

## What is a sentence?

A sentence is a group of words that makes complete sense. A sentence starts with a capital letter and ends with a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark. Written sentences unlike spoken sentences need to follow grammatical rules.

In Year 1 children are expected to know how words can combine to make sentences and how to join words and clauses using 'and'.

## Types of sentence

### A simple sentence

A simple sentence has a noun (the subject) which is a person, place, thing, or idea and one verb (an action, state or occurrence).

*I went to the park.*

*The castle is haunted.*

Adjectives or describing words may be used to make a simple sentence more detailed or interesting.

*The giant has an enormous beard.*

### A compound sentence

A compound sentence has two main clauses or groups of words that are linked by a coordinating conjunction or joining word (e.g. and, but, so, or).

*The children played on the swings and slid down the slide.*

*Jack hid but Lucy found him.*

Once the children have grasped basic sentence structure, they are encouraged to add more detail to their sentences to extend them

*The children played on the red swings and slid down the big slide in the park.*

*Jack hid in the garden but Lucy found him easily.*

### **The next step:**

#### **A complex sentence**

A complex sentence is formed when a main clause and a subordinate clause is joined with a subordinating conjunction or joining word (e.g. when / if / that / because)

A subordinate clause relies on a main clause to make sense. It does not make sense on its own.

*I love roast potatoes, although my mum prefers them mashed.*

**Please note that this is a guide for parents only and although teachers use the correct terminology for the grammar during lessons, the Year 1 children are not expected to use it.**

By the end of Year 1 children should be familiar with the following terminology:

letter, capital letter, word, singular, plural, sentence, punctuation, full stop, question mark and exclamation mark.