

Vocabulary, Grammar & Punctuation

Year 3 Explanation of Terms

Term	Guidance	Example
Clause	A clause is a special type of phrase that has a verb at its head. A clause can be a complete sentence. You may also have main or subordinate clauses.	Susie loves the beach and swimming in the sea . (two main clauses linked with a conjunction to create a compound sentence) If you are coming to my party , please let me know. (subordinating clause)
Complex Sentence	A complex sentence has a main clause and a 'less important' clause, called a subordinate clause. Sometimes, the subordinate clause can come before the main clause.	You may have pudding if you eat all of your vegetables. If you eat all of your vegetables, you may have pudding.
Compound Sentence	This is when two main clauses that would make sense on their own are linked with a coordinating conjunction.	Grace loves the beach and her sister likes swimming in the sea .
Conjunction	These are words that join words, clauses or sentences together. They can be coordinating (for, and, nor, but, or, yet) or subordinating (if, when, that, because, whether, after, since, before etc).	He was an enormous, yet gentle creature. I love pizza but I do not like peas. Emma cannot play in the team because she is injured. Raj goes to the park when it is sunny. Tim was very bright, although he was often lazy.
Direct Speech	These are the exact words that someone says. It is shown using inverted commas.	"Will you come to the park with me?" asked Braden.
Inverted Commas	These punctuation marks show when someone is speaking.	"Will you come to the park with me?" asked Braden.
Phrase	A phrase is a group of words that are grammatically connected. They can be a noun phrase or prepositional phrase.	The teacher taught her eager pupils . (noun phrase) The pots are on the shelf below the plates . (prepositional phrase)
Prefix	These are groups of letters that can be added to the beginning of words to change their meaning.	dis appear, inter national, re cycle, bi cycle, un well
Preposition	These words tell you how things are related to one another. They can show when or where and are used before a noun or pronoun.	I am sitting next to my friend. The pots are on the shelf below the plates. You must be in bed before 10 o'clock.

Prepositional Phrase	This is a phrase that has a preposition at the beginning.	I am sitting next to my friend . The pots are on the shelf below the plates . You must be in bed before 10 o'clock .
Present Perfect	This is used to link ideas within and across sentences and paragraphs. It shows something has started to happen and is still happening now, or it is still relevant now.	She has played for the football team many times. Aliens have landed on the school field. present perfect = have/has + past tense verb
Subordinate Clause	The 'less important' clause in a complex sentence. It usually begins with a subordinating conjunction.	If you are coming to my party , please let me know.
Word Family	These are groups of words that are related by grammar, spelling and meaning.	help, helpful, helpfully, unhelpful, joy, enjoy, enjoyable, enjoyment