

GRAMMAR

The basics

WHAT IS GRAMMAR?

"The whole system and structure of a language or of languages in general, usually taken as consisting of syntax and morphology (including inflections) and sometimes also phonology and semantics."

Oxford Dictionary

How we put words together to give a meaning or express an idea.

THE TERMINOLOGY

- Noun - Denotes a place, person or object
- Pronoun - Replaces a noun to avoid repetition
- Verb - Expresses an action or process
- Adjective - Provides more detail about a noun
- Adverb - Provides detail about how the verb is being carried out
- Preposition - Provides detail about the location of the noun
- Conjunction (or connective) - Words or phrases that link clauses within a sentence

IT ALL STARTS WITH A SENTENCE

Children are exposed to sentences and their structures through reading, writing and speech.

They learn that a sentence (or clause) is a group of words, about one subject, that make sense.

A simple sentence:

The dog barked
The subject + a verb

Growing a simple sentence

"A picture is worth a thousand words."

Frederick R. Barnard

- By adding adjectives and adverbs to simple sentences they become more descriptive, giving the reader a more vivid idea of what the writer is conveying.
- As children progress through the year groups, they are expected to develop a wider, more ambitious, range of descriptive language to support the effect of their writing on their reader.

GROWING A SIMPLE SENTENCE

How can you grow the following sentence using adjectives and/or adverbs?

The girl danced.

COMPOUND SENTENCES

- Clauses (sentences) can be linked together with connecting words- conjunctions (connectives).
- A compound sentence links two clauses using a coordinating conjunction:

The dog barked and the baby cried.
 ↑
 Coordinating conjunction

- Coordinating conjunctions can be remembered with FANBOYS.

For And Nor But Or Yet So

COMPLEX SENTENCES

- As confidence grows in linking phrases, complex sentences are introduced
- A complex sentence :
 - Shows how two ideas or events are related to each other
 - Or
 - Provides extra detail about specific words or phrases in a clause
- They always consist of a main clause and at least one subordinate clause

COMPLEX SENTENCES

Diagram illustrating the structure of a complex sentence:

The children sprinted inside when it started to pour with rain.

Labels and arrows:

- The children sprinted inside: Main clause
- when: Coordinating conjunction
- it started to pour with rain.: Subordinate clause

- A subordinate clause does not make sense on its own and needs the main clause for it to be a complete sentence.

PUNCTUATION

Not including the correct punctuation for the context can alter a text's meaning.



PUNCTUATION

- Marks the end of a sentence: . ?
- Shows the boundaries within sentences , : ; - ()
- As children progress they are expected to increase their use of a wider range of punctuation to support the effect of their writing on their reader

Questions



Something puzzling you still?
Please feel free to ask any of the staff if you have further
questions about grammar.