

Vocabulary, Grammar & Punctuation

Year 2 Explanation of Terms

Term	Guidance	Example
Adjective	These are words that describe nouns.	I saw a large, white butterfly in my sunny garden.
Adverb	These are words that describe verbs. They often end in 'ly', but not always.	The children shouted loudly in the playground. My brother almost lost his jumper.
Apostrophe for Contraction	Apostrophes show when we write two words as one, with some letters missing.	are not – aren't did not – didn't could not – couldn't will not – won't he will – he'll they have – they've
Apostrophe for Possession	Apostrophes are used to show possession. It shows when something belongs to someone or something else.	That is the dog's lead. Kim's new bag is pink. They went looking for the pirate's treasure.
Command	A command is a type of sentence that tells you to do something. They often begin with an imperative (bossy) verb.	Stir the mixture carefully. Tidy your room today!
Commas in a List	In Year 2, commas are used to separate items on a list.	I went to the shop and bought bread, milk, potatoes and chicken for dinner.
Compound Words	These are words made up of two (or more) shorter words joined together.	starfish, greenhouse, postcard, seashell, butterfly, toothbrush
Conjunctions	These are words that join words, clauses or sentences together. They can be coordinating (and, but, or) or subordinating (if, when, that, because).	I would like fish and chips for tea. I love pizza but I do not like peas. Would you like the pink or blue scarf? Emma cannot play in the team because she is injured. Tim goes to the park when it is sunny.
Exclamation	This is a type of sentence that shows strong feelings like excitement, fear, anger or happiness. It must begin with the word 'How' or 'What' and end with an exclamation mark.	What a beautiful day it is! How fast he runs! How determined he was! What a fantastic story!
Homophones	These are words that sound the same but are spelt differently and have different meanings.	break - brake
Noun Phrases	This gives the reader more information about a noun. Adjectives are added to create a noun phrase.	The beautiful butterfly landed on the pink, fragrant flowers . We had a delicious roast dinner today.
Past Tense	This shows that an action has happened in the past. You add	Mike jumped into the river. My mum brushed my hair.

	the suffix 'ed' to most words. Some verbs have irregular tense changes (e.g. eat/ate, drink/drank, write/wrote).	The children played at the park. The dog wagged his tail. They ate all of the chocolate. Grandma made a cake.
Present Tense	This shows that an action is happening now.	I play basketball. The baby cries .
Progressive Tense	The progressive tense shows how things progress over time. Present progressive shows that something is still happening. Past progressive shows that something was happening in the past but is not happening now.	Present Progressive: I am eating the cake. Mum is planting seeds. They are playing in the sand. Past Progressive: I was eating the cake. Mum was planting seeds. They were playing in the sand.
Question	A type of sentence that asks a question and ends with a question mark. These usually need an answer and can be used to find out information.	Is the sun shining? Would you like to go to the park? How many legs does a spider have? When are we going to the park? Who is your best friend? What time is it?
Statement	A sentence that tells you something.	The sun was shining. We like to play in the park.
Suffix	These are added to the ends of words and change their meaning in some way. Examples of suffixes are: 'ed', 'ing', 'ful', 'ness', 'less', 'ment' and 'ly'.	The nurse showed great kind ness . The children were pass ing the ball quick ly to each other. My teacher thought my writing was wonder ful .
Verb	An action or 'doing' word - 'being' is also an action.	walk, run, hop, brush, bake, drink, drive, write, swim, think, look, be