

Year 2



Grammar Guide

A guide to the key grammar skills and terminology that your child will be learning this year with examples and practice questions to help you support them at home.

The Basics

Here are some of the most important things that Year 3 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.

Expanded noun phrases

Expanded noun phrases are used for description and specification.

The red door, blue butterfly, the unkind teenage girl, the man in the moon.

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

The tired farmer slowly walked home.

Conjunctions

Conjunctions are used to connect two or more parts of a sentence.

There are two types of conjunctions: co-ordinating and subordinating

Co-ordinating Conjunctions are used to link words, phrases and clauses that are as important as each other (equally important).

Here are some examples: **and but or so yet**

Example 1: Linking words

I saw my auntie and uncle at the weekend.

The 'and' links the nouns auntie and uncle together.

She went swimming and running at the leisure centre.

The 'and' links the verbs swimming and running together.

Example 2: Linking phrases

I will tidy my room, but not the whole house.

The 'but' links the main clause to the phrase 'not the whole house'.

Example 3: Linking main clauses

The artist finished her painting but she wasn't happy with the picture.

The 'but' links the **main clause** 'The artist finished her painting' with a second **main clause** 'she wasn't happy with the picture'.

The two main clauses in Example 3 are equally important.

Practice Question (read both pages first)

Circle the conjunction in each sentence below.

Is it a **co-ordinating** or **subordinating conjunction**?

1. Tom ran home, but I stayed at the park.

Conjunctions continued...

A main clause makes complete sense by itself and it could be a sentence on its own. It will include a subject and a verb.

A subordinate clause doesn't make sense by itself and depends on being linked to a main clause for it to have meaning. A subordinate clause adds extra information to a main clause by explaining **when, where or why something** is happening.

Subordinating Conjunctions are used to link subordinate clauses to main clauses. They show that the two parts of the sentence are not equal. Here are some examples:

when before after if because whilst since

Example 4: You can have your pocket money if you complete your homework.

The **subordinating conjunction** 'if' links the main clause, 'You can have your pocket money' with the subordinate clause, 'If you complete your homework'

Subordinating conjunctions can also be used at the start of a sentence.

Example 5: Before eating her dinner, Katie washed her hands.

The **subordinating conjunction** 'before' links the main clause, 'Katie washed her hands' with the subordinate clause, which explains when she washed her hands.

Past and Present Tense

Tenses indicate the timing (past, present or future) of an action in a sentence and affect how the verb in a sentence is used.

Past Tense (simple)

I jumped She climbed We shouted James ran Pat ate

Past tense shows an action that began and ended in the past. For this simple form of past tense we usually just add **-ed** to the end of the verb, but there are some irregular verbs like **ran** and **ate**.

Present Tense (simple)

I hope She sings We play Doris walks Peter eats

Present tense shows an action that is happening right now.

Past Progressive Tense

The past progressive tense shows an action that was happening (in progress) at the same time something else happened. It is formed by using **was** or **were** with the **-ing** form of the verb, e.g. **was running**

I was eating dinner when there was a knock at door.

'**was eating**' shows that the eating was in progress when the knock at the door happened.

When they were playing in the garden, the ground started to shake.

'**were playing**' shows that the ground started to shake whilst the playing was in progress.

Present Progressive Tense shows an action is continuing (is in progress) currently. It uses is, are or am with the **-ing** form of the verb. For example:

We are making pancakes.

I am winning the game.

Luke is finishing his work.

Year 3 Punctuation

Use of capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks to demarcate sentences.

Capital letters

Capital letters are used for names of people, places, the days of the week, and the personal pronoun 'I'

Capital letters are always used to start a sentence.

He loves cake.

Capital letters for proper nouns.

Nouns are naming words.

Proper nouns are naming words for individual people, places, days of the week and months of the year.

Proper nouns all need capital letters.

Common Nouns	Proper Nouns
girl	Helen
country	England
city	Sheffield
football team	Nottingham Forest
day/month	Monday/September

Personal pronoun 'I'

When we are writing about ourselves we use the personal pronoun 'I'.

I am going to the park.

Full stop

A full stop is the most common way of ending a sentence. If a sentence is not a question, or an expressing a strong feeling or emotion, it probably ends in a full stop.

The dog ran to the shop.

I walked home.

Question mark

A question mark ends a sentence that is a question.

What is your name?

How old are you?

Tip:

Do not use a question mark after indirect or reported questions.

John and Lisa to the cinema.

I'm wondering if you are going to smile.

Exclamation mark

An exclamation mark ends a sentence that shows a strong feeling like surprise or anger. You can also use them to show someone is shouting or raising their voice.

Hey! Stop it!

Wow! I never expected that to come.

Exclamation sentences

Sentences ending in an exclamation mark start with what or how.

How amazing is that!

What a beautiful day!

Apostrophes ' ’

There are two reasons to use apostrophes:

1. To show possession (something belongs to it)
2. To show omission (replaces missing letters in a word)

Apostrophes to show possession (belonging)

The girl's hat (the hat belongs to the girl)

Fred's lunchbox (the lunchbox belongs to Fred)

Apostrophes to show omission (missing letters)

Don't -short for 'do not' - the apostrophe replaces the 'o'

We're -short for 'we are' - the apostrophe replaces the 'a'

Inverted Commas "" (speech marks)

Inverted commas, also known as speech marks, are used to show what is being said in a sentence.

Examples:

"I wouldn't do that if I were you." warned the teacher.

Sam asked, "Do you want to come with me?"

The start of speech always needs a capital letter.

There should always be punctuation (. ! ?) before you close the

Comma

Commas can be used to separate items in a list .

A comma tells us when to take a short pause.

Commas used to separate items in a list.

The fruit bowls have oranges and apples and pears and kiwis and bananas.

In the sentence above the word 'and' is used too often. To avoid repetition we use commas to separate items in a list.

Commas used to separate items in a list.

The fruit bowls have oranges, apples, pears, kiwis and bananas.

We need to put an 'and' between the last two items in a list.

Things to avoid

Don't put a comma before the first item in your list:

The party was, fun, loud and exciting. X

Don't put a comma in a list of just two items:

For tea we are having tea, and toast. x

Terminology for children

Noun

Noun phrase statement

Question,

Exclamation

Command

Compound

Suffix

Prefix

Adjective

Adverb

verb tense (past, present)

Apostrophe

Comma

Paragraph

Direct speech

Speech marks