

A friendly glossary for Year 6 children

Words

Nouns

A noun is a thing.

There are different types of noun:

1. Common noun – an everyday thing e.g. table, pencil, potato
2. Proper noun – a noun that needs a capital letter e.g. Sally, February, London
3. Countable nouns – things you can count e.g. boy, apple, cat
4. Non-countable nouns – things you can't count e.g. water, imagination

Some nouns can be more than one type!

Determiners

A determiner helps you find a noun. They come before nouns and before adjectives. It tells you if the noun is known or unknown.

Some determiners are: the, my, that, an, hers, some. A name can be a determiner.

Pronouns

These can replace nouns. They are often used to avoid repetition and to make sure sentences are cohesive (make sense).

Pronouns include he, she, it, her, him, them, us, who, I, which, none.

A name can also be a pronoun.

Adjectives

An adjective is a word that usually describes a noun. It often comes before a noun to make the meaning more precise.

e.g. The hungry caterpillar.

The magic, faraway tree.

Adjectives can come after the words was, were, be and am.

e.g. The meal was good.

I want to be happy.

Adverbs

There are different types of adverb:

1. An adverb gives us more detail about a verb.
e.g. I ran **quickly**.
2. An adverb can tell us more about an adjective.
e.g. The meal was **really** delicious.
3. An adverb can tell us more about another adverb:
e.g. We are **very often** late to parties.
4. An adverb can tell us more about a whole idea:
e.g. **Luckily**, no-one was hurt.

Often, adverbs end in -ly but not all words that end in -ly are adverbs.

There are also lots of adverbs that do not end in -ly.

e.g. soon, very, often, later, never, above

Adverbs tell us where, how or when a verb happened. An adverbial is a group of words that does the same job as an adverb. There is more about these at the end of this glossary.

Prepositions

A preposition is a linking word. It links a noun to some other information. They often describe places, locations and times. They are almost always followed by a determiner.

Prepositions include: on, since, from, in, under, before, next, by, opposite.

Some prepositions can also be conjunctions or adverbs!

Conjunctions

A conjunction joins two words or phrases together. They should not be called connectives.

Conjunctions can do one of two things:

1. Coordinate: this makes both the things being joined equally important
e.g. Dogs are friendly **but** annoying.
Teachers are clever **and** hardworking.
2. Subordinate: this is when a conjunction is used to introduce a subordinate clause, or an idea that is not as important.
e.g. Dogs are friendly **however** cats aren't.
Teachers are clever **as** they work hard.

There are seven coordinating conjunctions: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.

Subordinating conjunctions include: that, as, if, when, than, because, while, where, after, though, since, though, however, neither...

Phrases, clauses and sentences*Head*

The head of a phrase or clause is the word that everything else is connected to. If you don't have a head, the rest of the words don't really make sense.

Phrase

A noun phrase is a group of words that are all connected to one noun. It usually comes before or after a verb.

e.g. Bananas

Yellow bananas

The old, yellow bananas in the fruit bowl

Any word which adds more information to the noun is part of the noun phrase.

A *prepositional phrase* has to have a preposition at its 'head'. It tells us when or where something happened or where something is. It usually comes before or after a verb.

e.g. On the bed

After the party

From eating the ice cream

Clauses and Sentences

A clause is a special type of phrase that has to have a verb at the 'head'.

There are three main types of clause:

1. A main clause: this contains a subject and a verb. It should show a complete thought.
e.g. The dog chased the cat.
The brown, grumpy dog furiously chased the impertinent ginger cat.
2. A subordinate clause: this clause does not make sense as a sentence on its own.
e.g. after eating the spider
who had arrived early
3. A relative clause: this is a special type of clause that begins with which, who or that.
e.g. The boy who lives there is a bully.
Tina said she had the idea, which annoyed me.

A sentence is a group of words. Sentences can have a single clause or multiple clauses. It can have main clauses and subordinate clauses.

- e.g. The sun was shining. (1 sentence: 1 main clause)
- The sun was shining but it was raining. (1 sentence: 2 main clauses)
- The sun was shining before the picnic. (1 sentence: 1 main clause, 1 subordinate clause)

In a sentence you must have a subject. The subject is the noun is performing the verb.

- e.g. Remy's dog is hiding.
- Kamil entered.

In a sentence, you might also have an object. This is the noun that is having the verb done to it.

- e.g. The boy kicked the ball.
- He pulled my hair.

Adverbials

An adverbial is a word or phrase used to add more information to the verb.

It might have a preposition:

- e.g. The boat is leaving in twenty minutes.
- The bell rang behind the door.

It might be a noun phrase:

- e.g. She told me she would ring yesterday morning.
- He waited all day.

It might be a subordinate clause:

- e.g. She laughed before shutting the door.
- He cried but smiled.

It might be an adverb:

- e.g. He ran frantically.
- The mouse squeaked loudly.

Fronted adverbials are adverbials that come before the main verb (and **must have a comma**):

- e.g. Suddenly, he jumped onto the car.
- After eating the cake, Lucy was sick.

Verbs, tenses, moods and voices

A verb is linked to actions. It is sometimes called a 'doing' word, but some verbs don't describe movements!

Verbs have a tense. This tells when the verb happened.

Some tenses are:

1. The simple present tense: this is used to describe things happening 'now'.
e.g. The cat eats the mouse.
The girls go shopping.
2. The simple past tense: this is used to describe something that has happened.
e.g. I went to the dentist.
Donna had a puppy.
3. The present progressive: this is used to show something that is happening and is still going on. It is always has an -ing word and follows am, is, are.
e.g. I am singing.
She is cooking.
4. The past progressive: this is used to show something that was happening in the past. It always has an -ing word and follows was or were.
e.g. I was waiting.
They were counting the money.
5. The present perfect tense: this is used to describe something in the past that is 'complete' or finished. It is next to 'have' or 'has'.
e.g. I have eaten the cake.
She has stolen my shoes.

Modal verbs show whether something is certain or a possibility. Modal verbs always need another verb with them to make sense. Modal verbs include: could, would, must, should, ought, might.

The **passive** is usually used when we turn the object of a sentence into the subject.

e.g. I kicked the ball → The ball was kicked by me.

(The girls) ate the sweets. → The sweets were eaten (by the girls).

It tends to express things that have already happened. It can give a sense of mystery.

The **subjunctive** is usually used to show a possibility. It is very formal and quite old-fashioned.

It often uses the words 'were' or 'that'. It often follows verbs like advise, ask, command, desire, insist, propose.

e.g. I wish I were a rich man.

He asked that I call him immediately.

We ask that students be quiet in the corridors.