Year 5 Glossary

The following glossary includes all of the technical grammatical terms taught through the national curriculum for English in year 5.

The first column indicates the year group in which the concept is first introduced. Where a circled number is recorded, children are required to know and use the terminology from that year group forwards.

	Term	Guidance	Example
1 ②	adjective	 The surest way to identify adjectives is by the ways they can be used: before a noun, to make the noun's meaning more specific (i.e. to modify the noun), or after the verb be, as its complement. Adjectives cannot be modified by other adjectives. This distinguishes them from nouns, which can be. 	It was a beautiful cake. [The adjective modifies the noun] The cake was delicious . [the adjective follows the verb, be]
2	adverb	The surest way to identify adverbs is by the ways they can be used: they can modify a verb, an adjective, another adverb or even a whole clause. Adverbs have many different meanings and functions. They are especially important for indicating the time, manner, place, degree and frequency of something.	I never get up early at the weekends. [time] Walk across the road carefully! [manner] When we got there, the tickets had sold out. [place] It's rather cold, isn't it? [degree] I'm always losing my keys. [frequency] Secondly, I finished the sausage roll. [number]
4	adverbial	An adverbial is a word or phrase that is used, like an adverb, to modify a verb or clause. Adverbials of time answer the question 'when'. Of course, adverbs can be used as adverbials, but many other types of words and phrases can be used this way, including preposition phrases and subordinate clauses.	The bus leaves in five minutes. [preposition phrase as adverbial: modifies leaves] She promised to see him last night. [noun phrase modifying either promised or see, according to the intended meaning] She worked until she had finished. [subordinate clause as adverbial]
(5)	ambiguity	Ambiguity is the fact of something having more than one possible meaning and therefore possibly causing confusion.	The class were astonished by the man eating shark.

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2	apostrophe	The apostrophe 'is a punctuation mark. It serves two purposes: Omission - the marking of omission of one or more letters (as in the contraction of do not to don't). Possession - the marking of possessive case (as in the eagle's feathers, or in one month's time).	do not becomes don't [the apostrophe marks the omission of the letter o in the contracted form] He picked up the eagle's feather. [the apostrophe marks the possessive case – the feather belonging to the eagle]
4	article	The articles <i>the</i> (definite) and <i>a</i> or <i>an</i> (indefinite) are the most common type of determiner.	The dog found a bone in <u>an</u> old box.
i	auxiliary verb	The auxiliary verbs are: be, have, do and the modal verbs.	They are winning the match. [be used in the progressive]
		They can be used to make questions and negative statements. In addition:	Have you finished your picture? [have used to make a question, and the perfect]
		 be is used in the progressive and passive have is used in the perfect 	No, I don't know him. [do used to make a negative; no other auxiliary is present]
		 do is used to form questions and negative statements if no other auxiliary verb is present 	Will you come with me or not? [modal verb will used to make a question about the other person's willingness]
(5)	bracket	Brackets are the symbols () that are put around a parenthesis: a remark that is added to a sentence, often to provide an explanation or extra information. Brackets show that what is inside	Bernard (the fastest child in the school) won the 100 metre sprint.
		them should be considered as separate from the main part of the sentence.	
1 ③	clause	A clause is a special type of phrase whose head (the word around which it is based) is a verb.	It was raining. [single-clause sentence]
		Clauses can sometimes be complete	It was raining but we were indoors. [two finite clauses]
		sentences. Clauses may be main or subordinate.	If you are coming to the party, please let us know. [finite subordinate clause inside a finite main clause]
			Usha went upstairs to play on her computer. [non-finite clause]
4 (5)	cohesion	A text has cohesion if it is clear how the meanings of its parts fit together. Cohesive devices can help to do this.	A visit has been arranged for Year 6, to the Mountain Peaks Field Study Centre, leaving school at 9.30am. This is an overnight visit. The centre has beautiful grounds and a nature

