Rush Green Primary School

Glossary of Terms

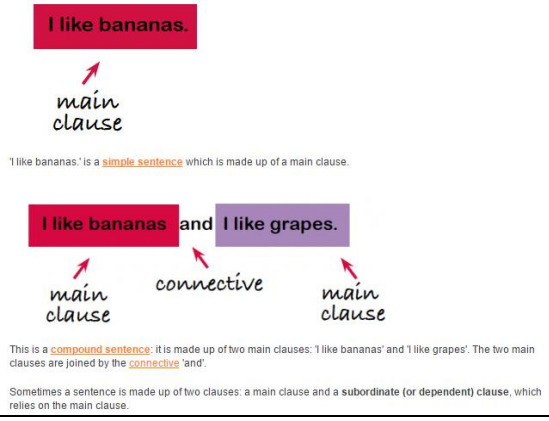
Term	Meaning	Example
abstract noun	The name given to something that cannot be touched, such as a concept or sensation.	Showing Human Qualities or Characteristics beauty bravery calm coldness compassion Showing Emotions/Feelings anger happiness tiredness hate
accent	The way in which language is pronounced, which varies across geographic areas.	American accent
acronym	An abbreviation made up of the initial letters of the main words in a phrase. These letters are pronounced as a word (rather than as separate letters), which represents the meaning of the original phrase.	FYI – For Your Information ASAP – As Soon As Possible DIY – Do It Yourself
active voice	A sentence is written in active voice when the subject of the sentence is performing the action.	**The cat** was chasing the mouse. In this sentence, **'the cat'** is the **subject**, 'was chasing' is the verb and 'the mouse' is the object.
passive voice	A sentence is written in passive voice when the subject of the sentence has something done to it by someone or something.	**The mouse** was being chased by the cat. In this sentence **'the mouse'** has become the subject which is having something done to it by the cat.
adjectival phrase	A group of words that describe a noun or pronoun.	The final exams were **unbelievably difficult**. Everyone was **delighted** when the winner was announced.

adjective	A word that describes a noun (the name of a thing or a place). **Using more than one adjective** If you want to describe a noun in detail, you can use more than one adjective. When you have a list of adjectives like this, separate them with commas.	It was a **terrible** book. The word **terrible** is an adjective. It tells us what the book (the noun) was like. He had a **mouldy, smelly, overpriced** sandwich for lunch.
adjective prepositional phrase	A prepositional phrase that describes a noun.	The book **with the tattered cover** has been read many times. All the passengers **aboard the runaway train** were frightened. The present **inside the big box** is mine. The extra blanket is in the box **under the bed.**
adverb	An adverb is a word that describes a verb (an action or a doing word).	He ate his breakfast **quickly.** The word **quickly** is an adverb. It tells us how he ate (the verb) his breakfast.
adverb prepositional phrase	A prepositional phrase that describes a verb.	Racing **toward the finish line,** Sarah realized she just might win. My shopping list needs to be put **into my purse.** The balloon drifted **up the stairs**.
adverbial phrase	Sometimes more than one word can do the adverb's job. This is called an adverbial phrase.	He ate his lunch **really quickly**. The words **really quickly** are an adverbial phrase. Words like very, more, really and extremely are often used to make an adverb even stronger.
alliteration	The repetition of certain letters of sounds for effect.	Sally the slithering snake. Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. Sheep should sleep in a shed.

antonym	A word that has the exact opposite meaning of another word.	good – bad night – day heavy – light
article	An article is a word that tells you whether a noun is specific or general, for example a, an, the.	She took **a** big suitcase on holiday. **A** tells you that the noun suitcase is general. It's not talking about any particular suitcase, it's any old big suitcase. She took **the** big suitcase on holiday. **The** tells you it was a particular suitcase. Perhaps she has a big suitcase and a small one. She took **the** big suitcase.
auxiliary verb	A 'helping' verb such as *be* or *have* that joins the main verb in a sentence to the subject. Auxiliary verbs are also used with other words to form contractions and negative sentences. The most common auxiliary verbs are **have, be,** and **do.**	**Does** Sam write all his own reports? The secretaries **haven't** written all the letters yet. Terry **is** writing an e-mail to a client at the moment.
clause	Some sentences can be broken up into smaller sentences. These simple sentences are called clauses.	**She ran down the road** but **he chose to walk.** This sentence is made up of **two** clauses, both of which could work on their own as simple sentences.
collective noun	The name given to a collection of individuals – people or things.	Herd Army Family Group Flock
colon	A colon is the mark made by stacking two periods (:). The *colon* can be used to separate the hour and minutes in time (7:30 a.m.) or to introduce a list or a quotation.	**The colon is used to introduce a list of items.** The bookstore specializes in three subjects**:** art, architecture, and graphic design. **It can be used to separate two**

