

Oakdale Primary
School's
Grammar and
Punctuation Guide
for Parents



Year 3 and 4

Introduction

The use of grammar and the understanding of grammatical terminology is now expected of all primary school aged children. Children learn grammar at Oakdale in context during their literacy lessons. In order to reinforce this (often quite complex learning) we will send home regular grammar consolidation work as homework.

This parent's guide has been put together with explanations of the grammar terms used in different year groups across school; with examples so that parents are better able to support their children at home. We hope that you find it useful.



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Nouns and pronouns

A proper noun is the name of a person or a place, these start with capital letters. A common noun describes a class of objects and does not have a capital letter. A pronoun is a word which replaces a noun.

For example:

***Sarah, Peterborough** (proper nouns)*

***car, animal, planet, door,** (common nouns)*

*Tom walked into the room, **he** could feel the buzz around **it**. (pronouns)*

Modifying adjectives

Adjectives are used in sentences to give extra detail. They describe nouns (the names of things). They can be used to create expanded noun phrases.

For example:

*The **large, black** cat moved silently.*

*When the **wooden** door opened, the **rusty** hinges creaked.*

Conjunctions

Conjunctions are words which are used to connect clauses or sentences or to coordinate words in the same clause. Conjunctions are words such as: because, but, yet, so, and, if, when, while, although.

They can be used in different places in a clause or a sentence.

For example:

***While** I was sleeping, my cat crept into my room.*

*The children got very wet **because** it rained all the way home.*

Adverbs

Adverbs are words or phrases which can modify the meaning of an adjective, a verb or another adverb. They can be separated into different categories:

Manner (gently); Place (here); Time (later) or Degree (very).

For example:

*I **gently** placed the figurine on the shelf.*

***Here** is where the dog escaped from.*

***Later** that day the children ate lunch.*

*It was **very** important that the class finish the book.*

Expanded noun phrases

Noun phrases are groups of words which work together and contain a noun. Expanded noun phrases add extra detail.

For example:

The girl - (noun phrase)

*The girl with **red** hair (expanded by an adjective)*

*The girl with **red** hair **skipped quickly** across the road. (expanded by an adjective, verb and adverb)*

Single and multi-clause sentences.

Sentences are made up of collections of words called '**clauses**' and 'phrases'. It is easy to recognise a **clause** because it could be a complete sentence on its own. Single clause sentences are short, multi-clause sentences are longer and more complex.

For example:

He ran. (Single clause sentence made of a *noun* and a *verb*)

The doctor looked into the boy's ear, noticing that it looked very red and sore.

(a multi-clause sentence)

Direct speech and inverted commas

Direct speech is the reporting of speech by repeating the actual words of a speaker.

Inverted commas are used to show, in writing, which words are being spoken. These are also often referred to as speech marks.

For example:

"I'm going," she said.

"The doors will open soon," explained the shopkeeper.

Prepositions and preposition phrases

Prepositions come before a noun or a pronoun to explain its relationship (or position) to other words in the sentence.

For example:

*The man **on** the platform.*

*She arrived **after** dinner.*

***Under** the bridge, lived the troll.*

*It was **behind** the sofa that she found the toy car she had been looking for.*

Present perfect form of verbs

Present perfect tense is used for activities that started in the past but are still true now, or have an effect on what is happening now.

For example:

*We **have been** best friends all that time.*

*My friend Bob **has lived** in this town all his life.*

*My teacher says I **have taken** on some good habits in my writing.*

Apostrophes

Apostrophes can be used in two different ways. To replace letters in words which have been contracted (shortened) and to show possession of plural nouns.

For example:

He had not slept all night.

*He **hadn't** slept all night. (contraction)*

*The **boy's** reading book was worn and tatty from being read so many times.
(possession)*

Fronted Adverbials

Fronted adverbials can be adverbs (see adverb page) and adverbial phrases. They start a sentence and can help when varying sentence openings.

For example:

***In the distance,** he could see the ship moving towards the shore.*

***Totally overwhelmed,** the captain of the football team lifted the trophy.*

***As soon as she could,** the dancer rushed to the studio to rehearse.*