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		In the example, there are repeated references to the same thing (shown by the different style pairings), and the logical relations, such as time and cause, between different parts are clear.	trail. <i>During the afternoon, the</i> children will follow the trail.
4	cohesive device	Cohesive devices are words used to show how the different parts of a text fit together.	Joe was given a bike for Christmas. He liked it very much. [the pronouns refer back to Joe and the bike]
		These devices support repeated references to the same thing using noun phrases; logical relations, such	We'll be going shopping before we go to the park. [conjunction; makes a relationship of time clear]
		as time and cause, through conjunctions and links across paragraphs using adverbials of time, place and number.	I'm afraid we're going to have to wait for the next train. Meanwhile, we could have a cup of tea. [adverb; refers back to the time of waiting]
			Where are you going? [] To school! [ellipsis of the expected words I'm going; links the answer back to the question]
2	command	A command is one of the four sentence types.	Be my friend.
		The purpose of a command is to give	Get down! Shut the door, please.
		instructions or orders.	Shut the door, please.
		Imperative verbs are used and the subject may be redundant.	
		Commands may be punctuated with either a full-stop or an exclamation mark.	
2	compound, compounding	A compound word contains at least two root words in its morphology.	superman, whiteboard
2 ③	conjunction	A conjunction links two words or phrases together. There are two main types of conjunctions:	James bought a bat and ball. [links the words bat and ball as an equal pair]
		co-ordinating conjunctions (e.g. and) link two words or phrases together as an equal pair	Kylie is young but she can kick the ball hard. [links two clauses as an equal pair]
		 subordinating conjunctions (e.g. when) introduce a subordinate clause. 	Everyone watches when Kyle does back-flips. [introduces a subordinate clause]
			Joe can't practise kicking because he's injured. [introduces a subordinate clause]
3	consonant	Most of the letters of the alphabet represent consonants. Only the letters <i>a</i> , <i>e</i> , <i>i</i> , <i>o</i> , <i>u</i> and <i>y</i> can represent vowel sounds.	

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2	co-ordinate, co-ordination	Words or phrases are co-ordinated if they are linked as an equal pair by a co-ordinating conjunction (i.e. and, but, or). In the examples on the right, the co-ordinated elements are shown in bold, and the conjunction is underlined. The difference between co-ordination and subordination is that, in subordination, the two linked elements are not equal.	Susan and Amra met in a café. [links the words Susan and Amra as an equal pair] They talked and drank tea for an hour. [links two clauses as an equal pair] Susan got a bus but Amra walked. [links two clauses as an equal pair]
(5)	dash	The dash is the symbol – used to separate parts of a sentence.	Her youngest sister – the one who lives in Australia – is coming over next summer.
4	determiner	A determiner specifies a noun as known or unknown, and it goes before any modifiers (e.g. adjectives or other nouns). Some examples of determiners are: • articles (the, a or an) • demonstratives (e.g. this, those) • possessives (e.g. my, your) • quantifiers (e.g. some, every).	the home team [article, specifies the team as known] a good team [article, specifies the team as unknown] that pupil [demonstrative, known] Julia's parents [possessive, known] some big boys [quantifier, unknown] Contrast: home the team, big some boys [both incorrect, because the determiner should come before other modifiers]
2	exclamation	An exclamation is one of the four sentence types. The form of an exclamation's main clause is one that begins either how or what and where the verb is placed at the end of the clause. Its purpose is to exclaim. It is punctuated with an exclamation mark. Exclamation sentences differ from exclamations. Without the verb, it is not a sentence.	What a good friend you are! How wonderful you look tonight!
4	fronting, fronted	A word or phrase that normally comes after the verb may be moved before the verb: when this happens, we say it has been 'fronted'. For example, a fronted adverbial is an adverbial which has been moved before the verb. When writing fronted phrases, we often follow them with a comma.	Before we begin, make sure you've got a pencil. [Without fronting: Make sure you've got a pencil before we begin.] The day after tomorrow, I'm visiting my granddad. [Without fronting: I'm visiting my granddad the day after tomorrow.]