		independent clauses. I have very little time to learn the language**:** my new job starts in five weeks.
command	A sentence that gives an instruction.	Get dressed. Stop talking. Eat your breakfast.
common noun	The name given to everyday objects, places, people and ideas.	book plate mum dad
conjunction	A word or phrase that joins two sentences or clauses together, for example: *and* *but* *although* *whenever*	He went to the cinema **and** she went swimming. Ben took his iPod with him **but** he forgot to charge it.
consonant	A letter of the alphabet that is not a vowel	b,c,d,f,g,h,j,k,l,m,n,p,q,r,s,t,v,w,x,y,z
contraction	A shortened form of a word or words, in which letters are omitted from the middle and replaced with an apostrophe.	**Without omission** / **With omission** you have / you've we have / we've it is / it's do not / don't could not / couldn't is not / isn't
co-ordinating conjunction	A word that connects words, phrases and clauses of equal importance.	and but for or so yet
determiner	A determiner is a word that introduces a noun, such as ***a/an***, ***the***, ***every***, ***this***, ***those***, or *m any*	***a*** *cat,* ***the*** *cat,* ***this*** *cat,* ***those*** *cats,* ***ever y*** *cat,* ***many*** *cats*

direct speech	Text that represents spoken words and is written in inverted commas.	"**stop**" cried the policeman.
ellipsis	Punctuation that is used to show where words have been left out. The *ellipsis* is usually formed by three periods (four if the *ellipsis* comes at the end of a sentence).	In informal writing, an ellipsis can be used to represent a trailing off of thought. If only she had **. . .** Oh, it doesn't matter now. An ellipsis can also indicate hesitation, though in this case the punctuation is more accurately described as suspension points. I wasn't really . . . well, what I mean . . .
embedded clause	An embedded clause is a clause (a group of words that includes a subject and a verb) that is within a main clause, usually marked by commas. Information related to the sentence topic is put into the middle of the sentence to give the reader more information and enhance the sentence.	The man was kind. main clause The man**, who liked dogs,** was kind. **embedded clause** The dog was fluffy. main clause The dog**, that ate meat,** was fluffy. **embedded clause**
exclamation	A sentence that expresses a strong emotion, such as surprise, or a raise voice, and ends in an exclamation mark (!).	"**It's beautiful!**" squealed the lady. **I can't figure this out!** **Our team won the championship!**
fact	A statement that can be proved.	There are 24 hours in a day.
fronted adverbial	A word or phrase at the **start** of a sentence that describes the action that follows. In other words, it is putting the adverb at the start of a sentence.	**When** = Time e.g. Before school started**,** I ate a bag of crunchy crisps. **Where** = place e.g. Walking down the street**,** I fell over my shoelace. **How** = manner e.g. Quickly and quietly**,** I slipped under the water. **Why** = reasoning e.g. Because he was bored**,** he went to the cinema.

hyphen	When you're writing, a hyphen is useful for forming a compound word or separating the syllables of a word at the end of a line of text. The word *merry-go-round* uses two hyphens.	The friendly-looking dog. A family-owned café.
inverted commas	Another term for speech marks. You use inverted commas around something someone has said.	**“**Will you stop playing games and come and eat your dinner**”** shouted mum.
main clause	A group of words that contains a subject and a verb and makes complete sense on its own.	
metaphor	A word or phrase that is used to describe something as if it were something else.	The snow is a white blanket. The classroom was a zoo. He is a shining star.
modal auxiliary verb	An auxiliary verb such as *could* that is used with an action verb to express a command, an obligation or a possibility.	can could may might will must would should
noun	Common nouns are the names of things, for example, people, places or objects. A proper noun is the name of a particular person, place or thing, and **always** begins with a capital letter.	**Amy** went to **France** on **Saturday** and took her **camera** with her. **Amy, France** and **Saturday** are proper nouns and **camera** is a common noun.
onomatopoeia	The use of words that mimic the sounds they represent.	Onomatopoeia: Sounds Animals Make Baa Bark Cheep Chirp Onomatopoeia: Sounds People Make Achoo Ahem Gasp

