

Help with Grammar– parent leaflet

Word classes

- Nouns name things, ideas or people. They can be concrete, common, proper, abstract or collective.

e.g. cat, Derek, castle, love, fact

- Adjectives describe nouns. They can be absolute, comparative or superlative.

e.g. red cat; hirsute Derek; bleak, intimidating castle; undying love; interesting fact

- Verbs are doing or being words. They can behave in a range of ways.

e.g. kick, is, feel, seem

- Adverbs describe how, where, and when things happen. They 'describe' verbs.

e.g. peacefully, carefully, outside, by the car, tomorrow, today

- Pronouns are used in place of nouns.

e.g. Jack tried to carry Jack's bag but Jack's bag was too heavy for Jack.

Jack tried to carry his bag but it was too heavy for him.

- Prepositions are words (sometimes a group of words) that show the relationship between two parts of a sentence e.g. where, when, who.

e.g. The old man waited at the bus stop by the post office.

The match was pretty much all over after 10 minutes.

The lion was killed by the hunter

- Conjunctions link together phrases, clauses or ideas in a sentence.

e.g. They went to the beach however it was too cold.

The children played while the bread was baking.

Changing Sentences

- Phrases- word or words which perform a particular job in a sentence e.g. noun, verb, adverb.

The soldier, the slope, an arrow, descended, fired, she

- Clauses-a combination of phrases which includes a verb.

The soldier descended the slope

fired an arrow

- Sentences-1 or more clauses which combine to create meaning.

The soldier descended the slope and fired an arrow.

- Pupils are encouraged to expand noun and verb phrases using adjectives and adverbs.

The brave and determined soldier descended the snowy slope quietly and fired a deadly, poison-tipped arrow.

Sentence types

- Simple sentence-a sentence which has only one clause.

The dragon guarded the cave.

- Compound sentence-two or more simple sentences joined by a conjunction.

The dragon guarded the cave and he scratched the ground near the entrance.

- Complex sentence-two or more clauses linked together in one sentence.

They contain a main clause and subordinate clause.

The main clause is a standalone sentence-it also makes the main point of the sentence.

A subordinate clause has a subject and verb. It depends on the main clause to make sense.

Certain connectives indicate a complex sentence e.g. although, but, until, when.

The dragon guarded the cave when the orb started glowing.

Everything was quiet until the storm began.

Until the storm began, everything was quiet.

When the orb started glowing, the dragon guarded the cave.

Active and passive sentences

- Most sentences are SUBJECT/VERB/OBJECT i.e. the thing carrying out the action does the action on the thing receiving it. These are active.

The dragon guarded the cave. Norah consumed the enormous apple pie.

The Saxons hoarded the gold.

- Passive sentences have the word order changed. (OBJECT/VERB/VERB/SUBJECT) and the 'doer' of the action is at the end or even hidden. It is considered more formal or more technical.

The cave was guarded by the dragon. The cave was guarded.

The enormous apple pie was consumed by Norah. The enormous apple pie was consumed.

The gold was hoarded by the Saxons. The gold was hoarded.