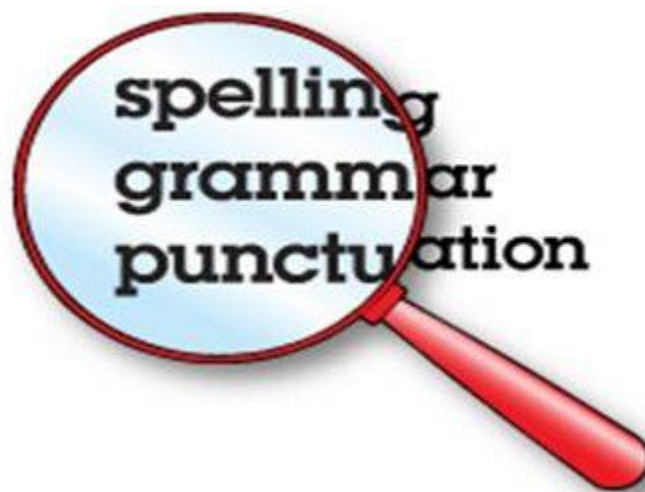


SPaG Buster!

How to help your child with spelling, punctuation and grammar in Year 4.

This leaflet will explain the key aspects of spelling, punctuation and grammar that are taught in Year 4. We hope the suggested activities will be useful when supporting your child with spelling or writing activities at home.



Year 4 Grammar and Punctuation

These are the key aspects of grammar and punctuation learning in Year 4:

Key term	Definition	Example
Clause	Clauses are the building blocks of a sentence. They are groups of words that contain a subject and a verb. They can be 'main' or 'subordinate'.	<i>The cat ran across the road.</i> This is a main clause. 'Cat' is the subject of the sentence and 'ran' is the verb.
Subordinate clause	A clause that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence, but is linked to a main clause using a subordinating conjunction.	<i>The cat ran across the road although a car was coming.</i> This part of the sentence is a subordinate clause as it doesn't make sense by itself.
Fronted adverbial	Words or phrases used at the beginning of a sentence, used like adverbs to describe the action that follows.	<i>Smiling happily,</i> she skipped into the room. This fronted adverbial tells you how the girl skipped into the room.
Personal pronoun	A word that replaces the name of a person, place or thing.	For example, 'I', 'you', 'he', 'she', 'we', 'they', 'it', 'me', 'him', 'her', 'us', 'them'.
Inverted commas	Punctuation marks used to demarcate direct speech in a sentence. Also known as speech marks.	<i>"We are going to the park,"</i> said Mum. Inverted commas demarcate the direct speech in this sentence.
Possessive apostrophe (singular)	An apostrophe used to show ownership. If the noun in the sentence is singular, the apostrophe goes before the 's'.	<i>The cat's bowl was empty.</i> <i>Katie's scarf fell off the hook.</i> In these sentences the subject is singular (just one).
Possessive apostrophe (plural)	An apostrophe used to show ownership. If the noun in the sentence is plural (more than one), the apostrophe goes after the 's'.	<i>The boys' football game was cancelled.</i> In this sentence the subject is plural (more than one boy)

Activities to try at home:

- Encourage your child to start sentences in different ways when writing stories or completing homework.
- Practise inverted commas by turning a short comic strip into a written conversation.
- Look out for where apostrophes have been used incorrectly!

Year 4 Spelling

In Year 4 we learn a range of spelling patterns and rules. We focus particularly on word endings:

Spelling Pattern/Rule	Example Words
Words ending in '-sure'	measure, treasure, pleasure, enclosure
Words ending in '-ture'	creature, furniture, picture, nature, adventure
Prefixes: il -, im -, ir -, inter -, anti -	il - illegal, illegible im - immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfect ir - irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible inter- interact, intercity, international, interrelated anti - antiseptic, anti-clockwise, antisocial
The suffix -ous	poisonous, dangerous, mountainous, famous
Words ending in '-sion'	division, invasion, confusion, decision, television
Words ending in '-tion'	invention, injection, action, hesitation, completion
Words ending in '-ssion'	expression, discussion, confession, permission
Words ending in '-cian'	musician, electrician, magician, politician,
Words with the /s/ sound spelt 'sc'	science, scene, discipline, fascinate
The suffix '-ation'	information, adoration, sensation, preparation,

Spelling activities

Playing word games such as Scrabble or Boggle and completing word puzzles such as crosswords and word searches can really help children's confidence in spelling.

Every week your child will bring home a short list of new spellings to learn. Here are some fun ways of practicing and learning spellings:

Across and Down

Write each word across and down, sharing the beginning letter.

Example: when
 h
 e
 n

Rainbow words

Break the word down into letters or syllables and write each part in a different colour.

Hangman

Play hangman with a partner, using the words you are learning.

Word shape

Draw around the shape of the word and try to remember the shape of the word.

Spell jumps

Jump up and down on a trampoline or skip whilst saying each letter of your word you are spelling.

Find the word

Look to see if you can see a small word inside your word. E.g. **where**, **friend**.