



SPaG
terminology
booklet



At Dunston Primary and Nursery School, pupils are taught to use a range of SPaG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) terminology throughout key stage 1 and key stage 2.

To support your children with this learning, this booklet breaks down the language pupils use in each year group.

Please speak to a member of staff if you have any additional questions.

Year 6 terminology:

Subject	The subject of a sentence is the thing or person carrying out the main action. For example, 'The <u>cow</u> ate the grass'.
Object	The object of a sentence is involved in the action but does not carry it out. For example, 'I dropped <u>my cup</u> on the floor'.
Active	A sentence written in the active voice has the subject of the sentence carrying out the main action.
Passive	A sentence is written in the passive voice when the subject is having something done to it. For example, 'The mouse was chased by the cat'.
Synonym	A word which has exactly or nearly the same meaning as another word., e.g. laugh/giggle.
Antonym	A word with the opposite meaning to another, e.g. good/bad, wise/foolish, long/ short.
Ellipsis	Three dots which are used to show missing words or to create a pause for effect. For example, 'So...tell me what happened'.
Hyphen	A punctuation mark used to link and join words, and often used to reduce ambiguity in sentences: for example twenty-seven, brother-in-law, man-eating, long-legged.
Colon	A punctuation mark used in a sentence to indicate that something is about to follow, such as a quotation, an example or a list. For example, 'I need three things from the shop: milk, eggs and bread'.
Semi-colon	A punctuation mark used in a sentence to separate major sentence elements. A semicolon can be used between two closely related independent clauses , provided they are not already joined by a coordinating conjunction . For example, 'My car is red; my friend's car is blue'.
Bullet point	A way of setting information out in a list of points, which may be phrases , words or short sentences .

Year 4 terminology:

Determiner	A word that introduces a noun and identifies it in detail. This may be a definite or indefinite article (a, an, the), a demonstrative (this, that), possessive (your, my), a quantifier (some, many) or a number (six, ten, half).
Pronoun	Any word which can be used to replace a noun, e.g. mine, yours, his, hers, myself, themselves, that, which, who etc...
Possessive pronoun	A pronoun which is used to show ownership. Some can be used on their own ('mine', 'yours', 'his', 'hers', 'ours', 'theirs'), whilst others need to be attached to a noun ('my', 'your', 'her', 'our', 'their', 'whose').
Adverbial	A phrase built around an adverb – for example 'as quickly as possible', 'very rudely'.

Year 5 terminology:

Modal verb	A special verb which affects the other verbs in the sentence by showing obligation (e.g. 'You <u>should</u> do your homework'), possibility (e.g. 'I <u>might</u> have pizza for tea'), ability (e.g. 'You <u>can</u> ride a bike now') or permission (e.g. 'You <u>may</u> go out now').
Relative pronoun	A pronoun used in a relative clause (who, that, which).
Relative clause	A relative clause is a type of subordinate clause that adapts, describes or modifies a noun by using a relative pronoun (who, that or which). For example, 'He ate too many cakes, <u>which</u> made him feel ill'.
Parenthesis	See brackets .
Bracket	A punctuation mark used to set a non-essential section of a sentence apart. Also known as parenthesis. For example, 'My friend Chloe (who is three months older than me) is coming to my house tonight'.
Dash	Used in a similar way to brackets or parentheses to set information apart in a sentence . For example, 'My three friends – Jack, Sam and Callum – are coming to my house for tea'.
Cohesion	A sentence will have cohesion if all its parts fit together, for example if tenses and pronouns are consistent and determiners refer to the correct noun.
Ambiguity	A sentence contains ambiguity if it could be open to more than one meaning. Pupils are taught to use hyphens to avoid ambiguity; for example, the sentence 'Jaws is about a man eating shark' could be ambiguous, but with the insertion of a hyphen becomes much clearer: 'Jaws is about a <u>man-eating shark</u> '.

