Year 3—Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation Glossary of Terms

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Abstract noun	A feeling or concept which cannot be touched.	Love, happiness, education
Adverbial phrase	A phrase built around an adverb.	'as quickly as possible', 'very rudely'.
Article	Words which tell us if a noun is general or specific. 'The' is called the 'definite article' and refers to specific nouns: 'The 'indefinite articles' are 'a' and 'an', referring to general nouns.	**The** man's hat is blue. **A** cow eats grass.
Common noun	Describes a class of objects (e.g. dog, man, day) which do not have a capital letter (e.g. Rover, John, Tuesday). See also proper nouns.	
Concrete noun	Something you can touch. Can be common nouns, or proper nouns that need a capital letter.	bed, pencil, Mr Smith,
Determiner	A word that introduces a noun and identifies it in detail. This may be a definite or indefinite article (a, an, the), a demonstrative (this, that), possessive (your, my), a quantifier (some, many) or a number (six, ten, half).	
Fronted adverbial	Words or phrases used at the beginning of a sentence, used like adverbs to describe the action that follows.	With a happy smile, she skipped into the room.
Imperative verb	A verb, used in a bossy way, that stands alone without a subject noun or pronoun in a command.	**Put** that away. **Go** to your room.
Phrase	A small group of words that does not contain a verb.	Over the hill Far away
Possessive pronoun	A pronoun which is used to show ownership. Some can be used on their own ('mine', 'yours', 'his', 'hers', 'ours', 'theirs'), whilst others need to be attached to a noun ('my', 'your', 'her', 'our', 'their', 'whose').	
Personal pronoun	A pronoun which replaces a person, place or thing. For example, 'I', 'you', 'he', 'she', 'we', 'they', 'it', 'me', 'him', 'her', 'us', 'them'.	James was swimming. **He** dived to the bottom of the pool.
Prepositional phrase	A phrase which contains a preposition.	Under the carpet, after school
Pronoun	Any word which can be used to replace a noun.	I found a treasure chest. **It** was covered in dust.
Proper noun	A noun which names a particular person, place or thing and therefore needs a capital letter.	'John', 'London', 'France', 'Monday', 'December'.