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4	inflection	When we add -ed to walk, or change mouse to mice, this change of morphology produces an inflection ('bending') of the basic word which has special grammar (e.g. past tense or plural). In contrast, adding -er to walk produces a completely different word, walker, which is part of the same word family. Inflection is sometimes thought of as merely a change of ending, but, in fact, some words change completely when inflected.	dogs is an inflection of dog. went is an inflection of go. better is an inflection of good.
\$	modal verb	Modal verbs are used to change the meaning of other verbs. They can express meanings such as certainty, ability, or obligation. The main modal verbs are will, would, can, could, may, might, shall, should, must and ought.	I can do this maths work by myself. This ride may be too scary for you! You should help your little brother. Is it going to rain? Yes, it might.
4	modify, modifier	One word or phrase modifies another by making its meaning more specific. Because the two words make a phrase, the 'modifier' is normally close to the modified word.	 In the phrase primary-school teacher: teacher is modified by primary-school (to mean a specific kind of teacher) school is modified by primary (to mean a specific kind of school).
1 ②	noun	Nouns are sometimes called 'naming words' because they name people, places and 'things'; this is often true, but it doesn't help to distinguish nouns from other word classes. The surest way to identify nouns is by the ways they can be used after determiners such as the: for example, most nouns will fit into the frame "The matters/matter." Nouns may be classified as: proper — the name of a person, places, or thing (i.e. its own name). It includes days of the week and months of the year, but not seasons. Proper nouns start with a capital letter. common — a class of person, place or thing. It does not have a capital letter (e.g. car, animal or planet).	Our dog bit the burglar on his behind! My big brother did an amazing jump on his skateboard. Actions speak louder than words. Not nouns: He's behind you! [this names a place, but is a preposition, not a noun] She can jump so high! [this names an action, but is a verb, not a noun] common, countable: a book, books, two chocolates, one day, fewer ideas common, non-countable: money, some chocolate, less imagination proper, countable: Marilyn, London, Wednesday

	Term	Guidance	Example
		Subclasses of common nouns include:	
		countable – things you can count (e.g. boy, thing)	
		non-countable - things you cannot count (e.g. food, music)	
		abstract – the name of things you cannot see or touch (e.g. love).	
		gerunds – nouns formed from verbs, ending -ing. (e.g. swimming).	
(5)	parenthesis	A parenthesis is a remark that is added to a sentence, often to provide an explanation or extra information, that is separated from the main part of the sentence by commas, brackets, or dashes.	Her youngest sister - the one who lives in Australia - is coming over next summer.
2	past tense	Verbs in the past tense are commonly used to:	Tom and Chris showed me their new TV. [names an event in the past]
		talk about the pasttalk about imagined situationsmake a request sound more	Antonio <u>went</u> on holiday to Brazil. [names an event in the past; irregular past of go]
		polite. Most verbs take a suffix –ed, to form their past tense, but many	I wish I had a puppy. [names an imagined situation, not a situation in the past]
		commonly-used verbs are irregular.	I <u>was</u> hoping you'd help tomorrow. [makes an implied request sound more polite]
2	perfect	The perfect form of a verb generally calls attention to the consequences of a prior event; for example, he has	Usha <u>had been practising</u> for an hour when I called. [past perfect progressive]
		gone to lunch implies that he is still away, in contrast with he went to lunch. 'Had gone to lunch' takes a past time point (i.e. when we	She has downloaded some songs. [present perfect; now she has some songs]
		arrived) as its reference point and is another way of establishing time relations in a text. The perfect tense is formed by:	I had eaten lunch when you came. [past perfect; I wasn't hungry when you came]
		 turning the verb into its past participle inflection adding a form of the verb have before it. 	
		The simple tenses (present and past) may be combined in English with the perfect and progressive.	

