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A sentence is written in **active voice** when the **subject** of the sentence is performing the action (for example, "The cat chased the mouse.")

An **adjective** is a word used to describe and give more information about a noun, which could be a person, place or object.

An **adverb** is a word which modifies a verb, which means that it tells you how, when, where or why something is being done.

Often used in poetry, **alliteration** is the repetition of an initial letter or sound in closely connected words.

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings (love and hate, for example). Words with similar meanings are **synonyms**.

Apostrophes are punctuation marks used to show possession and to show contraction (also known as omission).

Articles are words which tell us whether a noun is general (any noun) or specific. There are three articles: 'the' is a **definite article** and 'a' and 'an' are **indefinite articles**.

Argument text is a piece of writing which expresses points of view 'for' or 'against' the subject.

A **biography** is a non-fiction text written about someone else's life (usually someone famous). An **autobiography** is a text written about one's own life.

A **book report or review** is your child's written critique of a book. Book reports tend to focus on describing what the book is about, while reviews are more concerned with your child's opinion of the book.

Clauses are the building blocks of sentences, groups of words that contain a subject and a verb. Clauses can be main or subordinate.

'**Cohesive devices**' are the **conjunctions**, **connectives** and **pronouns** used to link the parts of a piece of writing. Using the same **verb tense** throughout a text also offers 'cohesion'.

The **comparative** form of an adjective or adverb is used to compare one person, thing, action or state to another. Examples of comparatives: sadder, lighter, more famous, worse, more angrily. The comparative is usually formed by adding the **suffix** -er.

A **conjunction** is a type of **connective** ('connective' is an umbrella term for any word that connects bits of text). Co-ordinating connectives include the words and, but and so; subordinating connectives include the words because, if and until.

A **connective** is a word that joins one part of a text to another. Connectives can be **conjunctions**, **prepositions** or **adverbs**.

Contracted words are short words made by putting two words together. Letters are missed out in the contraction and replaced by an apostrophe, for example I'm (I am) or it's (it is).

Decoding is the process of seeing written words on a page and being able to say them out loud.

A **determiner** is a word that introduces a **noun** and identifies it in detail. Determiners can be **articles** (a, an, the), demonstratives (this, that), possessives (your, his), quantifiers (some, many), numbers (six, sixty).

Direct speech is a sentence in which the exact words spoken are reproduced in speech marks (quotation marks or inverted commas). **Indirect speech** or reported speech is when the general points of what someone has said are reported, without actually writing the speech out in full.

An **embedded clause** is a **clause used in the middle of another clause**. It is usually marked by commas. Exception words throughout their time in primary school, particularly in Reception, Y1 and Y2.

An **explanation text** describes a process. These non-fiction texts are usually written in the present tense, with numbered points and diagrams or pictures to make the process clear.

A **fable** is a story that features animals, plants or forces of nature that have been anthropomorphised (given human qualities) and ends with a 'moral'.

Figurative language uses words and ideas to suggest meaning (as opposed to literal language, which communicates in a plain and obvious way). In primary school, forms of figurative language studied include **metaphor**, **simile**, **personification**, hyperbole and **onomatopoeia**.

Fronted adverbials are words or phrases at the beginning of a sentence, used like **adverbs** to describe the action that follows.

A **haiku** is a form Japanese poetry that has three lines. There can be any number of words, but there must be 5 syllables in the first line, 7 syllables in the second line and 5 syllables in the third line. Haikus don't usually rhyme.

High-frequency words are some of the most common words in the English language. A number of them don't follow phonetic rules, so they must be learned individually by heart. Children start to learn to read and write high-frequency words in Reception, and are given more words to memorise in KS1 and KS2.

Homophones are words that sound the same but have different meanings. Some homophones are pronounced the same way and spelled the same way but have different meanings; others are pronounced the same way but are spelled differently and have different meanings.

An **information text** is a non-fiction text which gives information about a particular thing. Information texts are sometimes called non-chronological reports, because they are reporting information about something without mentioning the order of events.

An **instruction text** is a non-fiction text such as a recipe or manual. Instruction texts include lists of items and numbered points detailing how to carry out a certain activity.

While most verbs form their different tenses according to an established "formula", some verbs do not form their tenses in a regular way and are called **irregular verbs**.

Journalistic or newspaper writing is a **non-fiction** genre which children learn to analyse and write in Key Stage 2 English.

A **kenning** uses a two-word phrase in the place of a one-word noun in poetry (for example, sea-farer instead of sailor).

A **metaphor** is a comparison which is not literally true. It suggests what something is like by comparing it with something else with similar characteristics (for example, my brother is a piglet).

A **modal verb** is a special type of verb which changes or affects other verbs in a sentence. Modal verbs are used to show the level of possibility, indicate ability, show obligation or give permission.

A **multi-clause sentence** is another term for a complex sentence.

A **mystery story** is one in which an unexplained event (often a crime) has occurred and the reader discovers how events unfolded by reading the text.

