

Year 4 Grammar Glossary

Term	Definition	Example/ Year 4 expectation
Prefix	A word or syllable joined to the front of a word to change or add to its meaning.	In-, im-, il-, sub-, inter-, super-, anti-, auto-
Suffix	A letter, or a set of letters, joined to the end of a word to make another word.	-ation, -ous
Homophone	A word with the same sound as another, but with a different meaning.	Except/accept, ball/bawl, berry/bury, meddle/medal, whether/weather, which/witch
Possessive apostrophe	To show that something belongs to someone or something.	Katie's, girls', girl's, boys', children's
Contractions (apostrophes used for omission)	To show where a letter, or letters, are missed out from two combined words (omission).	Can't, wouldn't, they're, I've, they'll, he's, she's, she'll, he'll, we've, we'll, I'm
Fronted adverbials, marked by a comma	At the beginning of a sentence, the adverbial adds further detail to the verb. Adverbials are used to explain how, why, where or when something happened.	Before the sun came up , Lauren ate her breakfast. As fast as he could , Ben ran the race.
Inverted commas (speech punctuation)	Punctuation marks used to indicate spoken language, at the beginning and end.	"Hello," Samuel murmured. "Where are you going?" questioned Dan, as he held onto the door.
Standard English verb forms	Use of correct formal English, rather than the way one may speak.	We were instead of 'We was' I did instead of 'I done'
Noun phrases	A word or group of words in a sentence which acts like a noun.	I ate the remaining chip , I save my money in a bank account . The dancer... My trip...
Adjectives	Describing words which describe a noun.	Little, tall, pretty, red, colossal
Prepositional phrases	Words used to show place, position or time.	Under the table, within the tree, through the door, after, before, during
Common nouns	An object	Table, chair, stapler, window
Proper nouns	Name of places, people, official celebrations, months, days. Proper nouns ALWAYS begin with a capital letter, even if it is within the middle of a sentence.	Newport Pagnell , London , Buckingham Palace , Mrs Ahmad , Wednesday , January , Christmas
Abstract nouns	Words that are not concrete things and cannot be touched e.g. emotion, quality, concept or idea.	Happiness, sadness, pain, excitement, beauty
Paragraphs	Used to organise ideas around a theme.	Begin a new line for a new paragraph.
Pronoun	A word used to replace a noun.	She, he, they, his, her
Possessive pronoun	A word used instead of a noun, to show possession.	Mine, yours, theirs
Determiner	Used to identify, introduce and modify a noun.	A, an, the, this, that, those, these