

St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School

Parents Information

Grammar – An Idiot’s Guide!

Year Group	Grammar	Definition	Example
R	sentence	A group of words that are put together to mean something – must include a verb, capital letter and full stop.	The sky is blue. Today is Monday Her dress looked beautiful.
1	noun	Name of a person, place or thing. 4 types: Common – table, cat (Year 1) Proper – John, England (Year 2) Collective – pride, gaggle, flock (Year 3) Abstract – love, bravery (Year 4)	1. The cat sat on the table . 2. John lives in England . 3. Lions live together in a pride . 4. Can you feel the love ?
1	adjective	A word that describes a noun.	The dog was enormous and very fierce .
1	verb	An action or doing word. Some verbs are irregular – see – saw / seen catch – caught	She waited patiently. She has been waiting She waits
1	singular	Singular forms refer to one thing – noun.	Cat Church Child Tooth
1	plural	Plural forms refer to more than one – noun. Plural usually marked by addition of – s, es. Some plurals are irregular. Some nouns are mass nouns and do not change in the plural.	cats, churches teeth, feet fish, sheep

1	conjunction	Used to join two ideas together within one sentence.	He needed his coat because it was cold. The curtains danced in the wind while the windows crashed.
1	preposition	A word that shows the position of a noun.	The box was under the table. I was inside the house. The clouds above
2	pronoun	A word in place of a noun. Avoids repetition.	They were on the bus. He sat down quietly.
2	adverb	Adverbs give extra meaning to a verb, an adjective or a whole sentence.	I really enjoyed the party. (<i>adverb + verb</i>) She's really nice. (<i>adverb + adjective</i>) He works really slowly. (<i>adverb + adverb</i>) Really , he should know better. (<i>adverb + sentence</i>)
2	connectives	Used to join a new sentence to the previous.	We went to the park and played on the swings. Then we had an ice cream.
2	imperative	To express the action of the subject.	He sat quietly on the chair. Next, slowly turn the tap on.
2	present tense	Writing which expresses events happening now.	Joyce is skipping and singing a song. Rex is looking out of the car window. Rosie looks confused !
2	past tense	Writing which expresses events that have already occurred.	Joyce skipped and sang a song. Rex looked out of the car window.
2	suffix	A group of letters added to the end of a word to change its grammatical use.	assess ment quick ly beautif ul
2	prefix	A group of letters added to the beginning of a word to change its grammatical use.	dis miss un tidy in edible

3	determiner	<p>Words used with nouns – this book, my friend, a book, the book.</p> <p>They limit the reference to the noun.</p> <p>They include articles (a / an, the), possessive pronouns, demonstratives (this / that, those / these) and quantifiers (some, many, no etc) and numbers.</p>	<p>This book is yours.</p> <p>I've got some sweets.</p> <p>I will have an apple.</p> <p>Which colour do you prefer?</p>
3	clause	<p>Contains a subject and a verb.</p> <p>There are two types of clauses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Independent – this can stand alone. 2. Dependent – works only as a whole sentence. It could begin with after, although, because, if, when, while. 	<p>Independent:</p> <p>She can leave the office now.</p> <p>Dependent clause:</p> <p>because she finished work early.</p>
3	phrase	<p>A small group of closely related words with no verb.</p>	<p>If you can</p> <p>At the museum</p> <p>Propositional phrases:</p> <p>In the house</p> <p>Under water</p> <p>Out of here</p>
3	paragraph	<p>A section of a piece of writing.</p> <p>A new paragraph marks a change of focus, change of time, change of place or change of speaker.</p> <p>Should be marked by a new line and a <u>clear</u> indent.</p>	
3	collective noun	<p>Name of a person, place or thing.</p> <p>4 types:</p> <p>Common – table, cat (1)</p> <p>Proper – John, England (2)</p> <p>Collective – pride, gaggle, flock (3)</p> <p>Abstract – love, bravery (4)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The cat sat on the table. 2. John lives in England. 3. Lions live together in a pride. 4. Can you feel the love?
3	relative pronoun	<p>Introduce a relative clause – who, whom, which, that</p>	<p>The train was late, which annoyed me greatly.</p> <p>This is Sam, who can play the piano.</p>
3	subject	<p>The noun or pronoun that is carrying out the action in the sentence.</p>	<p>The dog broke the window.</p> <p>The children ripped the paper.</p>

3	object	The object in the sentence that is having the action done to it.	The dog broke the window . The children ripped the paper .
4	subordinate clause	A clause with a subject and a verb but cannot stand alone, so is in addition to the main clause.	Although I was scared , I crept inside. I crept inside is the main clause as it can stand alone and still make sense.
4	relative clause	A clause (with verb) using who, whom, which, whose to relate it back to the subject but that cannot stand alone.	Polly's hair, which was long and brown , hung loosely around her head. The boy was funny, which made me smile .
4	possessive noun	Tell who owns something.	They can be in front of a noun or after: my pen / That pen is mine .
4	adverbial	Adverbials of manner – how Adverbial of place – where Adverbials of time – when / how often Adverbials of probability – how certain we are	Shouted loudly . He drove as fast as possible . I saw him over there . They start work at six thirty . In a minute , I will start. Perhaps we should go. He will certainly say yes.
4	abstract noun	Name of a person, place or thing. 4 types: Common – table, cat (1) Proper – John, England (2) Collective – pride, gaggle, flock (3) Abstract – love, bravery (4)	1. The cat sat on the table . 2. John lives in England . 3. Lions live together in a pride . 4. Can you feel the love ?
4	fronted adverbial	The use of an adverb to begin a sentence to make the sentence more interesting.	On the table stood a vase of flowers. Next to the window was a bookcase. At the end of the lane , Bob paused.
4	article	A, an or the!! A sub-category of determiners.	an elephant a bear the teddy

5	modal verb	To show if we believe something is certain, probable or possible – or not! <i>can/could, may/might, shall/should, will/would, must/ought.</i>	Perhaps I should stay behind. Can I get you a drink? Sam will be here soon. I must go now.
5	cohesion	The structure rules that allow ideas to be compiled together. If you start writing in the past tense you would stay writing in the past tense to keep the writing in cohesion.	I went to the market this morning and bought a soda; then, I went to the store a few hours later and purchased another root beer.
5	ambiguity	The presence of two or more possible meanings within a single word.	The Rabbi married my sister. The fisherman went to the bank . “You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windscreen: it said, ‘ Parking Fine .’ So that was nice.”
6	active voice	Verbs can be active or passive. In an active sentence the subject performs the action.	The dog bit Ben. The subject is performing the action.
6	passive voice	In a passive sentence the subject is on the receiving end of the action.	Ben was bitten by the dog. The subject is on the receiving end of the action.