

Overdale Junior School

Grammar Guidance

for Year 6 pupils

PART 3:
General Grammar Rules



Subject and Object

In a sentence, the **SUBJECT** acts upon the **OBJECT**

FOR EXAMPLE:

- The striker (subject) kicked (verb) the football (object).
- Samantha (subject) ate (verb) her banana (object) hungrily .
- Mr Carr (subject) blew (verb) the whistle (object) loudly.



What are ARTICLES?

ARTICLES

words that tell us whether a noun is specific or general

DEFINITE
article:
the

the chair
the egg
the sweets

INDEFINITE
article:
a, an, some

a chair
an egg
some sweets



'An' or 'A'?

Use 'a' before a consonant sound,
and 'an' before a vowel sound.

'a' before consonant sound	'an' before vowel sound
a horse	an apple
a table	an example
a one legged man (sounds like won)	an hour long show (sounds like our)



Questions, Commands and Statements

QUESTIONS

Would you
pass my
purse?

Remember to end a
question with a
question mark (?)

COMMANDS

Pass my purse.

Pass my purse!
(an exclamation)

STATEMENTS

That is my
purse.



Personal and Impersonal

PERSONAL	IMPERSONAL
I like cats.	Some people like cats.
I can swim.	Some boys can swim.
My dog likes digging.	Some dogs like digging.



Alphabetical Order

Look at the **FIRST** letter:

ant, ball



Look at the **SECOND** letter
if the first letter is the same:

ball , bee



Look at the **THIRD** letter
if the first two letters are the same:

ball, bat



Look at the **FOURTH** letter
if the first three letters are the same:

ball, balm



Connective and Conjunctions

CONNECTIVES
and
CONJUNCTIONS
are used to extend
a sentence by
linking it to another
sentence, or to link
clauses within a
sentence.

However

Therefore

While

Which

Meanwhile

Although

Otherwise

Until



Using Connectives and Conjunctions

Below are some sentences that use connectives and conjunctions - the connective/conjunction is shown in **bold** and underlined in each example.

Aladdin was brave; **therefore** he stepped into the entrance to the dark cave.

Kassim watched the camels **while** Ali Baba walked towards the gloomy cave.

Meanwhile, Kassim waited impatiently.

Aladdin was a thief, **which** came in handy for robbing caves.

Although Ali Baba was brave, his knees knocked together loudly as he stepped into the cave.

Kassim was scared, **until** he saw the glorious treasure that Ali carried.

He was extremely greedy, **even though** he was terribly frightened.

Gold makes greedy people keep trying, **otherwise** they might just run away.



Apostrophes

Apostrophes can be used to:

1. show the omission of letters from a word (known as contraction)
2. indicate possession

CONTRACTION	POSSESSION
I'll, I'd, I'm e.g. I'll get it for you.	Ben's game Dad's sock
don't, won't e.g. You won't forget, will you?	Mrs Hart's office Leicester City's star player
can't, shan't e.g. You can't fit through the gap.	the boy's cat (one boy)
shouldn't, couldn't e.g. Mr Small couldn't reach the shelf.	the boys' cat (more than one boy)
you'd, they'd	Thomas' water bottle
you're, they're e.g. You're almost there now.	people's homes girls' skirts



Dealing with Speech

DIRECT SPEECH

Use speech marks, i.e. inverted commas, around the words that are being spoken:

“I’m hungry,” whispered the boy.

Selina shouted, “I’m hungry.”

“When I go to the shops,” said Simon, “I like to buy lots of sweets.”

“Please stop messing around and do your homework,” pleaded Dad.

REPORTED SPEECH

Do not use inverted commas, but remember to use past tense:

The boy whispered that he was hungry.

Nina said she didn’t know if she liked the cave as it was so dark and cold.

David Beckham told reporters that he was retiring from football.



Prefix and Suffix

PREFIX:

added to the **START** of a word to change its meaning

SUFFIX:

added to the **END** of a word to change or add to its meaning

prefix	added to	becomes
un	able	unable
in	edible	inedible
dis	appear	disappear
multi	media	multimedia
mis	represent	misrepresent
im	mature	immature
semi	circle	semicircle

suffix	added to	becomes
ly	slow	slowly
ish	child	childish
able	break	breakable
ed	walk	walked
er	football	footballer
al	logic	logical
ness	happy	happiness



Clauses and Phrases

a **CLAUSE** is
a group of
words that has
a
verb in it

a **CLAUSE** can
be a whole short
sentence or part
of a longer one
e.g. he borrowed a
pencil

The **MAIN CLAUSE** can be a sentence
itself:

- he went to the library
- my sister is clever

The **SUBORDINATE CLAUSE** cannot
be a sentence itself:

- and borrowed a book
- who is eighteen

**He went to the library and borrowed a book.
My sister, who is eighteen, is clever.**



Clauses and Phrases continued

A **phrase** is a group of words that does not have a verb with the subject (subject-verb pair):

e.g. **a big dog**

This is a phrase - it refers to the dog, but doesn't say what it did or what happened to it.

Compare this with:

a big dog chased me

This is a clause – it tells us there is a dog, but it also tells us what the dog is doing.