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2	phrase	A phrase is a group of words that are grammatically connected so that they stay together, and that expand a single word, called the 'head'. The phrase is a noun phrase if its head is a noun, a preposition phrase if its head is a preposition, and so on; but if the head is a verb, the phrase is called a clause. Phrases can be made up of other phrases.	She waved to her mother. [a noun phrase, with the noun mother as its head] She waved to her mother. [a preposition phrase, with the preposition to as its head] She waved to her mother. [a clause, with the verb waved as its head]
1	plural	A plural noun normally has a suffix – s or –es and means 'more than one'. There are a few nouns with different morphology in the plural (e.g. <i>mice</i> , <i>formulae</i>).	dogs [more than one dog] boxes [more than one box] mice [more than one mouse]
4	possessive	 A possessive can be: a noun followed by an apostrophe, with or without s a possessive pronoun. The relation expressed by a possessive goes well beyond ordinary ideas of 'possession'. A possessive may act as a determiner. 	Tariq's book [Tariq has the book] The boys' arrival [the boys arrive] His obituary [the obituary is about him] That essay is mine. [I wrote the essay]
1 ③	prefix	A prefix is added at the beginning of a word in order to turn it into another word. Contrast suffix.	overtake, disappear
3	preposition	A preposition links a following noun, pronoun or noun phrase to some other word in the sentence. Prepositions often describe locations or directions, but can describe other things, such as relations of time. Words like before or since can act either as prepositions or as conjunctions.	Tom waved goodbye to Christy. She'll be back from Australia in two weeks. I haven't seen my dog since this morning. Contrast: I'm going, since no-one wants me here! [conjunction: links two clauses]
4	preposition phrase	A preposition phrase has a preposition as its head followed by a noun, pronoun or noun phrase.	He was in bed. I met them after the party.
2	present tense	Verbs in the present tense are commonly used to: • talk about the present • talk about the future. They may take a suffix —s (depending on the subject).	Jamal goes to the pool every day. [describes a habit that exists now] He can swim. [describes a state that is true now] The bus arrives at three. [scheduled now] My friends are coming to play. [describes a plan in progress now]

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2	progressive	The progressive (also known as the 'continuous') form of a verb generally describes events in progress. It is formed by combining the verb's present participle (e.g. singing) with a form of the verb be (e.g. he was singing). The progressive can also be combined with the perfect (e.g. he has been singing).	Michael is singing in the store room. [present progressive] Amanda was making a patchwork quilt. [past progressive] Usha had been practising for an hour when I called. [past perfect progressive]
4	pronoun	Pronouns are normally used like nouns, except that: • they are grammatically more specialised • it is harder to modify them In the examples, each sentence is written twice: once with nouns, and once with pronouns (underlined). Where the same thing is being talked about, the words are shown in bold.	Amanda waved to Michael. She waved to him. John's mother is over there. His mother is over there. The visit will be an overnight visit. This will be an overnight visit. Simon is the person: Simon broke it. He is the one who broke it.
1	punctuation	Punctuation includes any conventional features of writing other than spelling and general layout: the standard punctuation marks.,;:?!()""', and also word-spaces, capital letters, apostrophes, paragraph breaks and bullet points. Handwriting is a key factor in communicating correct punctuation. One important role of punctuation is to indicate sentence boundaries.	John went to his house. He stayed there till tea-time. You are my friend. [statement] Are you my friend? [question] Be my friend! [command] What a good friend you are! [exclamation]
2	question	A question is one of the four sentence types. The form of a question's main clause is one in which an auxiliary or modal verb is moved to the front of the clause. Its purpose is to ask for information. It is punctuated with a question mark.	Are you my friend?
(5)	relative clause	A relative clause is a special type of subordinate clause that modifies a noun. It often does this by using a relative pronoun such as who or that to refer back to that noun, though	In the examples, the relative clauses are underlined, and both the pronouns and the words they refer back to are in bold.

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		the relative pronoun <i>that</i> is often omitted.	That's the boy who lives near school. [who refers back to boy]
		A relative clause may also be attached to a clause. In that case,	The prize that I won was a book. [that refers back to <i>prize</i>]
		the pronoun refers back to the whole clause, rather than referring back to a noun.	The prize I won was a book. [the pronoun that is omitted]
		back to a riouri.	Tom broke the game, which annoyed Ali. [which refers back to the whole clause]
5	relative pronoun	Relative pronouns are pronouns used to refer back to the noun.	I went for a walk. It was lovely.
		used to refer back to the noun.	[Both the relative pronoun and the word it refers back to are in bold].
1	root word	Morphology breaks words down into root words, which can stand alone,	played [the root word is play]
		and suffixes or prefixes which can't.	un <u>fair</u> [the root word is <i>fair</i>]
		For example, <i>help</i> is the root word for other words in its word family such as <i>helpful</i> and <i>helpless</i> , and also for its inflections such as <i>helping</i> .	football [the root words are foot and ball]
		Compound words (e.g. help-desk) contain two or more root words.	
		When looking in a dictionary, we sometimes have to look for the root word (or words) of the word we are interested in.	
1	sentence	A sentence is a group of words	You are my friend. [statement]
		which are grammatically connected to each other but not to any words outside the sentence.	Are you my friend? [question] Be my friend. [command]
		The form of a sentence's main	What a good friend you are!
		clause shows whether it is being used as a statement, a question, a command or an exclamation.	[exclamation]
		A sentence may consist of a single clause or it may contain several clauses held together by subordination or co-ordination. Sentences should be classified using the terms 'single-clause sentence' and 'multi-clause sentence'.	
2	statement	A statement is one of the four sentence types.	You are my friend.
		The form of a statement has its usual pattern of subject – verb – object.	
		Its purpose is to convey a fact or piece of information.	

