

Glossary of Terms: Year 2

These are words your child uses and hears when talking about their reading and writing. Please use this glossary of terms to support learning at home when reading and writing and encourage your child to identify different types of words and punctuation. This is taken from the year group expectations set out in the National Curriculum.

Term	Meaning	Example
Full stop	A punctuation mark to indicate the end of a sentence.	I like playing at the park.
Capital letter	A letter of the alphabet that differs from its corresponding lowercase letter in form and height.	A B C
Conjunction	<p>Conjunctions can join sentences and extend sentences.</p> <p>Coordinating conjunctions (and, but, so, or) join sentences together.</p> <p>Subordinating conjunctions (if, when, because, that) add extra information to a sentence.</p>	<p>Coordinating:</p> <p>I like cheese <i>but</i> I don't like pizza. I am late for school <i>so</i> I have to run! It is my birthday tomorrow <i>and</i> I am excited. At the BBQ I will either eat a burger <i>or</i> a hotdog.</p> <p>Subordinating:</p> <p><i>If</i> I keep working hard, my results will go up. <i>Because</i> it was cold, I wore my scarf. I didn't know <i>that</i> she was married. I go to the cinema <i>when</i> superhero movies are on.</p>
Verb	A word which describes the action in a sentence.	Peter was running towards the finish line. Jennifer skipped around the garden.

Noun	A word which is a person, place or thing.	woman, park, apple
Adjective	A word that describes a noun.	the red squirrel, the tall giraffe
Adverb	A word that describes a verb.	He slowly walked, she shouted loudly
Prefix	Letters that can be added to the beginning of the word which change the meaning of verbs and adjectives.	kind – unkind tie – untie
Suffix	Letters that can be added to the end of the word which change the meaning of verbs.	help – helper, helping, helped (at this level, we look at words where no change is needed to the root word)
Clause	A group of words that contains a <i>subject</i> and a verb .	The <i>lion</i> pounced
Fragment	Fragments are incomplete sentences. Usually, fragments are pieces of sentences that have become disconnected from the main clause.	when it's raining the blue alien
Sentence	A group of words that has at least a subject and a main verb to state a complete thought. Sentences must also begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop.	I take an umbrella with me when it's raining. The blue alien smiled and waved.
Singular	Referring to just one person or thing.	a sweet, a pen, a fox
Plural	Referring to two or more things.	two sweets, five pens, seven foxes (if the word ends in 'sh' 'tch' 'ss' 'zz' 'x' – 'es' must be added)
Proper noun	Names and places that need to start with a capital letter.	Colchester, London, Ben, Anne, Highwoods Community Primary School

Question mark	A punctuation mark indicating a question.	Where do you live? What is your name?
Exclamation mark	A punctuation mark indicating an exclamation or that something is shocking or funny.	Be careful! Look out!
Apostrophe	An apostrophe can be used to show possession (i.e belonging to). Apostrophes can also be used to show where letters have been left out. (omission – missed out)	Possession: Dad's car. Omission: Did not – didn't.
Comma	Commas are used to separate items in a list.	I had toast, milk and a banana for breakfast.
Compound word	Compound words are two nouns put together to make a new word.	Football, lighthouse, playground.
Expanded noun phrase	Expanded noun phrases <i>describe</i> a noun .	<i>The brown hamster, a small ball</i>
Statement	A statement is a sentence that tells you something.	A rainbow has 7 colours. It is raining.
Command	A command is a sentence that tells you to do something. It always begins with a verb.	Stop doing that. Mix the butter and the sugar together.
Question	A question is a sentence that asks you something.	What did you have for dinner?
Exclamation	An exclamation is a sentence that begins with a 'what' or a 'how'. It is a full sentence, including a verb, which ends with an exclamation mark.	What a dangerous mountain to climb! How lovely the weather is!
Past tense	Something that has already happened.	The children played in the playground.

Present tense	Something that is happening now.	The children are playing in the playground.
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