happiness'.</p>



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Noun phrase	<p>A noun phrase is a <u>noun</u> and all the words that describe it, which act together as a noun in a sentence.</p> <p>You can tell that something is a noun phrase if the sentence still makes sense when you replace it with a <u>pronoun</u>.</p> <p>For example, in '<i>that girl over there</i> is my cousin', the noun phrase '<i>that girl over there</i>' can be replaced with the pronoun '<i>she</i>' to make '<i>she is my cousin</i>'.</p>
Object	<p>The object of a sentence is usually the thing that the <u>verb</u> is being <i>done to</i> or <i>done with</i>.</p> <p>In 'the boy played the drums', 'the drums' are the object, as they are the thing being played.</p> 



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Parenthesis

A parenthesis is extra information inserted into a sentence. It can be shown by brackets, dashes or commas.

For example:

‘Alicia had a hat – I think it was green – to match her dress.’

‘Tigers, unlike most cats, are happy to swim.’

‘The Eiffel Tower (located in Paris) is a very famous landmark.’

The sentence should always make sense if the parenthesis is taken away.



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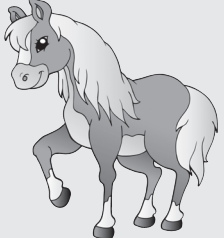
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Passive Voice	<p>The passive voice is when the <u>subject</u> has the <u>verb done to it</u>. A sentence in the passive voice will often have the word 'by' after the verb.</p> <p>For example, 'The cat was chased by the dog.'</p> <p>The cat is the subject and had the verb ('chased') <i>done to it</i>, so this sentence is passive.</p>
Past tense	<p>A <u>verb</u> in the past tense is used to show that things happened in a past time. It is usually made by adding '-ed' to the verb. For example, 'play' becomes 'played'.</p>
Perfect tense	<p>The perfect tense is used to show that an action is complete but still meaningful.</p> <p>It is made by putting 'have', 'has' or 'had' before a verb.</p> <p>For example: 'I have slept' or 'He had eaten'.</p>



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Personal and impersonal language	<p>Personal language uses <u>pronouns</u> such as 'I' and 'you'. Impersonal language avoids these pronouns.</p> <p>For example, 'when <i>I</i> switch on the bulb, it lights up' is personal; 'when <i>the bulb is switched on, it lights up</i>' is impersonal.</p>
Phrase	<p>A phrase is a group of words that means something on its own, without a <u>verb</u>.</p> <p>For example, 'the big horse'.</p> 
Plural	<p>Plural <u>nouns</u> are nouns that describe more than one thing. They usually end in the letter 's', although there are many exceptions.</p> <p>For example, 'dogs', 'boxes' and 'houses' are all plural nouns. So are 'mice', 'geese' and 'men'.</p>
Prefix	<p>A prefix is a letter or letters added at the beginning of a word to turn it into a different word.</p> <p>For example, 'un-' is added to the word 'friendly' to make the new word 'unfriendly'.</p>



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Preposition	<p>A preposition is a word that usually shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>where</i> one thing is in relation to another;- <i>when</i> one thing happened in relation to another;- <i>direction</i> of travel. <p>For example: 'He walked towards the house on the hill after lunch.' The words 'towards', 'on' and 'after' are all prepositions.</p>
Present tense	<p>A <u>verb</u> in the present tense is used to show that a thing happens now, or is something that happens regularly.</p> <p>For example, 'I go to the park and I play football.'</p>
Possessive pronoun	<p>A possessive pronoun (e.g. 'his', 'her' or 'my') replaces a <u>noun</u> and a possessive <u>apostrophe</u> to show <i>who</i> or <i>what</i> owns something.</p> <p>For example, instead of 'Jane's bike', we can say 'Her bike'.</p>



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Pronoun	<p>A pronoun (e.g. 'I', 'she', 'it' or 'him') is a word that can be used in place of a <u>noun</u>.</p> <p>For example, 'the boy gave the apple to the girl' could replace its nouns for pronouns to become 'he gave it to her'.</p>
Proper noun	<p>A proper noun is a name. It can be the name of a person, a place, a day, and so on. Proper nouns almost always use capital letters.</p> <p>'Mr Brown', 'Tuesday' and 'Scotland' are all proper nouns.</p>
Relative clause	<p>A relative clause is a <u>clause</u> that adds detail to a <u>noun</u>. It always comes <i>after</i> the noun, and begins with a <u>relative pronoun</u>.</p> <p>For example: 'The lion, <i>who had been asleep</i>, opened its eyes.'</p> <p>The relative clause in this sentence is 'who had been asleep', as it adds detail to 'the lion'.</p> 



