



St Martin of Porres Catholic Primary School

Year 6 Grammar Terminology

A friendly guide for parents and carers

As promised at our Year 6 Curriculum Meeting, here is a list of some of the key grammar terms your child will come across during Year 6.

Please don't worry if some of these terms are unfamiliar! The aim of this guide is simply to help you understand the language we use in school and make it easier to support your child at home.

Word Classes

Noun – A word that names a person, place, thing or idea.

e.g. teacher, London, book, happiness

Pronoun – A word used instead of a noun.

e.g. he, she, they, it, we

Verb – A word that describes an action, occurrence or state.

e.g. run, think, become, was

Adjective – A word that describes a noun.

e.g. enormous, beautiful, freezing

Adverb – A word that gives more information about a verb, often telling us how, when or where something happens.

e.g. quickly, carefully, yesterday

Preposition – A word that shows a relationship between one thing and another, often indicating place or time.

e.g. under, beside, between, before, during

Conjunction – A word that joins words, phrases or clauses together.

e.g. and, but, because, although, while

Determiner – A word that comes before a noun and helps to identify it.

e.g. the, a, an, some, many, these

Sentences and Clauses

Subject – The person, animal or thing that carries out the action in a sentence.

The dog chased the ball.

The **dog** is the subject.

Object – The person, animal or thing that receives the action.

The dog chased the ball.

The **ball** is the object.

Clause – A group of words containing a verb.

Main clause – A clause that makes sense on its own.

The children ran outside.

Subordinate clause – A clause that does not make complete sense on its own and depends on the main clause.

Although it was raining...

Relative clause – A type of subordinate clause that gives additional information about a noun. It often begins with **who, which, that, whose, where** or **when**.

The girl, who was wearing a red coat, ran home.

Punctuation

Comma (,) – Used to separate items, clauses or parts of a sentence and to make meaning clear.

Apostrophe (') – Used to show possession or missing letters.

Sarah's book / don't

Colon (:) – Can be used to introduce a list, explanation or example.

You need three things: a pencil, a ruler and a rubber.

Semi-colon (;) – Can join two closely related main clauses.

The rain stopped; the sun came out.

Dash (—) – Can be used to add extra information or create emphasis.

There was only one thing left to do — run!

Brackets () – Used to add extra information that could be removed without changing the main meaning of the sentence.

The children (who had been waiting patiently) finally entered.

Parenthesis – Extra information added to a sentence. This can be shown using **brackets, commas or dashes**.

Ellipsis (...) – Three dots used to show a pause, hesitation or that something has been left unsaid.

Verb Terminology

Tense – Shows when an action happens.

Past tense – Something that has already happened.

She walked home.

Present tense – Something happening now or generally.

She walks home.

Future tense – Something that will happen.

She will walk home.

Modal verb – A verb that shows possibility, ability, permission or necessity.

e.g. might, could, should, must, will, can

Active voice – When the subject performs the action.

The boy kicked the ball.

Passive voice – When the subject receives the action.

The ball was kicked by the boy.

Other Important Terms

Phrase – A group of words that does not contain a complete verb.

Subject–verb agreement – The subject and verb must match correctly.

The boy runs.

The boys run.

Synonym – A word with the same or similar meaning.

big → enormous

Antonym – A word with the opposite meaning.

hot → cold

Prefix – A group of letters added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning.

un + happy = unhappy

Suffix – A group of letters added to the end of a word.

help + ful = helpful

Contraction – A shortened form of two words.

do not → don't

they are → they're

Standard English – The form of English expected in formal speaking and writing.

A little tip for home

When helping your child with homework or reading, you don't need to use all the grammar terminology. Encourage them to **explain why** they have chosen a particular punctuation mark, word or sentence structure.

For example:

"Why have you used a comma here?"

"Which word is the verb?"

"Can you make that sentence more precise?"

"What effect does that adjective have on the reader?"

Regularly talking about grammar in this way will help your child become more confident and independent as they prepare for their **Year 6 SATs and secondary school**.

Thank you for your continued support!