

SPaG - Excellence in English - Knowledge Organiser

Grammar is the nuts and bolts which connect a sentence together. It is the study of the way words are used to make sentences.

	Questions	Answers	Examples
1	Why are nouns important?	They name the focus of the sentence (person, object or place).	Harry Kane (person) Laptop (object) Woods (place)
2	What does an adjective do?	It modifies the meaning of a noun.	A <u>fantastic</u> experience.
3	What does a verb do?	It gives us physical or mental action, or a state of being.	She <u>walked</u> (physical) I <u>think</u> I'll be fine (mental) I <u>am</u> here. (state of being)
4	What is the job of an adverb?	It explains how something is done or how to do something (builds on a verb).	The match was <u>really</u> close. <u>Fortunately</u> , it wasn't raining.
5	What is the job of a conjunction?	It joins one clause to another.	She watched her friend go <u>and</u> she said goodbye. (FANBOYS)
6	Can conjunctions be subordinate?	Yes, they can introduce a subordinate clause.	He was happy <u>until</u> he had to do the washing up.
7	What is the function of a preposition?	Shows the position between words like nouns, pronouns or phrases.	He covered <u>behind</u> the sofa. <u>Through</u> the crowd, she could see her friend.
8	When do writers use a pronoun?	In place of a noun, to withhold detail or to avoid over-use.	I, you, he, she, it, they, we, one
9	What is a possessive pronoun?	They show that something belongs to someone.	My, mine, yours, your, his, him, her, hers, our, ours, their, theirs, one's, it's.
10	Why do writers use a definite article?	It creates specificity.	This is <u>the</u> car I want for my birthday.
11	Why do they use an indefinite article?	It creates a more general reference to something than a definite article	I wanted <u>a</u> car for my birthday.
12	Why do we need determiners?	They determiner amounts of a noun.	Pass me <u>some</u> cake, please. <u>All</u> of the students learnt it.

Spelling – This core knowledge should help to develop your processing and spelling of a variety of words.

	Questions	Answers	Examples
1	What is the root word?	The original meaning of a word without anything added.	<u>Mobile</u> – without the prefix “auto” or suffix “ility”
2	Why is a prefix useful to know?	It can be added to the front of a word to edit it's meaning.	<u>Dis-</u> before “infect” becomes “ <u>Disinfect</u> ”
3	Why is a suffix useful to know?	It can be added to the end of a word to edit it's meaning.	<u>-ment</u> after the verb “install” becomes <u>instalment</u> .
4	Why is it useful to know word families?	To help understand the spelling and meaning of common words.	<u>Work</u> – working, worker, workmanship, worked.
5	How do writers show tense?	By changing the ending of verbs to suggest past, present or future tense.	She <u>studies</u> . Yesterday, she <u>studied</u> . He may <u>study</u> tomorrow.
6	When is standard English used?	When writers want to be clear and/or authoritative.	<u>Some people claim exercise can be damaging to your health.</u>
7	When is non-standard English used?	When writers want to reflect the way people speak (regional dialect).	I <u>done</u> it – I did it That's <u>trash</u> – that's terrible.
8	Why should we learn homophones?	To help us remember the different spelling of words that sound alike.	<u>Our</u> and <u>Are</u> <u>Their</u> , <u>They're</u> and <u>There</u>
9	What is a homograph?	A word that is spelt the same but has different meaning.	<u>Lead</u> the way Dog <u>lead</u> . <u>Lead</u> as in the metal.
10	How can synonyms be useful?	They help us choose different words with the same meaning.	The girl was <u>happy</u> – The girl was <u>elated</u> .
11	Why do we need antonyms?	They are good for comparison and contrast.	I <u>love</u> playing in the rain – I <u>hate</u> playing in the rain.

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Punctuation helps to make writing clear, but is also used to emphasise ideas and control elements such as pace and tone.

	Questions	Answers	Examples
1	What punctuation can I <u>end</u> a sentence with?	A full stop, exclamation mark or punctuation mark.	He left the ship. Why did he leave the ship? He's escaping the ship!
2	What do <u>commas</u> do in a sentence?	Separate items in a list and relative clauses in a sentence.	You can go to the <u>cinema, swim, play tennis</u> or eat in York.
3	What are <u>parenthetic commas</u> used for?	They separate a word, phrase or clause in a sentence.	Mr Jones, <u>the science teacher</u> , usually has a sandwich for lunch.
4	What are <u>speech marks</u> used for?	To indicate the beginning and end of speech.	"I saw Johnny in Tesco last night" said mum.
5	What are <u>quotation marks</u> ?	They indicate a quotation taken from a piece of writing.	This is evident when he writes ' <u>spools of suffering</u> '.
6	What is a <u>semi-colon</u> used for?	To link two independent clauses that are related.	Dad is going bald; <u>his hair is getting thinner and thinner.</u>
7	What is a <u>colon</u> used for?	Introduces a clause that gives greater detail or a list.	He got what he worked for; <u>he really earned that promotion.</u>
8	What is <u>ellipsis</u> used for?	Punctuation to show missing text.	And I remember...I was afraid.
9	Why is a <u>hyphen</u> used?	It links two or more words together.	User- <u>friendly, back-to-back.</u>
10	How is a <u>dash</u> different to a <u>hyphen</u> ?	A <u>hyphen</u> separates two parts of a sentence for emphasis.	Paul sang his song terribly – <u>and he thought it was brilliant!</u>
11	What is an <u>apostrophe</u> used for?	To show ownership or missing letters.	Should not = <u>shouldn't</u> The <u>boy's</u> car.
12	What are <u>parenthetic brackets</u> used for?	Add further information to the sentence.	He finally responded (<u>having thought for five minutes</u>) to the question.

Sentences come in a variety of forms and can be changed into a variety of forms for effect also.

	Questions	Answers	Examples
1	Can I remember what a <u>clause</u> is?	A clause is a group of related words containing a subject and a verb. It can stand alone.	The dog (n) walked (v)
2	What is the effect of a <u>simple sentence</u> ?	It expresses a single idea or can be used for emphasis.	He realised the truth.
3	When do writers choose to use a <u>compound sentence</u> ?	When they want to develop an idea by joining clauses together.	He realised the truth <u>and</u> it wasn't what he had hoped.
4	What is a <u>main clause</u> ?	The main part of a sentence that can stand on its own.	She sat on a chair.
5	What is a <u>subordinate clause</u> ?	The part of a sentence that depends on a main clause to make sense.	<u>Because she was tired</u> , she sat on a chair.
6	What does an <u>adverbial phrase</u> do?	It modifies the verb or adjective for effect.	He <u>clumsily grabbed</u> for the rung of the ladder.
7	Can you place <u>adverbials</u> in different parts of a sentence?	Yes. Fronted adverbials place can be placed before a main clause to hold back detail.	<u>Clumsily</u> , he grabbed for the rung of the ladder.
8	When do writers use <u>noun phrases</u> ?	When they want to build details around a person, place or object.	She put her head down on the <u>brown, wooden table</u> .
9	How can <u>verb phrases</u> be used?	To develop a sense of movement or intention of a noun.	Knowing he was in danger, <u>James ran.</u>
10	How can <u>adjectival phrases</u> be used?	It can develop detail around the noun it modifies.	She had <u>extremely menacing eyes</u>
11	What can a <u>prepositional phrase</u> add to a sentence?	It adds context to tell us the position of something.	<u>Underneath the stars</u> , they lay quietly.