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Relative pronoun	<p>A relative pronoun is a word that links a <u>relative clause</u> to the <u>noun</u> that it describes.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>‘That’s the girl <i>who</i> won the prize.’ ‘She scored five goals, <i>which</i> impressed the team.’</p> <p>The words ‘that’, ‘which’, ‘who’, ‘whose’ and ‘whom’ are all relative pronouns. The words ‘when’, ‘where’ and ‘why’ can also be relative pronouns.</p>
Root word	<p>A root word is the simplest form of a word, before any <u>prefix</u> or <u>suffix</u> is added to it.</p> <p>For example, ‘friend’ is the root word of ‘unfriendly’.</p>



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Semicolon ;	<p>A semicolon is a punctuation mark used to separate two <u>main clauses</u> in a sentence. It makes a shorter pause than a full stop but a longer one than a <u>comma</u>.</p> <p>For example: 'It was a lovely day; the sun shone all around.'</p> <p>A semicolon can also separate items in a list of <u>phrases</u>.</p>
Singular	<p>Singular means that there is just one. A singular <u>noun</u> is noun that describes one single thing.</p> <p>For example, 'cat' or 'boy'.</p>
Slang	<p>Slang means casual language that is not <u>Standard English</u>.</p> <p>For example, 'quid' instead of 'pounds' is slang.</p> <p>Slang should not be used in writing except to create a casual and chatty effect, for example in direct speech.</p>



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Standard English	<p>Standard English is grammatically correct and avoids <u>slang</u> and <u>dialect</u> words. It is not always <u>formal language</u> so <u>contractions</u> can be used.</p> <p>For example, 'I ain't gonna go there' is not Standard English but 'I'm not going to go there' is.</p>
Subject	<p>The subject is the focus of a sentence. Try asking yourself: 'Who or what is this sentence <i>about</i>?'</p> <p>In 'The dog chased the cat', the subject is the dog. The sentence is about what the dog did.</p> <p>In 'The cat was chased by the dog', the subject is the cat. The sentence is about what happened to the cat.</p> <p>The subject is often the first thing mentioned in the sentence.</p>



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Subjunctive	<p>The subjunctive form of a <u>verb</u> creates a feeling of uncertainty. It is used to talk about something that hasn't actually happened.</p> <p>For example: 'I insist that Tom <i>write</i> to his aunt.'</p> <p>The verb 'write' is in the subjunctive form. Tom isn't actually writing to his aunt; the sentence says that he should, but he might not.</p> 
Subordinate clause or Sub-clause	<p>A subordinate clause (or sub-clause) is a <u>clause</u> that only makes sense along with the <u>main clause</u>. It does not make sense as a sentence on its own.</p> <p>For example, in 'I eat fruit when I am hungry', the sub-clause is 'when I am hungry'.</p> <p>A subordinate clause can come before or after a main clause.</p>



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Suffix	<p>A suffix is a letter or letters added at the end of a word to turn it into a different word.</p> <p>For example, ‘-ed’ is added to the end of the word ‘look’ to make the new word ‘looked’.</p>
Synonym	<p>Synonyms are words that have the same or very similar meanings, such as ‘happy’ and ‘cheerful’.</p>
Tense	<p>Tense shows <i>when</i> a <u>verb</u> takes place. We show tense by using different forms of the verb.</p> <p>For example, ‘I swim’ is in the <u>present tense</u> and ‘I swam’ is in the <u>past tense</u>.</p> 
Thesaurus	<p>A thesaurus is a reference book that lists words in groups of <u>synonyms</u>.</p>
Time	<p>Time is <i>when</i> something happens. For example, ‘In the morning’.</p>



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Verb	<p>Verbs are often called ‘doing’ words, but can also describe what something is ‘being’.</p> <p>For example ‘It was cold.’</p> <p>They may have a past, present or future <u>tense</u>. The words ‘looked’, ‘look’ and ‘will look’ are all forms of the verb ‘to look’, but are in different tenses.</p>
Vowel	<p>‘Vowel’ can mean:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A sound that you do not use your lips, tongue or teeth to make, when speaking.- A letter that, when read aloud, make a <u>vowel</u> sound. ‘a’, ‘e’, ‘i’, ‘o’, and ‘u’ are vowel letters. ‘y’ can be a vowel letter or a <u>consonant</u> letter.
Word family	<p>A word family is a group of words that are linked by spelling, meaning or a grammatical rule.</p> <p>For example, ‘teach’, ‘teacher’ and ‘teaching’ all share the <u>root word</u> ‘teach’. The words ‘blue’, ‘true’ and ‘glue’ all share the ‘ue’ letter string.</p>