Grammar Terms Explained

Nouns	
Nouns	Naming words. door, horse, David, Mr. Churchill.
Common nouns	Naming words without a capital letter. door, horse, wall, aeroplane.
Proper nouns	Naming words with a capital letter (people's names, places, days, months, festivals, titles). David, Mr. Churchill, Pacific Ocean, Tuesday, The Tower of London.
Collective nouns	Naming words for a group or collection of things. A **flock** of sheep, a **herd** of elephants, an **army** of soldiers.
Abstract nouns	Naming words for feelings, qualities or times. His **happiness** showed clearly; they were famous for **heroism**; the **morning** was frosty.
Pronouns	Take the place of nouns. **She** devoured an apple; **he** flew a kite; **they** shouted the loudest.
Expanded noun phrase	A phrase with an adjective/s describing or modifying the noun. wooden table; dark, curly hair; blue sky.

Adjectives	
Adjectives	Describing words usually used before a noun. A **colossal** statue, a **magnificent** house.
Comparative adjectives	Adjectives that compare two nouns. Darker or heavier.
Superlative adjectives	Adjectives that compare three or more nouns. Darkest or heaviest.

Verbs and Adverbs	
Verbs	Action or doing words which vary depending on tense. I walk, I am walking, I walked, I was walked, I have walked, I had walked, I shall walk.
Adverbs	Tell us how, when or why something happens or is done. They are used to modify a verb, adjective or another adverb. Usha **soon** started snoring **loudly**. [adverbs modifying the verbs *started* and *snoring*] That match was **really** exciting! [adverb modifying the adjective *exciting*] We don't get to play games **very** often. [adverb modifying the other adverb, *often*]
Adverbial Fronted adverbial	A word or phrase that is used, like an adverb, to modify a verb or clause. A fronted adverbial is when this is at the start of a sentence. **Before the sun set**, we had pitched camp. The bus leaves **in five minutes**.

Synonyms and Antonyms	
Antonym	Two words are antonyms if their meanings are opposite. dark – light hot – cold light – heavy
Synonym	Two words are synonyms if they have the same meaning, or similar meanings. talk – speak old - elderly rich – wealthy

Types of words	
Conjunction	Links two word or phrases together.
Co-ordinating conjunctions	Links two words or phrases together as an equal pair. James bought a bat **and** a ball. [links the words *bat* and *ball* as an equal pair] Kylie is young **but** she can kick the ball hard. [links two clauses as an equal pair] FANBOYS = for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.
Subordinating conjunctions	Introduces a subordinate clause. Everyone watches **when** Kyle does back-flips. Joe can't practise kicking **because** he's injured.
Preposition	Links a following noun, pronoun or noun phrase to some other word in the sentence. Tom waves goodbye **to** Christy. She'll be back **from** Australia **in** two weeks.

	Prepositions often describe locations or directions, but can describe other things, such as relations of time.
	I haven't seen my dog **since** this morning.
	I live **opposite** the park.
Preposition phrase	Has a preposition as its head followed by a noun, pronoun or noun phrase.
	He was **in bed**.
	I met them **after the party**.
Contractions	Shortened forms of words where an apostrophe replaces missing letters.
	Mustn't (must not), we'll (we will), I'm (I am).
Articles	The articles *a* or *an* (indefinite articles) or *the* (definite article) are the most common type of determiner.
	The dog found **a** bone in **an** old box.
Determiner	Specifies a noun as known or unknown and it does before any adjectives or other nouns.
	the, a, an, this, those, my, your, some, every
Singular	A word meaning one.
	Person, shoe, cat
Plural	A word meaning more than one.
	People, shoes, cats

Parts of words	
Root word	A word that can stand alone.
Word family	A group of words that share a common root to which different prefixes and suffixes are added.
	Root word: work
	Re**work**, **work**er, **work**ing, **work**shop, and **work**manship.
Prefixes	Added to the front of words to change them and their meaning.
	Unsuitable, **dis**agree, **tri**angle.
Suffixes	Added to the end words to change them and their meaning.
	Jump**ing**, high**er**, manage**ment**.
Compound words	A word that contains at least two root words.
	Whiteboard, superman, blackbird, bookshop.

Parts of sentences	
Subject and Object	The subject is who or what the sentence is about, the object is who or what is having something done to it.
	The cat [subject] drinks the milk [object].
Phrase	A group of words, a part of a sentence. Groups of words are only a clause if they have a subject and a verb.
	…scampered away.
Clause	A group of words containing a subject and a verb. They can sometimes be complete sentences.
	The dog scampered away.
	It was raining.
Main clauses	(also known as independent clauses) must contain a proper verb and can be a sentence on its own or part of a longer sentence.
	The music was playing.
Subordinate clauses	(also known as dependent clauses) must be connected to a main clause in order to make a sentence. As I left the room…
Relative clause	A special type of subordinate clause that uses a relative pronoun such as who, which when and that.
	That's the boy who lives near school.
	The girl, who has brown hair, like puppies.
Embedded clause	A type of subordinate clause - a clause within another clause.
	The girl, who has brown hair, like puppies.
Sentences	Must begin with a capital letter, end with a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark and make sense (must have a subject and a verb).
Complex Sentences	Have two or more clauses that are not of the same importance. The main clause can make sense by itself but the other clauses cannot.
	The road was covered in snow which fell swiftly during the night.
Compound Sentences	Made up of two or more main clauses joined by 'and', 'but' or 'or'.
	The truck was stuck in the snow and the driver couldn't move it.

