

Glossary of Terms: Year 6

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: I like cheese but I don't like pizza. I am late for school so I have to run! It is my birthday tomorrow and I am excited. At the BBQ I will either eat a burger or a hotdog.</p> <p>Subordinating: As the sun was setting, they made their way home. If I keep working hard, my results will go up. Because it was cold, I wore my scarf. I ran home quickly as it was raining. I go to the cinema when 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.	available - un available
Suffix	Letters that can be added to the end of the word which change the meaning of verbs.	available – ability
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.
Main clause	Part of a sentence which makes sense by itself. It could be a sentence on its own.	The dog barked when it was excited. While it was raining, the children watched a film.

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 when it was excited . While it was raining , 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. (omission – missed out)	Possession: Dad's car. Omission: Did not – didn't. Possessive apostrophe with plural nouns: You need your parents' permission. Where are the dogs' 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.	“How much is this?” asked the boy. “It’s my birthday,” 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 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.
Preposition	These words tell us where something is or when something happened.	Prepositions: The book was <u>on</u> the table. <u>In</u> the distance, a mysterious creature lurked. <u>Later</u> that day, they went to the park. Prepositional phrases: <u>Through the tunnel</u>

		<p><u>Across the street</u></p> <p><u>Around the bend</u></p> <p><u>Down the aisle</u></p>
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.	<p>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.</p> <p>Seals can dive to great depths underwater and can stay there for up two hours. Some seals migrate hundreds of miles every year in search of food.</p>
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'.	<p>Present Perfect: I have finished my homework already.</p> <p>Past Perfect: He had watched TV for an hour before dinner.</p> <p>Future Perfect: Nancy will have finished by the time her parents return.</p>
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.	<u>b c d f g h j k l m n p q r s t v w x y z</u>
Vowel	Letters of the alphabet that are not consonants.	<u>a e i o u</u>
Word Family	These are words that have a common feature or pattern.	<u>happy unhappy happiest happily</u>

Determiner	A word that is attached to a noun to clarify.	The, a, an, one, two, three, my, his etc... The dog sat in its bed to eat a bone. My pencil is blue. Three birds sat on the 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 she went to bed. We ate a lot of cake because it was delicious.
Possessive pronoun	A word that shows to whom something belongs, without using the name.	Our, his, mine, yours, hers, its, their Their house is enormous. Archie lost his 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 <i>in a peaceful manner</i> . The flowers will bloom <i>in Spring</i> . He came first place <i>in the school's running race</i> .
Fronted adverbial	An adverbial that starts a sentence, followed by a comma.	On the stairs , there was a shoe. Before the sun came up , he ate his breakfast. All night long , she danced. By the train station , we met. As fast as he could , the rabbit hopped.
Modal Verb	They are used with the main verb to express possibility or wanting.	Would, should, could, might, may, can, will, must <i>I should know all of my time tables by the end of Year 4.</i> <i>I may be home late.</i> <i>I must start work soon.</i>

		<i>I will be at your party tomorrow.</i>
Adverbs of possibility	Adverbs, usually placed in front of the main verb, to show how sure we are about a situation or event.	<i>We will definitely be there tomorrow. She is certainly coming to the party. They are obviously late. It is clearly going to be wonderful weather tomorrow.</i>
Relative pronoun	Introduces more information about the noun: which, who, that, where	<i>The bird who sat on the branch. She lives in Worcester which is a cathedral city. I don't like the clown that has a bright red nose.</i>
Relative clause	A type of subordinate clause, starting with a relative pronoun, used to connect more description to a main clause.	<i>Year 5, who are great, have worked hard all year. The school, which is called Highwoods, is in Colchester. This is the shop where I saw the shoes.</i>
Parenthesis	Words or phrases within brackets, dashes or commas to give additional information in a sentence.	<i>I looked up, squinting because of the sun, and saw the birds flying across the sky. The children (who were very excited) clambered out of the car. My brother – John – is two years older than me. Saturn's moon (Titan) has a very dense atmosphere.</i>
Embedded clause	A clause used in the middle of a sentence to give the reader more information. Can be marked with commas, brackets or dashes.	<i>My bike, which is very old, is broken. The witch (who has green eyes) is very spooky. The doctor – who was very kind – took my blood pressure.</i>

	Similar to parenthesis but different in the sense that it's a whole clause, whereas parenthesis <u>could</u> just be one word.	<i>Colchester, where I live, is the oldest recorded town in England.</i>
Brackets	Can be used to separate a word or phrase that has been added to a sentence to add more detail.	<i>My birthday cake (which was delicious) had chocolate icing on top.</i>
Dash		<i>We catch the bus – the blue one – at 3:15pm.</i>
Cohesion	How the different parts of a piece of writing fit together. Pronouns may be used to avoid repetition or adverbs such as meanwhile .	firstly, after, meanwhile, then Emma was delighted when she opened the present. It was just what Emma wanted. Meanwhile , Emma's friend was panicked as she had bought her exactly the same gift.
Ambiguity	When a word or phrase has more than one meaning (ambiguous). Placement of commas can be used to avoid other forms of ambiguity.	<i>I read the book.</i> (present tense) <i>I read the book.</i> (past tense) Ella loves cooking, her family and dogs. Ella loves cooking her family and dogs.
Subject	The person or thing that does the action.	<i>The bird pecked the apple.</i>
Object	The object says who or what is acted upon by the verb.	<i>The bird pecked the apple.</i>
Active	If the subject does the action, then it is an active voice.	<i>The little girl caught the ball.</i>
Passive	If the subject is being acted upon, then it is a passive voice.	<i>The ball was caught by the girl.</i>

Synonym	A word which has the same or similar meaning to another.	<i>Lucky, fortunate</i> <i>Large, vast</i>
Antonym	A word which has the opposite meaning to another.	<i>Long, short</i> <i>Big, small</i>
Ellipsis	Punctuation to build suspense or leave a paragraph on a cliff hanger.	<i>He turned around and was shocked by what was before him...</i>
Hyphen	Used to avoid confusion over meaning or to join two words.	<i>There was a man eating shark (shark being eaten by man).</i> <i>There was a man-eating shark (a shark which eats people).</i>
Colon	Punctuation used to introduce a list or to replace a subordinating conjunction in a sentence.	<i>There were birds everywhere: sparrows, blackbirds and robins.</i> <i>It was hilarious: the clown squirted the audience with water.</i>
Semi-colon	Punctuation used within a list or to replace a coordinating conjunction in a sentence.	<i>I was cold; I decided to head home.</i> <i>Let's go to the library to study; it's the only place I can concentrate.</i>
Bullet points	To separate out a list.	In class you will need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pencil, • A pen, • A ruler.
Progressive tense	Use of 'aux' verb and 'ing' verb to show a continuous action.	He was swimming the English channel. I am running a marathon.
Subjunctive phrase		If I were I wish I were

		I request that you be present at the official event.
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