

## Glossary of Terms: Year 4

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 (or, and, but, so) join sentences together.</p> <p>Subordinating conjunctions (if, when, because, while, as) add extra information to a sentence</p>	<p>Coordinating:</p> <p>I like cheese <b><i>but</i></b> I don't like pizza.            I am late for school <b><i>so</i></b> I have to run!            It is my birthday tomorrow <b><i>and</i></b> I am excited.            At the BBQ I will either eat a burger <b><i>or</i></b> a hotdog.</p> <p>Subordinating:</p> <p><b><i>As</i></b> the sun was setting, they made their way home.  <b><i>If</i></b> I keep working hard, my results will go up.  <b><i>Because</i></b> it was cold, I wore my scarf.            I ran home quickly <b><i>as</i></b> it was raining.            I go to the cinema <b><i>when</i></b> superhero movies are on.</p>

Verb	A word which describes the action in a sentence.	Peter was <b>running</b> towards the finish line. Jennifer <b>skipped</b> around the garden.
Noun	A word which is a person, place or thing.	woman, park, apple
Adjective	A word that describes a noun.	the <b>red</b> squirrel, the <b>tall</b> giraffe
Adverb	A word that describes a verb.	He <b>slowly</b> walked, she shouted <b>loudly</b>
Prefix	Letters that can be added to the beginning of the word which change the meaning of verbs and adjectives.	kind – <b>unkind</b> tie – <b>untie</b>
Suffix	Letters that can be added to the end of the word which change the meaning of verbs.	accident – accidents, <b>accidentally</b>
Clause	A group of words that contains a <i>subject</i> and a <b>verb</b> .	The <i>lion</i> <b>pounced</b>
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.
Main clause	Part of a sentence which makes sense by itself. It could be a sentence on its own.	<b>The dog barked</b> when it was excited. While it was raining, <b>the children watched a film.</b>

Subordinate clause	Part of a sentence which relies on the main clause of the sentence to make sense and contains a subordinating conjunction (see below)	The dog barked <b>when it was excited</b> . <b>While it was raining</b> , the children watched a film.
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. ( <b>omission</b> – <b>missed out</b> )	Possession: Dad's car. Omission: Did not – didn't.  Possessive apostrophe with plural nouns: You need your <b>parents'</b> permission. Where are the <b>dogs'</b> bones?
Comma	Commas are used to separate items in a list.	I had toast, milk and a banana for breakfast.
Inverted commas/speech marks	Punctuation which indicates speech/dialogue.	"How much is this?" asked the boy. "It's my birthday," announced Sally.

Direct Speech	The actual words that someone/a character speaks, punctuated with inverted commas.	<b>“How much is this?”</b> asked the boy. <b>“It’s my birthday,”</b> announced Sally.
Compound word	Compound words are two nouns words put together to make a new word.	Football, lighthouse, playground.
Expanded noun phrase	Expanded noun phrases <i>describe</i> a <b>noun</b> .	<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.
Preposition	These words tell us where something is or when something happened.	The book was <b><i>on</i></b> the table. <b><i>In</i></b> the distance, a mysterious creature lurked. <b><i>Later</i></b> that day, they went to the park.
Paragraph	A series of sentence that are organised, coherent and all part of the same topic. A new paragraph moves onto a different topic and is indicated by a new line.	Polar bears have a thick layer of blubber below their skin. Blubber is a layer of fat that protects the bears. This is how polar bears stay warm.

		Seals can dive to great depths underwater and can stay there for up to two hours. Some seals migrate hundreds of miles every year in search of food.
Perfect verb form	A verb tense used to show a completed or 'perfected' action. Verbs in the perfect form use a form of 'have' or 'had'.	Present Perfect: I have finished my homework already. Past Perfect: He had watched TV for an hour before dinner. Future Perfect: Nancy will have finished by the time her parents return.
Time connectives	Words or phrases to help us understand when something is happening.	First, last, next, then, finally, eventually, this evening, last week, in a moment, all of a sudden
Consonant	Letters of the alphabet that are not vowels.	<b><u>bcdfghijklmnpqrstvwxyz</u></b>
Vowel	Letters of the alphabet that are not consonants.	<b><u>a e i o u</u></b>
Word Family	These are words that have a common feature or pattern.	<b><u>happy unhappy happiest happily</u></b>
Determiner	A word that is attached to a noun to clarify.	The, a, an, one, two, three, my, his, etc... <b>The</b> dog sat in <b>its</b> bed to eat <b>a</b> bone. <b>My</b> pencil is blue. <b>Three</b> birds sat on <b>the</b> wire.
Pronoun	A word used instead of a noun to avoid repeating it. Also, words which represent people.	He, she, it, I, they, you, we, me, us, him, her, Ella felt ill so <b>she</b> went to bed. <b>We</b> ate a lot of cake because <b>it</b> was delicious.

Possessive pronoun	A word that shows to whom something belongs, without using the name.	Our, his, mine, yours, hers, its, their <b>Their</b> house is enormous. Archie lost <b>his</b> pencil case.
Adverbial	Any word or phrase that gives extra meaning to the main verb or clause within a sentence. Adverbials typically express place ( <i>in the garden</i> ), time ( <i>in June</i> ) or manner ( <i>in an excitable way</i> ).	The cat slept <b><i>in a peaceful manner</i></b> . The flowers will bloom <b><i>in Spring</i></b> . He came first place <b><i>in the school's running race</i></b> .
Fronted adverbial	An adverbial that starts a sentence, followed by a comma.	<b>On the stairs,</b> there was a shoe. <b>Before the sun came up,</b> he ate his breakfast. <b>All night long,</b> she danced. <b>By the train station,</b> we met. <b>As fast as he could,</b> the rabbit hopped.