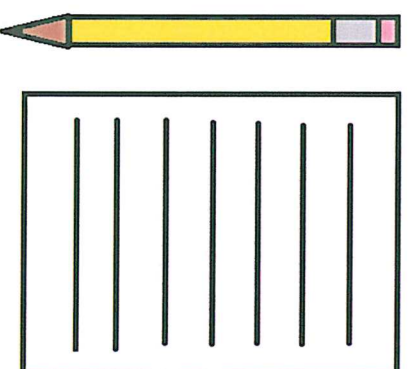


Cusgarne School

Year 6

Grammar Guide



For pupils and parents—a guide to some key grammar skills to help understand what your child will be learning this year



The Basics

Here are some of the most important things that Year 6 children need to know and remember from previous years:

Nouns: These are often known as "naming" words. They name people, animals, places or things.

Examples: Lucy cat beach table teacher

Adjectives: Describe or give more information about a noun

Examples: bright tired dangerous useless hungry

Verbs: These are often known as "action" words. They describe what a person or thing is doing or being.

Examples: climb bounce write hope is was

Adverbs: Add information about a verb (and sometimes an adjective or another adverb). They provide information about how, when, where, why or how often something is happening.

Examples: carefully (how) immediately (when) downstairs (where) therefore (why) always (how often) secondly Perhaps

Sentence Example:

Adjective Noun Verb Adverb

The frightened rabbit jumped backwards.

Practice Question: Label the noun (a), adjective (b), verb (c) and adverb (d) in the following sentence:

The frustrated fisherman sat down.

Year 6 Grammar Skills

Active and Passive Voice

The 'voice' of a sentence determines whether the subject (the focus of the sentence) is doing or receiving an action. It changes how the information in a sentence is presented. In a sentence using the active voice the subject of the sentence is performing the action:

The giant hailstone smashed the windscreen on our car.

This sentence is in the active voice because the subject of the sentence (**the hailstone**) is performing the action/verb (the smashing).

In a sentence using the passive voice the subject of the sentence is receiving the action:

The windscreen on our car was smashed by the giant hailstone.

This sentence is in the passive voice because the subject (**the windscreen**) is receiving the action/verb (the smashing).

Top Tip: The word 'by' is often used in the passive voice as it reveals who or what did perform the action at the end of the sentence.

Practice Question: Change this sentence from the active voice into the passive voice.

The furious director cancelled the evening performance.

Year 6 Punctuation

Semi-colons ;

Semi colons can be used to join two related main clauses (parts of a sentence that make sense by themselves) that have a strong link or relationship between them and are equally important

Example 1: The race was over; all the training was worth it.

Both parts of the sentence make sense by themselves so they are main clauses. They are closely related because the second main clause provides a reflection on the race mentioned in the first main clause.

Example 2: I stepped inside the building; I gasped in awe.

The two main clauses are linked as the second gives a reaction to what was inside the building mentioned in the first. Both clauses make sense on their own so they are main clauses.

Practice Question

Which of these sentences uses a semi-colon correctly?

1. He was waiting for me; as I was late again.
2. He was waiting for me; I was in a lot of trouble.
3. He was waiting for me; tapping his watch impatiently.

Before adverbs

A semi colon can also be used before certain adverbs such as **however**, **therefore**, **consequently** and **nevertheless** when they connect two parts of a sentence.

Example 3: Most pupils enjoyed the book; however, some children said it was too long.

Example 4: Regular exercise is important; therefore, I go running twice a week.

Year 6 Punctuation

Colons :

Colons can be used to connect a main clause with a clause, phrase or word that explains the main clause. The two parts of the sentence must have a strong link.

Example 1: The meal was awful: the sauce was cold and lumpy.
The second clause explains the first main clause.

Example 2: It was right there in front of me: the golden sword.
The phrase at the end explains what was mentioned in the main clause at the start of the sentence

Example 3: Mika knew what he had to do: win.

The single word 'win' explains the main clause. In a sentence like this the colon also helps emphasise the point as it causes the reader to pause before the key point.

Practice Question

Say whether the following sentences should use a colon or semi-colon to link the two parts.

1. Millie continued climbing she was cold and exhausted.
2. There was just one problem Aunt Spiker.
3. Mr Smith was calm and friendly however, we all knew it wouldn't last long.
4. The weather was amazing there wasn't a cloud in sight.

Remember: A colon should be used if the second part of the sentence directly explains the first part. A semi colon is used if both clauses are equally important.

Year 6 Punctuation

Colons to introduce lists

A colon can be used to introduce a list of items. It should always follow a complete statement.

Example 1: You will need the following equipment: a mixing bowl, a wooden spoon and kitchen scales.

The opening statement is complete so a colon is correct to use before the list.

Example 2: You need a mixing bowl, a wooden spoon and kitchen scales.

The opening statement is an incomplete statement so a colon shouldn't be used before the items.

Example 3: You will need to pack some key essentials: sunglasses, sun cream, towels and goggles.

The opening statement is complete so a colon is correct to use before the items.

Semi-colons within lists

Semi-colons can make complicated lists much clearer to understand, especially if the items already contain commas.

Example: I have travelled to many places around the world:

Lisbon, Portugal; Riga, Latvia; Venice, Italy and Kampala, Uganda.

A comma is already necessary to separate city names from their countries so using commas between each different place would be very confusing; therefore, a semi colon separates the different places. The opening statement is complete so a colon is again correct to use before the list of places.

Year 6 Grammar Skills

Synonyms and Antonyms

Words that have a similar meaning to each other are called synonyms. A thesaurus is full of synonyms because it lists all the words that you could use as a replacement for the word you used.

Synonym Examples

Word	Synonyms
excited	thrilled happy enthusiastic
jump	leap hurdle vault shoot spring
upset	sad distressed troubled unhappy

An antonym is a word that has the opposite meaning to any given word. They are helpful when trying to describe differences between two contrasting things.

Antonym Examples

Word	Antonyms
excited	bored calm unenthusiastic
dangerously	safely carefully cautiously
upset	happy pleased content joyful

Practice Question: Complete the table below by finding a synonym and antonym for each word. Imagine you are a thesaurus.

	Synonym	Antonym
1. confusing		
2. disturbingly		