Year 1 terminology:

Letter	A character representing one or more of the sounds used in speech; any of the symbols of an alphabet.
Capital letter	A letter used at the beginning of a sentence and for proper nouns . They may also be used at the beginning of the important words in a title or sign, for example, 'Keep Off the Grass'.
Word	A single distinct meaningful element of speech or writing, used with others (or sometimes alone) to form a sentence and typically shown with a space on either side when written or printed.
Singular	Referring to only one. Use of the singular may affect the nouns, pronouns and verbs in a sentence .
Plural	More than one. Using plurals can affect the nouns and verbs in a sentence .
Sentence	One word or a group of words that makes sense by itself (a grammatical unit). Begins with a capital letter and ends with a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark . Usually contains a subject and always contains a verb .
Full stop	A punctuation mark used to demarcate the end of a statement or command .
Question mark	A punctuation mark which indicates a question and comes at the end of the sentence in place of the full stop .
Exclamation mark	A punctuation mark used at the end of an exclamation - for example, 'What a fantastic day we have had!' It can also be used at the end of a statement or command to show something has been said with feeling or emotion, for example, 'That was a really scary film!' or 'Stop hitting your brother!'

Year 2 terminology:

Noun	A naming word for things, animals, people, places and feelings. Can be common, proper, concrete, abstract or collective .
Noun phrase	A small group of words that does not contain a verb . A noun phrase contains a noun plus words to describe it - for example, 'the spotty, black dog '.
Statement	A sentence that conveys a simple piece of information. For example, 'It is a sunny day today'.
Question	A type of sentence which asks a question. It either begins with one of the question words (who, what, where, when, how, why) or reverses the (pronoun/verb) order in a statement - for example, 'Sarah is washing the dishes' becomes 'Is Sarah washing the dishes?'
Exclamation	A sentence which expresses surprise or wonder, and ends with an exclamation mark in place of a full stop . Begins with the words 'how' or 'what' and must also contain a verb . For example, 'What big eyes you have, Grandma!' or 'How cold it is today!'
Command	A type of sentence which instructs or orders an action to take place. Contains an imperative verb which does not need a subject . Often a command will begin with this imperative verb or with a time connective . For example, ' <u>Eat</u> your dinner. <u>Next</u> add the eggs to the mixture'.
Compound sentence	Formed by joining two main clauses with a connective . The two clauses can stand on their own as sentences . For example, 'I like dogs but my friend likes cats'.
Suffix	A string of letters that go at the end of a root word , changing or adding to its meaning. Suffixes can also show if a word is a noun, verb, adjective or adverb e.g. first—firstly.
Adjective	A word which describes a noun .
Adverb	A word which describes how a verb action is being carried out.
Verb	A word used to describe an action, occurrence or state. An essential part of a sentence .
Tense (past/present)	Present tense: Any one of a set of tenses that describe actions which are happening now. Past tense: Any one of a set of verb tenses which describe action that took place in the past.
Apostrophe	A punctuation mark used to show possession or to represent missing letters in a contracted form , e.g. do not—don't / Lisa's shoes
Comma	A punctuation mark used in a sentence to mark a slight break between different parts of a sentence, or to separate clauses in order to reduce ambiguity and increase cohesion . Primary pupils are taught to use commas to separate items in a list, to demarcate clauses and before introducing direct speech.

Year 3 terminology:

Preposition	A linking word in a sentence, used to show where things are in time or space. For example, 'under', 'after', 'next', 'behind'.
Conjunction	A type of connective that joins clauses . Co-ordinating conjunctions include 'and', 'but' and 'so'. Subordinating conjunctions include 'because', 'if' and 'until'.
Word family	A group of words which may share a common root word or morphology . For example, 'happy', 'unhappy', 'happiness', 'happily', 'unhappiness', 'unhappily'.
Prefix	Letters that go in front of a root word and change its meaning, for example, 'un-' (happy/unhappy), 'dis-' (appear/disappear), 're-' (act/react)
Clause	Clauses are the building blocks of a sentence . They are groups of words that contain a subject and a verb . They can be ' main ' or ' subordinate '.
Subordinate clause	A clause that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence, but is linked to a main clause using a subordinating conjunction . It does not express a complete thought, and if read on its own it requires additional information. For example, 'I played out until <u>it went dark</u> '. Subordinate clauses contain a subject noun and a verb.
Direct speech	A sentence where the exact words spoken are represented, and shown in speech marks (also known as inverted commas). ("Tidy your room, please," said Mum).
Consonant	Any letter of the alphabet other than the vowels (a, e, i, o, u).
Vowel	The letters a, e, i, o and u.
Speech marks (inverted commas)	Punctuation marks used to demarcate direct speech in a sentence.