Relative Clause

A RELATIVE CLAUSE IS:

a clause giving extra information that begins with a relative pronoun [WHO, WHOM, WHOSE, THAT, WHICH] or a relative adverb [WHEN, WHERE, WHY]

FOR EXAMPLE:

- which Tony had found under a table
- where she had lost her hat
- who continued to walk straight ahead
- that was the best he had ever eaten



I and Me

I is used as the **SUBJECT** of a sentence, and **ME** is used as the **OBJECT**.

I wanted my mum to watch me in the school play.

After we went cycling, Emma and I were very tired.

The teacher asked Tim and me to collect the books.



If you're unsure whether to use "and I" or "and me" in a sentence, a simple way to check is to take out whoever else is part of the sentence.

What if Tim wasn't asked to collect the books? Would you say, "The teacher asked I to collect the books"? No, but "me" fits perfectly.

And, when is it proper to use "I"? If the sentence was, "Tim and I were asked to collect the books", leave Tim out and you would naturally say, "I was asked to collect the books."

Prepositions

Prepositions tell us the relation between nouns and pronouns.

Words like **under**, **in front of**, **between**, and **with** are prepositions:

- Sid stepped **on** the sandwich
- Sally sat **under** the table
- she ran **across** the street
- the cat is **behind** the tree

Prepositions can tell us about when things are, as well as where they are:

- Tom ran **until** he collapsed
- let's go to the library **after** school
- the restaurant is not open **during** the day

Prepositions can also show how something is done:

- we went **by** train
- fix the two pieces together **with** glue



Active and Passive Voice

ACTIVE	PASSIVE
Sam ate the apple.	The apple was eaten by Sam.
The dog bit Ben.	Ben was bitten by the dog.
Mum drove the car.	The car was driven by Mum.
Mrs Collins closed the door.	The door was closed by Mrs Collins.



Synonyms and Antonyms

SYNONYM:

another word that means the **SAME** thing

Big → Large → Massive

Small → Tiny → Minute

Fast → Quick → Speedy

ANTONYM:

a word that means the **OPPOSITE**

Big → Small

Black → White

Fast → Slow



Synonyms for 'Said'

There are lots of different words to use instead of 'SAID' when writing dialogue.

Think about which makes most sense in your sentence. For example, you could use 'SHOUTED' if someone is angry.



Whispered

Shouted

Called

Croaked

Enquired

Asked

Requested

Raged

Whimpered

Types of Connectives

There are two main types of connectives:
CO-ORDINATING and SUBORDINATING

CO-ORDINATING CONNECTIVES

These link words, phrases or clauses which are of equal importance.
Co-ordinating connectives are words like BUT, AND, SO

- Romeo **and** Juliet both died at the end of the play. (connective links words)
- It was very important **but** not very interesting. (connective links phrases)
- They met up in town **and** went for a meal. (connective links clauses)

SUBORDINATING CONNECTIVES

These link a main clause with a subordinate (or dependent) clause.
Subordinating connectives are words like IF, ALTHOUGH, WHEN, WHILE, SINCE, BECAUSE

- **Before** leaving the restaurant, John paid the bill.
- We decided to go home **because** there was a queue outside.



Homographs and Homophones

HOMOGRAPHS:

Words that are spelled the same but have different pronunciations and meanings

I could **close** the door, because I was **close** to it.

She will **wind** her scarf tightly when the **wind** blows.

The bandage was **wound** around the **wound**.

HOMOPHONES:

Words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings

Which → Witch

There → Their

Where → Wear



Comparative

When you compare things:
ends in **-ER** or uses **MORE / LESS / AS**

FOR EXAMPLE:

- Arjun is faster than Jack.
- Lucy is more tidy than Molly.
- Rajveer is hungrier than Sam.
- Molly is less tidy than Lucy.
- Alexander is as fast as Olivia.



Superlative

The most or ultimate:
usually ends in –EST or uses MOST

FOR EXAMPLE:

- Amy is the fastest.
- Kaylen is the tallest.
- John is the loudest.
- Brendan is the **most** intelligent.
- Sukie is the kindest.
- Emma is the **most** untidy.



Some useful meanings...

Precis:

a summary or short version

Formal:

posh, proper

Informal:

casual, chatty

Compound word:

a word made up of two shorter words, eg football (foot + ball)

Vowels:

a, e, i, o, u

Consonants:

The non-vowels - b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, z



Hyphens

A punctuation mark used to join words and to separate syllables of a single word.

FOR EXAMPLE:

ice-cream	Tom licked his ice-cream as it melted in the hot sun.
e-mail	Mum sent an e-mail to the school office.
state-of-the-art	They used a state-of-the-art 3D printer to make the model.
off-site	The meeting was being held off-site.
man-eating	A man-eating lion has escaped from the zoo!
award-winning	David Walliams has written another award-winning book.



Ellipsis

An ellipsis is three dots (...)

An ellipsis is used to create a longer pause for effect, to show tension or confusion, or to make the reader slow down.

FOR EXAMPLE:

Steve looked around him for the key ... he couldn't find it anywhere.

Mum said she'd be here to pick them up at 6 o'clock ... something must have happened.

She opened the door cautiously and saw ... a blue box with a huge bow on top!

