

Helpful Hints – Grammatical Terms for the new SPAG test.

Key Stage One

Noun	A noun is a 'naming' word: a word used for naming an animal, a person, a place or a thing.
Adjective	An adjective is a 'describing' word: it is a word used to describe (or tell you more about) a noun. <u>Example:</u> The man was wearing a black jacket. An adjective usually comes before a noun but sometimes it can be separated from its noun and come afterwards (e.g.: Ben looked frightened ; the dog was very fierce)
Adjectives of number or quantity	e.g. much, more, most, little, some, any, enough ... These answer the question: How much? <u>Example:</u> She invited five friends for breakfast; she did not have any food left
Verb	A verb is a word, or a group of words, that tells you what a person/thing is. It is often called a 'doing' word: e.g. <i>running, eating, sitting</i> . All sentences have a subject and a verb. The subject is the person or thing doing the action: <u>Example:</u> Cats purr (Cats is the subject and purr is the verb)
Adverb	An adverb tells you more about the verb. Most adverbs in English end in -ly and come from adjectives: <u>E.g.</u> <i>soft – softly; slow – slowly.</i>
Pronoun	Sometimes you refer to a person or a thing not by its actual name, but by another word which stands for it. The word you use to stand for a noun is called a pronoun (which means 'for a noun') We often use pronouns so we don't repeat the name/place in a sentence. E.g. When Barnaby stroked the cat and listened to the cat purring softly, Barnaby felt calm and peaceful. This becomes When Barnaby stroked the cat and listened to it purring softly, he felt calm and peaceful.
Connectives (conjunctions)	Connectives (conjunctions) join together words, phrases, clauses and sentences. They help us to create compound sentences by joining two main clauses together. <u>E.g.:</u> <u>She went to the shops. She bought a box of chocolates.</u> We can use a conjunction to join these sentences together: <u>She went to the shops and bought a box of chocolates.</u> Other connectives (conjunctions) include: but, as, so, or ...

Vocabulary/language strategies

Definition	Example
<p>Synonyms</p> <p>These are words that have a similar meaning to another word. We use synonyms to make our writing more interesting.</p>	<p>Synonyms for:</p> <p>Bad - awful, terrible, horrible Happy - content, joyful, pleased Look - watch, stare, glaze Walk - stroll, crawl, tread</p>
<p>Word groups/ families</p> <p>These are groups of words that have a common feature or pattern - they have some of the same combinations of letters in them and a similar sound.</p>	<p>at, cat, hat, and fat are a family of words with the "at" sound and letter combination in common.</p> <p>bike, hike, like, spike and strike are a family of words with the "ike" sound and letter combination in common.</p> <p>blame, came, fame, flame and game are a family of words with the "ame" sound and letter combination in common.</p>
<p>Prefix</p> <p>Prefixes are added to the beginning of an existing word in order to create a new word with a different meaning.</p>	<p>Adding 'un' to happy – unhappy Adding 'dis' to appear – disappear Adding 're' to try – retry</p>
<p>Singular</p> <p>A singular noun names one person, place or thing (a single item).</p>	<p>One bike One mango One dress One fly One turkey One half</p>
<p>Plural</p> <p>More than one person, place or thing.</p>	<p><i>Most nouns are made into plurals by adding –s:</i> Three bike<u>s</u></p> <p><i>Most nouns ending in hissing, shushing or buzzing sounds are made into plurals by adding –es:</i> Ten dress<u>es</u></p>

Punctuation

Definition	Example
<p>Capital letter</p> <p>Used to denote the beginning of a sentence or a proper noun (names of particular places, things and people).</p>	<p>Joel has karate training ever <u>M</u>onday afternoon at <u>W</u>ells <u>P</u>rietary <u>S</u>chool.</p> <p>In <u>J</u>anuary, the children will be visiting <u>L</u>ondon <u>Z</u>oo.</p>
<p>Full stop</p> <p>Placed at the end of a sentence that is not a question or statement.</p>	<p>Terry Pratchett's latest book is not yet out in paperback.</p> <p>I asked her whether she could tell me the way to Brighton.</p>
<p>Question mark</p> <p>Indicates a question/disbelief.</p>	<p>Who else will be there? Is this really little Thomas?</p>
<p>Exclamation mark</p> <p>Indicates an interjection/surprise/strong emotion</p>	<p>What a triumph! I've just about had enough! Wonderful!</p>
<p>Inverted commas</p> <p>Punctuation marks used in pairs (" ") to indicate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quotes (evidence). • direct speech • words that are defined, that follow certain phrases or that have special meaning. 	<p><i>For direct speech:</i> Janet asked, "Why can't we go today?"</p> <p><i>For quotes:</i> The man claimed that he was "shocked to hear the news".</p> <p><i>For words that are defined, that follow certain phrases or that have special meaning:</i> 'Buch' is German for book. The book was signed 'Terry Pratchett'. The 'free gift' actually cost us forty pounds.</p>
<p>Commas in a list</p> <p>Used between a list of three or more words to replace the word <i>and</i> for all but the last instance.</p>	<p>Jenny's favourite subjects are maths, literacy and art. Joe, Evan and Mike were chosen to sing at the service. The giant had a large head, hairy ears and two big, beady eyes.</p>