FULBOURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Writing Glossary

Word	Definition	Example
active voice	A sentence structure in which the subject performs the action of the verb.	The old man **led** the dog through the dense forest.
adjective	A word that describes or gives more information about a noun or pronoun.	The old man led the dog through the **dense** forest.
adverb	A word that modifies a verb, adjective or another adverb by providing additional information about how, when, where, how often or to what extent something happens.	He ran **slowly** to the shop. The rain was **quite** heavy.
appositive	A noun or noun phrase that is placed next to another noun to add further information about it. This is most commonly used within parenthesis.	His faithful dog**, a golden retriever,** chased the tennis ball. The man called out to his pet**, his closest companion.**
command	A sentence that tells someone to do something. Commands use an imperative verb.	Go to the shop.
common noun	A general name for a person, place, thing or idea. It does not refer to a specific named individual, place or thing.	**Frank** put his **chips** in the **bin** outside **Tesco**.
comparative adjective	An adjective used to compare two nouns by showing that one has more or less of a particular quality than the other.	The dog is **faster** than the man.
complex sentence	A sentence containing a main clause and at least one subordinate clause.	The man and his dog began to run **because** it started to rain. **Because** it started to rain, the man and his dog began to run.
compound object	Two or more objects joined together within the same clause and sharing the same verb.	The man had **fish and chips**.
compound sentence	A sentence made up of two or more main clauses joined by a co-ordinating conjunction.	The man took his dog for a walk **and** they stopped at the shop.

compound subject	Two or more subjects joined together and sharing the same verb within a clause.	**The man and the dog** ran to the shop.
conjunctive adverbs	Words or phrases that connect ideas, clauses or sentences by showing relationships such as addition, contrast, consequence or sequence.	**Consequently,** the traveller had no choice but to rely entirely on his dog's keen sense of smell to find the way home.
contraction (apostrophe)	A shortened form of two or more words in which an apostrophe replaces one or more omitted letters.	The man **hasn't** got a dog.
co-ordinating conjunction	A word used to join words, phrases or clauses of equal grammatical importance. E.g. FANBOYS	The man took his dog for a walk **but** they didn't go far.
direct speech	The exact words spoken by a speaker, presented as they were originally said.	"We need to go to the shop," declared Frank. "Shall we go to the shop?" asked Frank. "How low on dog food we are!" exclaimed Frank.
embedded	A word, phrase or clause that is inserted within another clause or sentence to provide additional information.	The old man**, who walked with a heavy limp,** carried a walking stick. The old man **(who walked with a heavy limp)** carried a walking stick. The old man **- who walked with a heavy limp -** carried a walking stick.
exclamation	A sentence that expresses strong feeling or emotion.	What a big dog**!** How bright the sun is today**!**
expanded noun phrase	A noun phrase in which extra words have been added to provide further detail about the noun.	**The brave man walking along the path with a tired dog** looked exhausted
main clause	A clause that contains a subject and verb and can function as a complete sentence independently.	**The man went for a walk** in the park.
multi-clause sentence	A sentence containing more than one clause. This includes compound, complex and compound-complex sentence structures.	**While** the wind howled through the trees, the old man tightly gripped the leash **because** his dog was trembling with fear.
noun phrase	A group of words built around a noun or pronoun that functions as a single unit within a sentence.	The **tall man** has a dog.

object	The person, thing or idea that receives or is affected by the action of a verb.	The man ran to the **shop**.
passive voice	A sentence structure in which the subject receives the action of the verb rather than performing it.	The dog **was led** through the dense forest by the old man.
personal pronoun	A pronoun that substitutes for a specific person, people, thing or things.	**He** ran to the shop.
phrase	A group of words that work together as a grammatical unit but do not contain both a subject and a verb.	The man went for a walk **in the park**.
possession (apostrophe)	The use of an apostrophe to show ownership, belonging or association.	The man forgot the dog**'s** lead. The man forgot the dog**s'** lead**s**.
preposition	A word that shows the relationship between a noun or pronoun and another word in a sentence, often indicating place or time.	The man went for a walk **in the morning**. The man went for a walk **in the park**.
present/past participle	A verb form that can function as part of a verb phrase or act as an adjective. Present participles typically end in *-ing*, while past participles are usually formed from the verb's past tense pattern.	**Whistling**, the man took his dog for a walk. **Exhausted,** the man took his dog for a walk
present/past participle phrases	Groups of words built around a present or past participle that function as a single descriptive unit within a sentence.	**Whistling to himself,** the man took his dog for a walk. **Exhausted from his late night,** the man took his dog for a walk.
proper noun	The specific name of a particular person, place, organisation, event or other unique entity. A proper noun must always start with a capital letter.	The man lives in **England**.
question	A sentence that asks for information, clarification or a response.	Is the man tall?
relative clause	A subordinate clause that provides additional information about a noun and is usually introduced by a relative pronoun.	His faithful dog**, which barked at every passing car,** chased a stray ball. The old man whistled for his dog**, which came running through the tall grass**.
reporting clause	The part of a sentence that identifies who is speaking, thinking or writing and introduces or accompanies reported words.	"The trail is long," **whispered the old man,** "but our camp is just over the ridge."
sentence	A grammatically complete unit of meaning that contains at least one main clause.	The man took his dog for a walk in the sunshine.

simple sentence	A sentence consisting of a single main clause.	The man took his dog for a walk in the sunshine.
statement	A sentence that gives information, expresses an idea or presents a fact, opinion or observation.	It is hot today.
subject	The person, thing or idea that performs the action of the verb or is described by the verb.	**The man** took the dog for a walk.
sub-ordinate clause	A clause that contains a subject and verb but cannot function as a complete sentence on its own because it depends on a main clause.	**Because it started to rain**, the man and his dog began to run. **Although it was an unusually hot day,** the man and his dog began to run. **When they heard footsteps behind them,** the man and his dog began to run.
sub-ordinating conjunction	A word that introduces a subordinate clause and links it to a main clause. E.g. ISAWAWABUB	**Because** it started to rain, the man and his dog began to run. **Although** it was an unusually hot day, the man and his dog began to run. **When** they heard footsteps behind them, the man and his dog began to run.
superlative adjective	An adjective used to show that one noun has the greatest or least degree of a particular quality within a group.	The man took the dog on the **longest** walk he could manage.
verb	A word that expresses an action or state of being.	The man and the dog **ran** to the shop. The dog **is** happy on his walk.