



English	
Clause	Clauses are the building blocks of a sentence . They are groups of words that contain a subject and a verb . They can be 'main' or 'subordinate'.
Complex sentence	Formed by joining a main clause with a subordinate clause using a subordinating conjunction . They can also be called multi-clause sentences . The main clause can stand alone but the subordinate or dependent clause cannot. For example, 'I burned dinner when I was on the phone'.
Consonant	Any letter of the alphabet other than the vowels (a, e, i, o, u).
Direct speech	A sentence where the exact words spoken are represented, and shown in speech marks (also known as inverted commas). ("Tidy your room, please," said Mum).
Formal speech	A type of speech or writing used in formal, 'serious' texts and situations. Children in primary school start to be taught the difference between the language we use when speaking informally (for example, to our friends) and the language we may use for a formal text, such as a letter of complaint.
Inverted commas	Punctuation marks used to demarcate direct speech in a sentence. Also known as speech marks, but in the 2014 National Curriculum children are taught the term inverted commas instead.
Main clause	The leading clause in a sentence which indicates the main subject and action of the sentence. It stands alone without any additional clauses . For example, 'Even though the weather is bad, <u>I will still go for a walk</u> '.
Paragraph	A distinct section of a piece of writing, which usually has a single theme. It is indicated by starting a new line or indenting the start of the first sentence.
Preposition	A linking word in a sentence, used to show where things are in time or space. For example, 'under', 'after', 'next', 'behind'.
Reported speech	See indirect speech .
Root word	A basic word with no prefix or suffix added to it. Adding prefixes and suffixes can change the meaning of a root word.
Simple sentence	Has a subject and one verb . See also compound sentence and complex sentence .
Speech marks	Punctuation marks used to demarcate direct speech in a sentence. See also inverted commas .
Subject	The subject of a sentence is the thing or person carrying out the main action. For example, ' <u>The cow</u> ate the grass'.
Subordinate clause	A clause that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence, but is linked to a main clause using a subordinating conjunction . It does not express a complete thought, and if read on its own it requires additional information. For example, 'I take my dog to the park every day, even though <u>sometimes it is raining</u> '. Subordinate clauses contain a subject noun and a verb.
Vowel	The letters a, e, i, o and u.
Word family	A group of words which may share a common root word or morphology . For example, 'happy', 'unhappy', 'happiness', 'happily', 'unhappiness', 'unhappily'.

Abstract noun	A feeling or concept which cannot be touched, such as love, happiness, education.
Adverbial phrase	A phrase built around an adverb – for example 'as quickly as possible', 'very rudely'.
Article	Words which tell us if a noun is general or specific. 'The' is called the 'definite article' and refers to specific nouns: 'The man's hat is blue'. The 'indefinite articles' are 'a' and 'an', referring to general nouns: 'A cow eats grass'. See determiner .
Common noun	Describes a class of objects (e.g. dog, man, day) which do not have a capital letter (e.g. Rover, John, Tuesday). See also proper nouns .
Concrete noun	Something you can touch. For example, 'bed', 'pencil', 'cat'. Can be common nouns , or proper nouns that need a capital letter . For example, 'Mr Jones', 'Blackpool Tower'.
Determiner	A word that introduces a noun and identifies it in detail. This may be a definite or indefinite article (a, an, the), a demonstrative (this, that), possessive (your, my), a quantifier (some, many) or a number (six, ten, half).
Fronted adverbial	Words or phrases used at the beginning of a sentence , used like adverbs to describe the action that follows. For example, ' <u>With a happy smile</u> , she skipped into the room'.
Imperative verb	A verb that stands alone without a subject noun or pronoun in a command .
Imperative article	See article .
Phrase	A small group of words that does not contain a verb .
Possessive pronoun	A pronoun which is used to show ownership. Some can be used on their own ('mine', 'yours', 'his', 'hers', 'ours', 'theirs'), whilst others need to be attached to a noun ('my', 'your', 'her', 'our', 'their', 'whose').
Personal pronoun	A pronoun which replaces a person, place or thing. For example, 'I', 'you', 'he', 'she', 'we', 'they', 'it', 'me', 'him', 'her', 'us', 'them'.
Prepositional phrase	A phrase which contains a preposition . For example, 'under the carpet', 'behind the door', 'after school'.
Pronoun	Any word which can be used to replace a noun. See personal pronoun , possessive pronoun .
Proper noun	A noun which names a particular person, place or thing. For example, 'John', 'London', 'France', 'Monday', 'December'.
Adjectival phrase	A phrase built around an adjective – for example 'bright red', 'frighteningly bad'.
Ambiguity	A sentence contains ambiguity if it could be open to more than one meaning. Pupils are taught to use hyphens to avoid ambiguity; for example, the sentence 'Jaws is about a man eating shark' could be ambiguous, but with the insertion of a hyphen becomes much clearer: 'Jaws is about a <u>man-eating shark</u> '.
Brackets ()	A punctuation mark used to set a non-essential section of a sentence apart. Also known as parenthesis. For example, 'My friend Chloe (who is three months older than me) is coming to my house tonight'.
Cohesion	A sentence will have cohesion if all its parts fit together, for example if tenses and pronouns are consistent and determiners refer to the correct noun.

