

SPAG Terminology Sheet

Key Grammar Vocabulary

Sentence - Contains a subject, object and verb

e.g. The **dog** **chased** his **ball**.

(subject) (verb) (object)

Simple sentence - Contains a main clause

e.g The dog chased his ball.

Compound sentence - two main clauses joined by a co-ordinating conjunction (FANBOYS - see co-ordinating conjunctions below.)

Complex sentence - A main clause with a subordinate clause.

e.g Although it was raining, we still went outside.

We still went outside although it was raining.

Phrase - a group of words that does not contain a verb. E.g the blue ball, a windy day

Main clause - Makes sense on its own. E.g. Help yourself to a drink.

Sub-ordinate clause, adds extra information and does not make sense on its own. E.g. Have a drink if you feel hungry or thirsty

Verb - A 'doing' word

Adverb - describes a verb

Fronted adverbials - The adverb comes before the verb. E.g Later that day... Quietly looking around,...

Noun - name of a thing, object, emotion

Noun Phrase - a group of words to add description.

e.g. butterfly → the blue butterfly;

the village → that vile little village

Pronoun - A word that replaces a noun. E.g. he, she, they, I, it

Adjective - Describes a noun

Conjunction - used to link 2 sentences together to form a compound sentence.

e.g. The dog chased the ball **because** its owner threw it for him.

Co-ordinating conjunctions - (FANBOYS - For, And, Nor, But, Or Yet, so) Words that join 2 clauses together that would make sense on their own. E.g I had a terrible cold last week **but** I still went to work.

You can sit at the front **or** you can stand at the back.

Sub-ordinating conjunctions - (if, when, since, because, even though etc) Conjunctions that introduce a subordinate clause. E.g. **If** you feel hungry or thirsty, help yourselves to a drink.

I was given nothing to eat or drink **when** I babysat last week.

Progressive form - Adding 'ing' onto a verb. E.g. walk → walking

Past Progressive - Use of 'was' and 'were' before a verb ending in 'ing'. E.g. The baby **was** walking.

Perfect Present Tense - uses 'had', 'have' and 'has' - e.g. I have been speaking Spanish for three weeks.

Contractions - Words that are joined together by the removal of letters and the addition of an apostrophe. E.g. it is = **it's**, was not = **wasn't**

Synonym - Words with the same or similar meaning to others. E.g. shut, close

Antonym - words with opposite meanings to each other. E.g. big, small

Determiner - e.g. a, an, the, this, some e.g. **This** book is great. **The** rabbit ate carrots.

Preposition - a word that tells you where or when something is in relation to something else. E.g. The worm is **under** the ground. **After** walking for miles, she rested **on** a hill.

Key Punctuation Vocabulary

Capital letter - Used for start of sentences and proper nouns (places, names, days, months). Must not be used on single words that aren't proper nouns

Apostrophes - Used in contractions. E.g. It **hadn't** rained for weeks.

To represent possession (KS2) **NOT** to make things plural.

(In possession if the word is already plural or if it ends in an 's' then the apostrophe comes after the s.)

e.g **John's** coat was wet from the rain.

James' feet were like blocks of ice.

All of the **ships'** flags were blowing in the breeze.

Commas - Used to separate items in a list, before speech, after subordinate clauses and to clarify meaning in embedded clauses.

Common errors:

practice and practise - practice (noun), practise (verb)

adverbs/adjectives - careful (adjective), carefully (adverb)

e.g Incorrect - Go **careful**, the floor's wet. (careful is an adjective)

Correct - Go **carefully**, the floor's wet (carefully is an adverb)

what and that -

e.g. Incorrect - 'Read the board **what's** got the instructions on.'

Correct - 'Read the board **that's** got the instructions on.'