A **myth** is a traditional, ancient story that is fictional. Myths were often written to explain natural phenomena and quite often involved gods and fantasy creatures. A **legend** is a story which takes place within human history. Legends are widely believed to be rooted in the truth, but will have evolved over time and taken on fictional elements.

A **non-chronological report** is a non-fiction report which is not written in time order. Explanation texts, recounts and instruction texts are non-chronological reports.

Any text that is not a story is **non-fiction**. Non-fiction texts studied at primary school include instruction texts, recounts, information texts, explanation texts, persuasive texts, biography, journalistic writing and argument texts.

A **noun** is a naming word. It is a thing, a person, an animal or a place. Nouns can be common, proper, abstract or collective.

The **object** of a sentence is the thing or person that is involved in an action, but does not carry it out ("The cat chased **the mouse**").

Onomatopoeia is a word that names a sound, but also sounds like that sound. For example: boom, honk, pop, crack, cuckoo, crack, splat, tweet, zoom, sizzle, whizz, buzz, hiss, rip.

A **paragraph** is a section of writing consisting of one or more sentences grouped together and discussing one main subject.

A sentence is written in **passive voice** when the **subject** of the sentence has something done to it by someone or something. For example: "The mouse was being chased by the cat."

The **past continuous** is the **verb tense** we use to describe actions that continued for a period of time in the past (I was walking / I was singing).

The **past perfect** is the **verb tense** we use to describe actions that were completed by a particular time in the past.

Personification is a type of figurative language which gives an object human characteristics (emotions, sensations, speech, physical movements).

Persuasive text is non-fiction text which aims to make the reader do something. Adverts, posters and travel brochure are all kinds of persuasive text.

A **phrase** is a small group of words that does not contain a **verb**.

A **play script** is a piece of writing written for the stage. It is likely to include a list of characters, may be divided into acts (which are then divided into scenes) and contain dialogue and stage directions.

A **prefix** is a string of letters that are added to the beginning of a root word, changing its meaning.

Prepositions are linking words in a sentence. We use prepositions to explain where things are in time or space.

The **present continuous** is the **verb tense** we use to describe actions that continue for a period of time (I am walking / I am singing).

The **present perfect** is the **verb tense** we use to describe actions that are completed by the present.

A **pronoun** is a word used to replace a noun. Examples of pronouns are: he, she, it, they. Pronouns can be personal and possessive.

A **recount** is a non-fiction piece of writing that gives details of an event that has happened. Diary entries, newspaper articles and letters are all forms of recounts,

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).

Rhyme is the repetition of similar sounds in words, usually at the end of lines in poems and songs.

A **root word** is a basic word with no prefix or suffix added to it. By adding prefixes and suffixes to a root word we can change its meaning.

A **sentence** is one word or a group of words that makes sense by itself (a grammatical unit). Sentences begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop, a question mark or an exclamation point. Sentences usually contain a subject (doing something) and a verb (what is being done).

A **simile** is a comparison phrase which finds similar characteristics in two objects and compares them, always by using the words 'like' or 'as'.

A **simple sentence** has a subject and one verb. A **compound sentence** is formed when you join two main clauses with a connective. A **complex sentence** is formed when you join a main clause and a subordinate clause with a connective.

A digraph is two vowels which together make one sound (as in the words tail, boat, found or read). When a digraph is split by a consonant it becomes a **split digraph**, sometimes known as 'magic e'.

A **story setting** is the location in which a story takes place. The setting could anywhere, from a park to a home to an alien planet.

The **subject** of a sentence is the thing or person who is carrying out the action described by the verb ("The cat chased the mouse.").

The **subjunctive** is a verb form used to express things that could or should happen, for example: If I *were* to go... / I demand that he *answer*!

A **subordinate clause** needs to be attached to a main clause because it cannot make sense on its own, although it contains a subject and a verb.

A **suffix** is a string of letters that go at the end of a word, changing or adding to its meaning. Suffixes can show if a word is a noun, an adjective, an adverb or a verb.

The **superlative** form of an adjective or adverb is used to compare one person, thing, action or state to all the others in its class. Examples of superlatives: saddest, lightest, most famous, worst, most angrily. The superlative is usually formed by adding the **suffix** -est.

A **syllable** is a single, unbroken sound of a spoken (or written) word. Syllables are sometimes called the 'beats' of a word.

Synonyms are words with the same or similar meanings.

Time connectives are words or phrases which tell the reader when something is happening. They can also be called temporal connectives.

A **traditional tale** is a fairy story or fairy tale, a story that has been told and re-told for many years and almost everyone knows. Examples of traditional tales are Cinderella, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Little Red Riding Hood.

A **verb** expresses a physical action, a mental action or a state of being. Powerful verbs are descriptive, rich words.

Verb tenses tell us the time when an action took place, in the past, the present or the future.

Word families are groups of words that have a common feature, pattern or meaning. They usually share a **root word**.