Glossary of KS1 Grammar for Parents

Many of these grammar terms below are obvious and some are things you will use in your speech and writing without knowing the real name for. We have compiled a list to help you understand any terms that you may not have heard of before.

**SPAG** = Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

An [**adjective**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-an-adjective) is a word used to describe and give more information about a noun, which could be a person, place or object.

An [**adverb**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-an-adverb) is a word which modifies a verb, which means that it tells you how, when, where or why something is being done.

[**Apostrophes**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-an-apostrophe) are punctuation marks used to show possession and to show contraction (also known as omission).

[**Clauses**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-clause) are the building blocks of sentences, groups of words that contain a subject and a verb. Clauses can be main or subordinate.

A [**comma**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-comma) is a punctuation mark that separates items in a list and marks the divisions within sentences.

A [**conjunction**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-conjunction) is a type of [connective](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-connectives) ('connective' is an umbrella term for any word that connects bits of text). Co-ordinating connectives include the words and, but and so; subordinating connectives include the words because, if and until.

[**Contracted words**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-contracted-words-or-contractions) are short words made by putting two words together. Letters are missed out in the contraction and replaced by an apostrophe, for example I'm (I am) or it's (it is).

An [**exclamation mark**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-an-exclamation-mark) is a punctuation mark which looks like a straight line with a dot underneath it. It is used to show that an [exclamation](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-an-exclamation-sentence), an interjection or a [statement](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-statement) sentence has finished.

A [**full stop**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-full-stop) is a punctuation mark used to separate sentences.

A [**noun**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-noun) is a naming word. It is a thing, a person, an animal or a place. Nouns can be common, proper, abstract or collective.

A phrase is a small group of words that does not contain a verb. A [**noun phrase**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-phrase) includes one noun as well as words that describe it, for example: the red shoe.

A [**question**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-question) is a type of sentence that we ask or write to gain further information from a person or people responding.

A [**question mark**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-question-mark) is a punctuation mark, or a symbol, that shows that a question has ended.

A [**sentence**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-sentence-level-work) is one word or a group of words that makes sense by itself (a grammatical unit). Sentences begin with a capital letter and end with a [full stop](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-full-stop), a [question mark](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-question-mark) or an [exclamation point](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-an-exclamation-mark). There are four types of sentence: [statements](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-statement), [commands](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-command), [questions](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-question) and [exclamations](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-an-exclamation-sentence).

Inverted commas (also known as [**speech marks**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-speech-marks) and quotation marks) are punctuation marks that show us where [direct speech](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-direct-and-indirect-speech) starts and ends.

A [**statement**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-statement) is the most common type of sentence. Statements are sentences that express a fact, idea or opinion.

A [**subordinate clause**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-clause) needs to be attached to a main clause because it cannot make sense on its own, although it contains a subject and a verb.

A [**suffix**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-suffix) is a string of letters that go at the end of a word, changing or adding to its meaning. Suffixes can show if a word is a noun, an adjective, an adverb or a verb.

[**Time connectives**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-time-connectives) are words or phrases which tell the reader when something is happening. They can also be called temporal connectives.

A [**verb**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/powerful-verbs-explained) expresses a physical action, a mental action or a state of being. Powerful verbs are descriptive, rich words.

### Verb tense

Coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS)

* For
* And
* Nor
* But
* Or
* Yet

Subordinating conjunctions (I SAW A WABUB)

* If
* Since
* As
* When
* Although
* While
* After
* Before
* Until
* Because**Question**