

Year 4 English Glossary



Adjective	A word that describes a noun e.g. a blue balloon.
Adverb	A word that describes a verb, usually ending in -ly. For example, she ran quickly .
Alliteration	A number of words close together which begin with the same consonant sound e.g. ten tired teddies
Apostrophe (')	An apostrophe is a mark used to show that a letter has been left out. Example: he is can be written he's . Apostrophes are also used to show ownership. Examples: the cat's bowl, the cats' bowls .
Author	A person who writes books, stories and poem.
Blurb	A piece of writing that tells you the content of a book. It is often on the back of a book.
Bossy verbs	A verb that commands or tells the reader or listener to do something e.g. Write neatly!
Capital letter	A larger letter used at the beginning of sentences and for naming specific people, places and things.
Caption	A sentence to explain a picture or photograph.
Character	A character is an individual in a story, play or poem.
Chronological order	The order in which events happen (time order).
Clause	A distinct part of a sentence including a verb. A main clause makes sense on its own. A subordinate clause adds detail to the main clause but does not make sense on its own.
Comma	A punctuation mark used to break up sentences so that they are easier to understand. They can be used in lists.
Conclusion	The ending of a piece of writing.
Connective	A word or group of words which joins sentences or parts of sentences e.g. and, then, but, so.
Consonant / vowel	In the English alphabet there are 5 vowels (a,e,I,o,u) and 21 consonants (b,c,d,f,g,h,j,k,l,m,n,p,q,r,s,t,v,w,x,y,z).
Dialogue	Speech between two or more people.
Draft	A rough piece of writing which is later edited and then written neatly.
Edit	To change the grammar, spelling, punctuation or words in writing.
Embedded clauses	Adding extra information into the middle of a sentence using commas e.g. The man, who is tall , ran down the road.
Event	Something which happens.
Exclamation mark	A punctuation mark used at the end of a sentence to show strong feelings e.g. Help! Wow!
Fiction / Non-fiction	Fiction is an invented story, poem or play. Non-fiction is writing about real events, feelings or things.
Full stop	A mark used to end a sentence, when the sentence is not a question or exclamation e.g. Miss Marina likes cake.
Headline	The title of a newspaper report.
Homophones	Words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings e.g. blue, blew.
Illustration	A picture, plan or diagram which is part of a text.
Introduction	The beginning of a piece of writing.
Label	The words which tell us about part of a diagram, picture or map.
Narrator	The person whose voice is heard in a novel or story. The narrator can be one of the characters speaking (first person) or someone speaking about the characters (third person).
Noun	A word that names a person, place or thing.

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Plural	More than one.
Personification	Giving human qualities to non-human objects e.g. the leaves danced in the wind.
Phrase	Two or more words that act as a unit and do not have a verb e.g. over the bridge.
Plural	More than one.
Prefixes	Letters added to the beginning of the word which change the meaning e.g. un, pre, dis
Pronouns	Words which stand in the place of a noun e.g. I, we, he, she.
Proper noun	Words that name a particular person, thing or place and begins with a capital letter e.g. Susie, London, Christmas.
Question mark	Used at the end of a question e.g. Where is my bag?
Rhyme	Words which have the same ending sounds e.g. bed, head, said.
Setting	Where the story takes place.
Simile	Where something is compared to something else using like or as e.g. She is as tall as a giraffe.
Slogan	A sentence or group of words which aim to grab our attention e.g. I'm lovin' it.
Speech marks	Punctuation marks that go around the words that are actually spoken in a piece of writing " "
Sub-title	Smaller headings.
Suffixes	Letters added to the end of a word to change the meaning e.g. -ed, -ing, -er.
Time connectives	Connectives which show order e.g. next, then, suddenly, after that, just then.
Title	The heading that tells us what the writing is about.
Verb	An action word e.g. run, walk, shout.
Verse	A "paragraph" in a poem.