Grammar

A Parents' Guide

A guide to the new national curriculum's grammatical terms for those of us who weren't taught grammar at school.

Many parents were not taught grammar at school and therefore might not be confident with the topic.

The purpose of this guide is to help explain some of the terms, which your son or daughter is expected to know as part of the new national curriculum.

The following terms are covered:

Year 1
Words
Letters vs. Capitals
Punctuation
Full Stops
Exclamation Marks
Singular vs. Plural
Sentences

Year 2
Nouns
Adjectives
Verbs
Tense
Progressive
Adverbs
Noun Phrases
Statements
Questions
Exclamations
Commands
Suffixes
Apostrophes
Commas
Compound Sentences

Year 3
Consonants vs. Vowels
Word Families
Clauses
Conjunctions
Prefixes
Perfect
Prepositions
Inverted Commas

Year 4
Articles
Adverbials
Determiners
Pronouns
Possessive Pronouns

Year 5
Ambiguity
Auxiliary Verbs
Modal Verbs
Brackets
Cohesion
Relative Clauses
Dashes
Parenthesis

Year 6
Active and Passive Voice
Synonyms and Antonyms
Subject vs. Object
Ellipsis
Semicolons
Colons
Bullet Points
Hyphens

CONSONANTS VS VOWELS

YEAR 3

A, E. I, O and U are vowels.

Vowels are letters that make a sound without the throat or mouth closing.

All other letters are consonants.

It's important to know the difference so we can use the correct article: 'a' or 'an'.

We would use 'a' if the words begins with a consonant.
e.g. a cat

We would use 'an' if the word begins with a vowel.
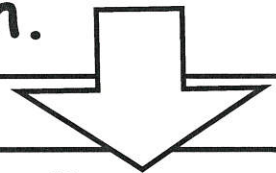e.g. an octupus

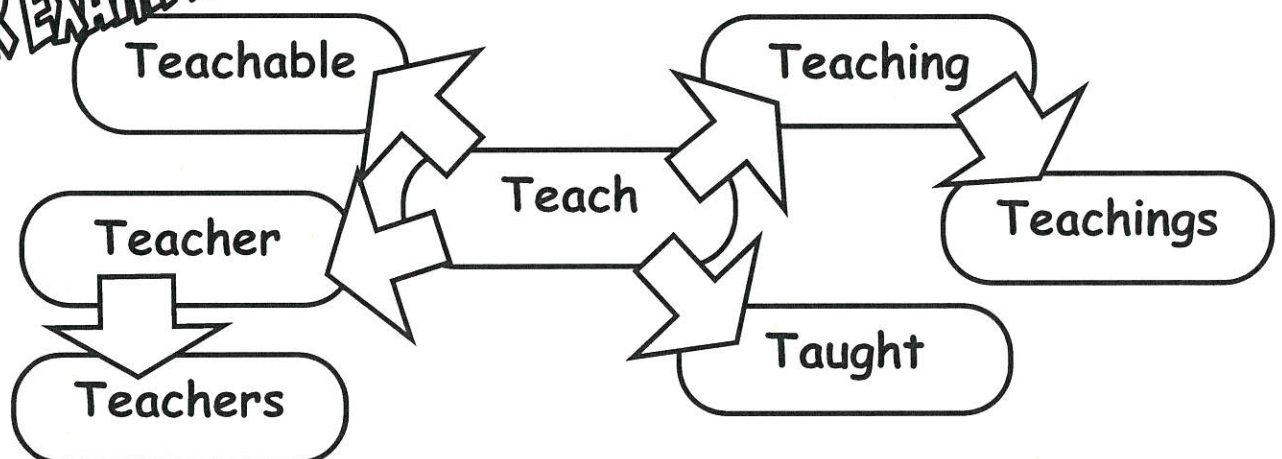## REMEMBER!

Beware of the letter h!

WORD FAMILIES YEAR 3

Word families are based on common words. They can be related through form, meaning, or both.

We can take nouns or verbs and add prefixes or suffixes to easily create word families. There will be a stem or root word.

FOR EXAMPLE

Teachable

Teaching

Teacher

Teach

Teachings

Teachers

Taught

REMEMBER!

Teach is the stem or root word.

CLAUSES YEAR 3

A clause is a group of words that contains a verb, or has a verb as its head.

The two main clause types are main and subordinate. A main clause can make sense on its own as it will have a subject and a verb.

FOR EXAMPLE

We went for a game of tennis.

A subordinate clause always needs more information and needs to be attached to a main clause.

FOR EXAMPLE

after we had lunch

REMEMBER! A subordinate clause can go in different places in a sentence.

CONJUNCTIONS

Conjunctions are linking words. There are two types of conjunction.

Co-ordinating conjunctions, such as 'and', 'but', and 'or'. They link two balanced clauses in a compound sentence.

Subordinating conjunctions, such as 'when', 'before', 'after', 'while' and 'because'. They introduce subordinate clauses.

FOR EXAMPLE

I like tennis and I like squash.

FOR EXAMPLE

when you do that

REMEMBER! Conjunctions can connect your ideas.

PREFIXES

YEAR 3

A prefix is a group of letters, placed at the start of a word to alter the meaning or function.

Different prefixes affect words in different ways.

FOR EXAMPLE

super + market = supermarket

The addition of the prefix 'super' makes the market bigger.

un + interested = uninterested

The addition of the prefix 'un' flips the words meaning to mean the opposite.

REMEMBER! Prefixes always go at the beginning.

PERFECT

The perfect form of a verb represents a situation resulting from a past event.

The perfect is created by combining the verb 'to have' with the verb's past participle.

FOR EXAMPLE

John has talked in class.

to have

past participle

Because 'has' is present tense, this is an example of the present perfect.

REMEMBER!

We can change 'has' to 'had' to create the past perfect.

PREPOSITIONS

YEAR 3

A preposition is a word that suggests how one part of a clause relates to another part.

Prepositions are words like:

above, below, across, upon, beneath, of, against, into, within, on, like, around

Prepositions normally precede a noun.

FOR EXAMPLE

Under the bridge, the man waited for the goats.

REMEMBER!

Prepositional phrases do the same job, but consist of more than one word.

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INVERTED COMMAS YEAR 3

When writing direct speech, we place inverted commas around what has been said.

FOR EXAMPLE

"My name is Julie," said the new girl.

Don't forget to place a comma inside the inverted commas.

REMEMBER!

When writing paragraphs of speech, we write opening inverted commas for each new paragraph, but don't write the closing ones until the end.