

Year 3—Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation Glossary of Terms

Clause	Clauses are the building blocks of a sentence. They are groups of words that contain a subject and a verb. They can be 'main' or 'subordinate'.	
Complex sentence	Formed by joining a main clause with a subordinate clause using a subordinating conjunction. They can also be called multi-clause sentences. The main clause can stand alone but the subordinate or dependent clause cannot.	I take my dog to the park every day, even though sometimes it is raining.
Consonant	Any letter of the alphabet other than the vowels (a, e, i, o, u).	b, c, d, f, g, h etc
Direct speech (Reported speech)	A sentence where the exact words spoken are represented, and shown in speech marks (also known as inverted commas).	"Tidy your room, please," said Mum.
Formal speech	A type of speech or writing used in formal, 'serious' texts and situations. Children in primary school start to be taught the difference between the language we use when speaking informally (for example, to our friends) and the language we may use for a formal text, such as a letter of complaint.	I would like to suggest that...
Inverted commas	Punctuation marks used to demarcate direct speech in a sentence. Also known as <i>speech marks</i> .	" "
Main clause	The leading clause in a sentence which indicates the main subject and action of the sentence. It makes sense by itself (without any other clauses or explanation).	'Even though the weather is bad, <u>I will go for a walk</u> '.
Paragraph	A distinct section of a piece of writing, which usually has a single theme. It is indicated by starting a new line or indenting the start of the first sentence.	
Preposition	A linking word in a sentence, used to show where things are in time or space.	Under, after, next to, behind
Root word	A basic word with no prefix or suffix added to it. Adding prefixes and suffixes can change the meaning of a root word.	happy unhappy
Simple sentence	Has a subject and one verb. See also compound sentence and complex sentence.	Tom is walking.
Subject	The subject of a sentence is the thing or person carrying out the main action.	<u>The cow</u> ate the grass.
Subordinate clause	A clause that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence, but is linked to a main clause using a subordinating conjunction. It does not express a complete thought, and if read on its own it requires additional information.	I take my dog to the park every day, even though <u>sometimes it is raining</u> .
Vowel	The letters a, e, i, o and u.	
Word family	A group of words which may share a common root word or morphology.	'happy', 'unhappy', 'happiness', 'happily', 'unhappiness', 'unhappily'.