

Subject

The first noun phrase in the sentence which is doing or being something. *John* banged the table.

Object

Who or what is the action done to? John banged the table.

Active and Passive Sentences

Active The subject carries out the action.

The ball smashed the window.

Passive The subject at the beginning of the sentence has the action done to it. Often includes 'by.'

The window was smashed by the ball.

Subjunctive form

Used to express what could or should happen. Expresses wishes, hopes, demands, suggestions etc.

I wish I were able to fly.

I demand they be counted again.

Modal verbs

Verbs to indicate likelihood, possibility, ability or obligation: might, should, must, could, will, may, shall, can etc.

Expanded noun phrase

A phrase which expands on a given noun. i.e. 'cat'

The ginger cat with a fluffy tail walked haughtily along.

Sherwood Junior School



Year 6

GPaS

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Guide for Parents

Clause or Phrase?

A clause contains a verb. *Jemma ran home.*

A phrase does not contain a verb. *over the hill*

Adverbial

Tells us when, where or how. Can be a phrase or a clause.

The small bird flew gracefully onto the branch.

Main Clause

A sentence which contains a subject (noun) and a verb. Must make sense on its own.

I like dogs. OR The bright sun shone on the people below.

Subordinate Clause

Contains a verb. Joins with a main clause to make a sentence.

Does not make sense on its own. Often begins with a subordinating conjunction.

He watched her as she disappeared.

Before washing his face, the boy put on his pyjamas.

Coordinating Conjunction

FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so

Subordinating Conjunction

Often found at the start of a subordinate clause.

before, whilst, because, if, once, after, when, as.

Personal Pronoun I , you, she, him, we, us, they, them

Possessive Pronoun my, mine, your(s), his, her(s), their(s)

Relative Pronoun who, whose, which, where, whom, that

Correct colon use

Before a list (*make sure the sentence before makes sense on its own*) e.g.

There were many sports to try: football, rugby, golf and tennis.

Not *There were many sports to try like: football, rugby, golf...*

To separate two clauses that directly link (often instead of because)

He was late for school: his alarm clock hadn't gone off.

Semi-colons

Used to separate two closely-linked main clauses (often instead of a conjunction)

James enjoys playing tennis; he doesn't like football.

Hyphen

Can be used to join two words to show they have a combined meaning e.g.

The giant had huge, bear-like hands. OR twenty-one

Can be used to avoid confusion with spellings e.g.

re-sent He re-sent the letter the next day.

resent He began to resent his teacher.