



Long Sutton Primary School SPAG Glossary

Term	Definition	Example
Noun	A noun is a word that denotes somebody or something.	My younger <i>sister</i> won some <i>money</i> in a <i>competition</i> .
Pronoun	A pronoun often replaces a noun or noun phrase and enables the writer to avoid repetition.	I like <i>him</i> . <i>They</i> don't want it. Is this book <i>yours</i> or <i>mine</i> ? I hurt <i>myself</i> ?
Noun phrase	A noun phrase is a wider term than 'noun'. It can refer to a single noun (money), a pronoun (it), or group of words that function in the same way as a noun in a sentence.	a lot of money my younger sister a new car the best team in the world
Adjective	Adjectives are words that describe somebody or something. They come before nouns or after verbs.	A <i>stressful</i> day. I'm <i>busy</i> . <i>Black</i> shoes. Those shoes look <i>smart</i> .
Determiner	These are used with nouns and limit (i.e. determine) the reference of the noun in some way.	a/an, this, that, my, your, some, any, both, three, every
Conjunction	A word used to link clauses within a sentence.	It was raining, <i>but</i> it wasn't cold. I took my umbrella <i>because</i> it looked like rain.
Verb	A verb is a word that expresses an action, a happening, a process or a state.	Mark <i>is</i> tired and <i>wants</i> to <i>go</i> to bed. John <i>has been</i> waiting since last Thursday.
Adverb	Adverbs give extra meaning to a verb, an adjective, another adverb or a whole sentence.	I <i>really</i> enjoyed the party. She's <i>really</i> pretty. He works <i>really</i> slowly. <i>Really</i> , he should do better.
Sentence	A sentence is made up of one or more clauses.	It was raining. It was raining and we were cold. It was raining when we

		went out.
Clause	A clause is a group of words that expresses an event or situation. It usually contains a subject or verb.	She drank some water.
Present tense	A form of the verb indicating time.	I wait, she waits. I am waiting, she is waiting.
Past tense	A form of the verb indicating time	I drove, she drove. I was driving, she was driving.
Singular	Singular forms of nouns are used to refer to one thing.	tree child
Plural	Plural refers to more than one. Some plurals are irregular.	tree - trees child - children
Suffix	A suffix is a morpheme (unit of meaning) which is added to the end of a word.	work - worked work - worker work - working
Prefix	A prefix is a morpheme (unit of meaning) which can be added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning.	inedible disappear unintentional
Phoneme	A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound in a word	c/a/t b/oa/t l/igh/t
Digraph	A digraph is two letters representing one phoneme	bath train ch/ur/ch
Split digraph	A split digraph is two letters representing one phoneme which is split.	plane Steve pine
Trigraph	A trigraph is three letters representing one phoneme	light hair sure
Grapheme	A grapheme is the written representation of a sound; may consist of one more more letters	train pray snake
Statement	Statements are sentences	A rainbow has 7 colours.

	which tell you something. They end with a full stop.	
Question	Questions are sentences that ask you something. They usually end with a question mark.	What did you have for dinner?
Exclamation sentence	An exclamation is used when someone is surprised. It always starts with 'How' or 'What' and contains a noun and a verb.	What a beautiful day it is! How careless he is! What a quiet girl she is!
Command	They are often urgent or angry, can be very short and contain an imperative verb. Commands Imperative verbs are also known as 'bossy verbs'- they tell people what to do.	Help me! Stop it.
Compound word	Compound words are formed when two or more words are put together to form a new word with a new meaning	foot ball butter fly straw berry
Apostrophe for contraction	The apostrophe is used in writing contractions — that is, shortened forms of words from which one or more letters have been omitted.	can't don't won't
Apostrophes for possession	An apostrophe is normally used with the letter s to show ownership or possession	Paul's
Commas for lists	Use commas to separate words and word groups in a simple series of three or more items.	Apples, pears, bananas and oranges.