personification	When human actions or feelings are given to objects or ideas.	The stars **danced** playfully in the moonlit sky. The run down house appeared **depressed**. The first rays of morning **tiptoed** through the meadow.
possessive pronoun	A pronoun indicating possession e.g. *mine, yours, hers, theirs*	The house is **theirs** and its paint is flaking. The dog is **mine**. We shall finally have what is rightfully **ours**.
post modification	Post modification is when extra information is added after a noun itself.	He longed to own a **big new gleaming red powerful** Alfa Romeo sports **car**. Turns into: He longed to own a **powerful** sports **car** in **gleaming red** made by Alfa Romeo.
prefix	A group of letters you can add to the beginning of a word to change their meanings. For example, the prefix 'dis' means bad or wrong.	**Common prefixes** **Prefix** / **Meaning** / **Example** Pre- / Before / **Pre**view Re- / Again / **Re**appear, retry Un- / Not, take away / **Un**fair, **un**comfortable De- / The opposite of, undo / **De**activate, **de**code Sub- / Under / **Sub**standard, **sub**atomic
preposition	A preposition is a word that tells you where or when something is in relation to something else, for example: *after* *before* *on* *under* *inside*	**After** walking for miles she rested **on** a small hill. **After** tells you when she rested and **on** tells you where she rested.

pronoun	A word that takes the place of a noun, for example: *he* *she* *them* *there* *it*	**Amy** took her **camera** to **France**. **She** took **it there**. **She** is a pronoun that takes the place of **Amy**, **it** takes the place of **camera**, and **there** takes the place of **France**.
relative pronoun	A pronoun such as *which* that links one part of a sentence to another by introducing a relative clause, which describes an earlier noun or pronoun.	
relative clause	A relative clause is one kind of dependent clause. It has a subject and verb, but can't stand alone as a sentence. It is sometimes called an "adjective clause" because it functions like an adjective—it gives more information about a noun. *who, that, which, whose, where, when*.	Do you know the girl **who** … He was a man **that** … This is a book **whose** author … Do you have a computer **which** …
simile	A phrase that compares one thing to another using *as* or *like*.	**as** black **as** coal **as** blind **as** a bat sing **like** an angel
Standard English	The form of English that uses formal vocabulary and grammar.	**Standard:** I have never done anything like that. **Non-standard:** I ain't never done nothin' like that.
subordinate clause	A group of words that contains a subject and a verb but depends on a main clause for its meaning.	After Amy sneezed all over the tuna salad… ***After*** = subordinate conjunction ***Amy*** = subject ***sneezed*** = verb

subject	The person or thing that is performing the action of the verb.	**The racoon** climbed the tree. **the racoon** = subject **A fire** destroyed the forest. **A fire** = subject
suffix	Letters you can add to the end of words to change their meanings. For example, the suffix 'less' means without.	Common suffixes Suffix / Meaning / Example -ly — Like, having the properties of — Stupidly, strangely -ful — Full of — Forceful, hopeful -able — Can do — Sinkable, workable -er — Changes a verb into a noun — **Fly** becomes fly**er**, **run** becomes run**ner**
synonyms	Words that have the same or similar meanings.	countless = many, numerous charming = delightful, pleasant, agreeable thrilling = amusing, entertaining, enjoyable
tone	The feeling or mood projected by a voice: for example, happy, sad, angry or excited.	An example of a **casual tone**: The way I look at it, someone needs to start doing something about disease. What's the big deal? People are dying. But the average person doesn't think twice about it until it affects them. Or someone they know. An example of a **formal tone**: There was a delay in the start of the project, attributable to circumstances beyond the control of all relevant parties. Progress came to a standstill, and no one was prepared to undertake the assessment of the problem and determination of the solution.
verb	A doing or action word.	Jack always **runs** to school. He **went** to the shops. She **made** a mess of her homework. That glass may **fall** off that wobbly table. Runs, went, made and fall are all verbs. They tell us what someone or something did. When you are writing, make sure every sentence has a verb in it.