Verb Forms	
Tense	Verb form which indicates time.
Verb	An action or 'doing' word.
Infinitive –	A verb (can be noun, adjective or adverb) that begins with to. To be, to be seen, to be eaten.
Past	Verbs that talk about the past, talk about imagined situations and to make a request sound more polite. He can swim Jamal goes to the pool every day.
Present	Verbs that talk about the present and that talk about the future.
Future	Reference to future time can be marked in a number of different ways in English. All these ways involve the use of a present-tense verb. He will leave tomorrow. He may leave tomorrow.
Progressive	Describes events in progress. It is formed by combining the verb's present participle (e.g. singing) with a form of the verb *be*. He was singing. He was dancing.
Perfect	The perfect form of a verb generally calls attention to the consequences of a prior event; for example, he has gone to lunch implies that he is still away, in contrast with he went to lunch. It is another way of establishing time relations in a text. The perfect tense is formed by: • turning the verb into its past participle inflection • adding a form of the verb have before it. She has downloaded some songs. [present perfect; now she has some songs] I had eaten lunch when you came. [past perfect; I wasn't hungry when you came]
Active voice	When the subject of a sentence does the action, the verb is active (in contrast with passive Dave weeded the garden. Tim did the shopping.
Passive	When the subject of the sentence has the action done to it, the verb is passive. The garden was weeded by Dave. The shopping was done by Tim. The light was switched off.
Modal verb	Modal verbs are used to change the meaning of other verbs. They can express meanings such as certainty, ability, or obligation. The main modal verbs are will, would, can, could, may, might, shall, should, must and ought.
Subjunctive	These are verbs that are used in formal styles. The school requires that all pupils **be** honest. The school rules demand that pupils not **enter** the gym at lunchtime. If Zoë **were** the class president, things would be much better.

Types of speech	
Direct Speech	The actual words that someone has said with speech marks around them. Jane announced, "I need to go to the doctor."
Reported Speech (also known as indirect speech)	When we write about what someone has said without using the actual words and without using speech marks. Jane announced that she needed to go to the doctor.

Punctuation	
Capital letter	1. To start a new sentence. 2. For proper nouns (names of people, places, days, months) 3. For the personal pronoun I 4. Religious words 5. Acronyms, for example HPS (Hayes Primary School)
Full stop	To mark the end of a statement. My book is neat.

Commas	1. To separate items in a list. My favourite colours are red, green and blue. 2. To separate clauses in a sentence. While I was running, I saw two squirrels playing in a tree. 3. To separate direct speech from the reporting verb. Tim replied, "I go swimming every week."
Exclamation mark	1. To mark the end of an exclamation sentence. What an amazing story you've written! 2. To show strong feeling. "STOP IT!" she shouted.
Question mark	To mark the end of a question. Are you happy today?
Semi-colon	1. To separate two main clauses where the semi-colon replaces a conjunction. I love cherries; I love strawberries more. 2. To separate items in a longer list. My favourite fruits are juicy, yellow pineapple; sweet, orange mangoes; bright, red cherries.
Colon	1. To introduce a list after a main clause. I love lots of different fruits: apples, bananas, kiwis and satsumas. 2. To separate two main clauses that are closely linked, where the second explains the first. Vegetables are very good for you: they provide the body with essential vitamins and minerals.
Dash	To include information in a sentence that is not essential to the main point.
Hyphen	To join two or more words to make a compound adjective. The **dark-eyed** girl The **frost-covered** field
Inverted commas	Are written in pairs around direct speech or quotations to show the words a person is saying.
Parentheses (commas, brackets and dashes)	Parentheses are used to add extra information to a main clause. Parentheses are marked with commas, brackets or dashes to separate them from the rest of the sentence. The bus, red and shiny, took us to school. The earthquake (5.6 Richter scale) destroyed much of the city.
Apostrophe	Apostrophes have two completely different uses: • showing the place of missing letters (e.g. I'm for I am) • marking possessives (Hannah's mother; the girls' coats).
Possessive	A possessive can be: • a noun followed by an apostrophe, with or without s • a possessive pronoun. **Tariq's** book The **boys'** arrival **His** obituary That essay is **mine**.
Ellipsis	To show that something is missing from a sentence.

Other
Cohesion	A text has cohesion if it is clear how the meanings of its parts fit together. Cohesive devices can help to do this. In the example, there are repeated references to the same thing (shown by the different style pairings), and the logical relations, such as time and cause, between different parts are clear. **A visit** has been arranged for <u>**Year 6**</u>, to the <u>Mountain Peaks Field Study Centre</u>, leaving school at 9.30am. **This** is **an overnight visit**. <u>The centre</u> has beautiful grounds and a *nature trail*. During the afternoon, <u>**the children**</u> will follow *the trail*.
Cohesive device	Cohesive devices are words used to show how the different parts of a text fit together. In other words, they create cohesion. Some examples of cohesive devices are: • determiners and pronouns, which can refer back to earlier words • conjunctions and adverbs, which can make relations between words clear Joe was given a bike for Christmas. He liked it very much. [the pronouns refer back to Joe and the bike] We'll be going shopping before we go to the park. [conjunction; makes a relationship of time clear]
Standard English	Standard English can be recognised by the use of a very small range of forms such as those books, I did it and I wasn't doing anything (rather than their non-Standard equivalents); it is not limited to any

| | particular accent. It is the variety of English which is used, with only minor variation, as a major world language. Some people use Standard English all the time, in all situations from the most casual to the most formal, so it covers most registers. The aim of the national curriculum is that everyone should be able to use Standard English as needed in writing and in relatively formal speaking.

I did it because they were not willing to undertake any more work on those houses. [formal Standard English]
I did it cos they wouldn't do any more work on those houses. [casual Standard English]
I done it cos they wouldn't do no more work on them houses. [casual non-Standard English] |