

Year 2—Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation Glossary of Terms

Adjective	A word which describes a noun.	shiny, fragrant , beautiful
Adverb	A word which describes how a verb action is being carried out.	Noisily, carefully
Apostrophe ,	A punctuation mark used to show possession or to represent missing letters in a contracted form. See also possessive apostrophe.	Can't Didn't Marie's house Tom's ball
Comma ,	A punctuation mark used in a sentence to mark a slight break between different parts of a sentence or to separate clauses or items in a list.	Apple, orange, banana, pear and kiwi
Command	A type of sentence which instructs or orders an action to take place. Contains an imperative verb which does not need a subject.	Eat your dinner. Next add the eggs to the mixture.
Common exception word	A word which does not follow the common phonetic spelling rules of the language, or where the usual rules act in an unusual way.	Mother, only, beautiful
Comparative	The comparative form of an adjective compares one thing with another.	Bigger, taller, happier
Compound sentence	Formed by joining two main clauses with a co-ordinating conjunction. The two clauses can stand on their own as sentences.	I like dogs <i>but</i> my friend likes cats.
Compound word	A combination of two or more individual words that have a single meaning.	Football carwash sunflower
Conjunction	A word that joins two clauses.	And but because so
Contracted word	Short words made by putting two words together and omitting some letters, which are replaced by an apostrophe.	Did not = didn't
Co-ordination	The joining of clauses in a way that gives each one equal importance.	I am seven <i>and</i> my friend is eight.
Coordinating conjunction	A conjunction which joins two main clauses to create a compound sentence.	for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so

Exclamation	A sentence which expresses surprise or wonder, and ends with an exclamation mark in place of a full stop. Begins with the words 'how' or 'what' and must also contain a verb.	What big eyes you have Grandma! 'How cold it is today!'
First person	A sentence is written in the first person if it is written from the point of view of the subject.	I we us
Grammar	The rules that cover spoken and written language	
Homophone	Words that sound the same but have different meanings. Some have different spellings and meanings but sound the same - for example, ';' some are spelt the same but have different meanings - for example, 'fair' ('	there/ their/they're 'Let's go to the fair! /'That's not fair '
Noun phrase	A small group of words that does not contain a verb. A noun phrase contains a noun plus words to describe it.	the spotty, black dog
Past tense	Any one of a set of verb tenses which describe action that took place in the past.	Jumped, ran, skipped
Past progressive tense	Also known as past continuous tense, a form of the past tense where something goes on for a period of time in the past. Usually formed by adding the suffix '-ing' to a verb.	I <i>was walking</i> in the park.
Possessive apostrophe	An apostrophe used before the letter s to show ownership.	This is Sally's coat
Present tense	Any one of a set of tenses that describe actions which are happening now.	Read, sleep, hunt
Present progressive tense	A tense which describes an action which began in the past and is still going on now.	I am learning to speak French
Question	A type of sentence which asks a question. It either begins with one of the question words (who, what, where, when, how, why) or reverses the (pro) noun/verb order in a statement - for example, 'Sarah is washing the dishes' becomes 'Is Sarah washing the dishes?'	How old are you? Where are you going?
Statement	A sentence that conveys a simple piece of information.	It is a sunny day today.
Subordinating conjunction	A conjunction that connects a main clause to a subordinating clause.	Because, until, when, if, so, that
Subordination	The joining of clauses and phrases in a way that links a main clause to a subordinate clause that does not stand alone.	I will go shopping when it stops raining.
Superlative	A form of an adjective used to compare one object to all others in its class. Usually formed by adding the suffix '-est' or the word 'most'.	Fastest, biggest, strongest, Most beautiful
Syllable	A sequence of speech sounds in a word. The number of syllables in a word sounds like the 'beats' in the word, and breaking a word into syllables can help with spelling.	One syllable = dog, cat, man Two syllable = teacher Three syllable = manager
Time conjunction	Words or phrases which tell the reader when something is happening.	After dinner you must do your homework