Dash	Used in a similar way to brackets or parentheses to set information apart in a sentence . For example, 'My three friends – Jack, Sam and Callum – are coming to my house for tea'.
Embedded clause	A clause used in the middle of another clause . It is usually marked by commas . For example, 'The man, <u>walking along with his dog</u> , whistled a tune to himself'.
Future tense	A verb tense which describes actions that are going to take place in the future. Often uses the modal auxiliary verb 'will'. For example, 'Tomorrow I will do the shopping'.
Modal verb	A special verb which affects the other verbs in the sentence by showing obligation (e.g. 'You should do your homework'), possibility (e.g. 'I <u>might</u> have pizza for tea'), ability (e.g. 'You <u>can</u> ride a bike now') or permission (e.g. 'You <u>may</u> go out now').
Parenthesis	See brackets .
Relative clause	A relative clause is a type of subordinate clause that adapts, describes or modifies a noun by using a relative pronoun (who, that or which). For example, 'He ate too many cakes, <u>which</u> made him feel ill'.
Relative pronoun	A pronoun used in a relative clause (who, that, which).
Second person	A sentence is written in the second person if it is written from the point of view of a person being spoken to – in other words, using the pronoun 'you'.
Third person	A sentence is written in the third person if it is written from the point of view of a person being spoken about – in other words, using the pronouns 'he', 'she', 'it' or 'they'.
Active voice	A sentence written in the active voice has the subject of the sentence carrying out the main action.
Antonym	A word with the opposite meaning to another, e.g. good/bad, wise/foolish, long/ short.
Auxiliary verb	A verb which forms the tense, mood and voice of other verbs. The auxiliary verbs are 'be', 'do' and 'have' plus the modal verbs . For example, 'be' is used in the progressive tense verbs such as 'I <u>am</u> running', 'he <u>was</u> eating'.
Bullet points	A way of setting information out in a list of points, which may be phrases , words or short sentences .
Colon :	A punctuation mark used in a sentence to indicate that something is about to follow, such as a quotation, an example or a list. For example, 'I need three things from the shop: milk, eggs and bread'.
Ellipsis ...	Three dots which are used to show missing words or to create a pause for effect. For example, 'So...tell me what happened'.
Etymology	The origin of words and how they have changed over time. Knowing the etymology of some words can help children to spell them, for example knowing that words with 'ch' pronounced 'sh' are often of French origin (e.g. machine, chef, brochure).
Hyphen -	A punctuation mark used to link and join words, and often used to reduce ambiguity in sentences: for example, twenty-seven, brother- in-law, man-eating, long-legged.
Morphology	The study of words, how they are formed and their relationship to other words in the same language. It analyses the structure of words and parts of words, such as stems, root words , prefixes , and suffixes . An understanding of

	morphology can help children with spelling strategies, e.g. knowing that 'medicine', 'medical' and 'paramedic' all share a common root.
Object	The object of a sentence is involved in the action but does not carry it out. For example, 'I dropped <u>my cup</u> on the floor'.
Passive voice	A sentence is written in the passive voice when the subject is having something done to it. For example, 'The mouse was chased by the cat'.
Past continuous tense	See past progressive tense .
Past perfect tense	A tense used to describe actions that were completed by a certain time in the past. For example, 'Yesterday I was late because I <u>had walked</u> to school'.
Present perfect tense	The tense which describes actions that are completed at an unspecified time before this moment. For example, ' <u>I have cycled</u> two miles already.'
Semi-colon ;	A punctuation mark used in a sentence to separate major sentence elements. A semicolon can be used between two closely related independent clauses , provided they are not already joined by a coordinating conjunction . For example, 'My car is red; my friend's car is blue'.
Subject	The subject of a sentence is the thing or person carrying out the main action. For example, ' <u>The cow</u> ate the grass'.
Synonym	A word which has exactly or nearly the same meaning as another word.