	Term	Guidance	Example
		It is punctuated with a full-stop.	
2	subordinate, subordination	A subordinate word or phrase tells us more about the meaning of the word it is subordinate to.	We can watch TV <u>when we've</u> <u>finished</u> . [when we've finished is subordinate to watch]
		Subordination can be thought of as an unequal relationship between a subordinate word and a main word. For example:	<u>biq</u> dogs [big is subordinate to dogs] <u>Big dogs</u> need <u>long walks</u> . [big dogs and long walks are subordinate to need]
		 an adjective is subordinate to the noun it modifies subjects and objects are subordinate to their verbs. 	
		Subordination is much more common than the equal relationship of co-ordination.	
3	subordinate clause	A clause which is subordinate to some other part of the same	That's the street where Ben lives. [relative clause; modifies street]
		sentence is a subordinate clause; for example, in <i>The apple that I ate was sour</i> , the clause <i>that I ate</i> is	He watched her as she disappeared. [adverbial; modifies watched]
		subordinate to <i>apple</i> (which it modifies). Subordinate clauses	What you said was very nice. [acts as subject of was]
		contrast with co-ordinate clauses as in <i>It was sour but looked very tasty</i> . (Contrast: main clause)	She noticed an hour had passed. [acts as object of noticed]
		However, clauses that are directly quoted as direct speech are not subordinate clauses.	Not subordinate: <i>He shouted, "Look out!"</i>
1②	suffix	A suffix is an 'ending', used at the	call – called
		end of one word to turn it into another word. Unlike root words, suffixes cannot stand on their own	teach – teacher [turns a verb into a noun]
		as a complete word.	terror – terrorise [turns a noun into a verb]
			green – greenish [leaves word class unchanged]
2	tense	In English, tense is the choice between present and past verbs,	He <u>studies</u> . [present tense – present time]
		which is special because it is signalled by inflections and normally indicates differences of time.	He <u>studied</u> yesterday. [past tense – past time]
		The simple tenses (present and past) may be combined in English with the	He <u>studies</u> tomorrow, or else! [present tense – future time]
		perfect and progressive.	He <u>may study</u> tomorrow. [present tense + infinitive – future time]
			He <u>plans</u> to <u>study</u> tomorrow. [present tense + infinitive – future time]

	Term	Guidance	Example
			If he <u>studied</u> tomorrow, he'd see the difference! [past tense – imagined future]
1②	verb	A verb is a word or phrase that describes an action, state, or feeling.	He <u>lives</u> in Birmingham. [present tense]
		The surest way to identify verbs is by the ways they can be used: they can	The teacher <u>wrote</u> a song for the class. [past tense]
		usually have a tense, either present or past (and also future).	He <u>likes</u> chocolate. [present tense; not an action]
		Verbs are sometimes called 'doing or being words'.	He <u>knew</u> my father. [past tense; not an action]
3	vowel	In the English writing system, the letters <i>a</i> , <i>e</i> , <i>i</i> , <i>o</i> , <i>u</i> and <i>y</i> can represent vowels.	
1	word	A word is a unit of grammar: it can be selected and moved around relatively independently, but cannot easily be split. In punctuation, words are normally separated by word spaces.	
		Sometimes, a sequence that appears grammatically to be two words is collapsed into a single written word, indicated with a hyphen or apostrophe (e.g. well-built, he's).	
3	word family	The words in a word family are normally related to each other by a combination of morphology, grammar and meaning.	teach – teacher extend – extent – extensive grammar – grammatical – grammarian