Grammar Words A-D

Every grammar word your child is likely to meet in Year 5, in plain English with an example. The NEW IN YEAR 5 terms are the ones the national curriculum adds this year. Where there's a picture guide on our site, it's named.

Adjective
describes a noun - what it is like.
a **huge**, **hairy** spider

Adverb
tells you more about a verb: how, when, where or how often.
She ran **quickly**.
📖 Picture guide: Adverbials

Adverbial
a word or group of words doing an adverb's job.
We met **after school**.
📖 Picture guide: Adverbials

Adverb of possibility NEW IN YEAR 5
shows how sure you are.
Perhaps it will snow.
📖 Picture guide: Modal Verbs

Ambiguity NEW IN YEAR 5
when a sentence could mean two different things.
Max told Dan **he** was late. (who?)
📖 Picture guide: Cohesion

Antonym
a word with the opposite meaning.
hot / **cold**

Apostrophe
shows missing letters or that something belongs to someone.
don't · the **dog's** bone

Brackets NEW IN YEAR 5
a pair of marks ( ) around extra information.
Gran **(who is 80)** swims.
📖 Picture guide: Parenthesis

Clause
a group of words with a verb in it.
the dog barked

Cohesion NEW IN YEAR 5
how writing links together so it flows.
Firstly, … **Later**, …
📖 Picture guide: Cohesion

Conjunction
a joining word.
I was tired, **but** I kept going.
📖 Picture guide: Conjunctions

Consonant
any letter that is not a vowel.
b c d f g …

Dash NEW IN YEAR 5
a mark (–) used in pairs for dramatic extra information.
The cave **– dark and silent –** waited.
📖 Picture guide: Parenthesis

Determiner
comes before a noun: which one, how many or whose.
those **three** dogs
📖 Picture guide: Determiners

Grammar Words D-P

Direct speech
the exact words someone says, inside inverted commas.

"Look out!" shouted Sam.

Expanded noun phrase
a noun with extra describing words added.

the old wooden door with a rusty handle

Fronted adverbial
an adverbial at the start of a sentence, followed by a comma.

Without a sound, the cat crept in.

📖 Picture guide: Adverbials

Homophone
words that sound the same but are spelt differently.

there / **their** / **they're**

Inverted commas
speech marks " " around what someone says.

He said, **"Hello."**

Main clause
a clause that makes sense on its own.

We played outside although it rained.

📖 Picture guide: Conjunctions

Modal verb NEW IN YEAR 5
a helper verb showing how likely or necessary something is.

You **must** go. It **might** rain.

📖 Picture guide: Modal Verbs

Noun
a person, place, thing or idea.

teacher, **London**, **ball**, **happiness**

Noun phrase
a group of words built around a noun.

the tall tree

Parenthesis NEW IN YEAR 5
extra information added to a complete sentence, using brackets, dashes or commas.

Ben **, my cousin,** is ten.

📖 Picture guide: Parenthesis

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

disagree · **re**build

📖 Picture guide: Making Verbs

Preposition
shows where or when something is.

The cat hid **under** the bed.

Prepositional phrase
a preposition plus the words after it.

We ran **across the field**.

Present perfect
a tense using "has" or "have": done at some time up to now.

I **have finished** my book.

Grammar Words P-W

Pronoun
replaces a noun so you don't repeat it.

Mia smiled because **she** won.

Possessive pronoun
shows who something belongs to - stands on its own.

The bike is **mine**.

Relative clause NEW IN YEAR 5
extra information about a noun, starting with a relative pronoun.

The boy **who scored** cheered.

📖 Picture guide: Relative Clauses

Relative pronoun NEW IN YEAR 5
starts a relative clause: who, which, that, whose, where, when.

the cake **which** I baked

📖 Picture guide: Relative Clauses

Root word
the main part of a word, before prefixes or suffixes are added.

un **help** ful

📖 Picture guide: Making Verbs

Subordinate clause
a clause that does not make sense on its own.

Although it rained, we played.

📖 Picture guide: Conjunctions

Suffix
letters added to the end of a word.

pur **ify** · wide **n** · hope **ful**

📖 Picture guide: Making Verbs

Synonym
a word with the same or a similar meaning.

big / **large** / **huge**

Tense
shows when something happens: past, present or future.

I **walked** / I **walk** / I **will walk**

Verb
a doing or being word.

The dog **barked**. I **am** tired.

Vowel
the letters a, e, i, o, u.

a e i o u

Word family
words that share the same root word.

teach, **teach** er, **teach** ing