



Year 4 - English Cheat Sheet

Reference

A quick reference for the grammar and punctuation terms that come up in Year 4 English - handy for helping with homework without needing to look everything up. Keep this one and reuse it across worksheets.

Word Classes

Noun

a naming word for a person, place, thing, or idea.

dog, London, happiness

Verb

a doing or being word.

run, is, think, was

Adjective

a word that describes a noun.

big, blue, happy

Adverb

a word that describes a verb - often ends in -ly.

quickly, quietly, yesterday

Pronoun

a word that replaces a noun.

he, she, it, they, we

Conjunction

a word that joins words, phrases or clauses.

and, but, because, although

Preposition

shows how things relate in position or time.

under, before, between, after

Determiner

a word that introduces a noun.

the, a, this, some, three

Sentence Types

Statement

tells you something. Ends with a full stop.

The dog is asleep.

Question

asks something. Ends with a question mark.

Where is the dog?

Command

tells someone to do something.

Close the door.

Exclamation

shows strong feeling. Ends with an exclamation mark.

What a lovely day!

Clauses & Phrases

Main clause

makes complete sense on its own.

We went outside.

Subordinate clause

adds extra information but doesn't make full sense alone.

although it was raining

Subordinating conjunction

joins a subordinate clause to a main clause.

because, although, when, if

Noun phrase

a noun plus the words describing it.

the tall oak tree

Expanded noun phrase

a noun phrase with extra description added.

the big red dog with the loud bark

Fronted adverbial

a word/phrase that opens a sentence (before a comma), saying when, where, or how.

Suddenly, the lights went out.

Punctuation

Full stop (.)

ends a statement.

The sun was shining.

Question mark (?)

ends a question.

Where are you going?

Exclamation mark (!)

ends an exclamation or a strong command.

Watch out!

Comma (,)

separates items in a list, follows a fronted adverbial, or separates clauses.

I packed a hat, scarf and gloves.

Apostrophe - contraction

shows missing letters when two words are joined.

don't = do not; it's = it is

Apostrophe - singular possession

shows something belongs to one person/thing.

the dog's bone (one dog)

Apostrophe - plural possession

shows something belongs to more than one person/thing.

the children's toys

Inverted commas / speech marks

show the exact words someone said (direct speech).

Sam said, "Hello there."

Parenthesis

extra information added into a sentence using brackets, dashes, or a pair of commas.

My dog (a small terrier) loves walks.

Other Useful Terms

Standard English

the correct, formal form of English taught and expected in school writing.

"We were" not "we was"

Prefix

added to the start of a word to change its meaning.

un-happy, dis-agree, re-do

Suffix

added to the end of a word to change its meaning.

hope-ful, quick-ly, teach-er

Passive voice

the subject of the sentence receives the action rather than doing it.

The cake was eaten by Tom.

Active voice

the subject of the sentence does the action.

Tom ate the cake.

Synonym

a word that means the same (or nearly the same) as another word.

happy / glad / pleased