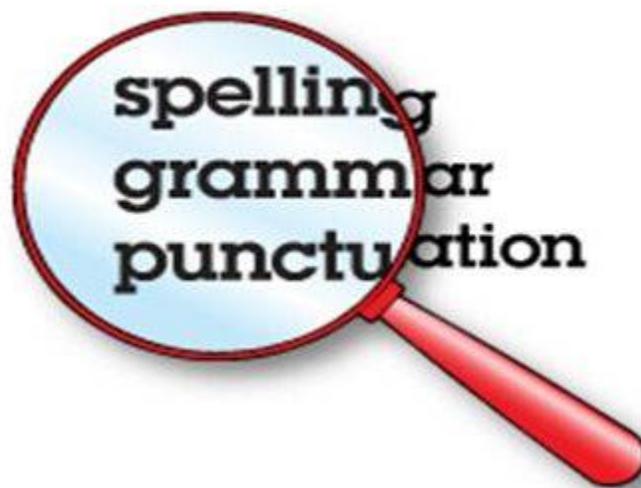


SPaG Buster!

How to help your child with spelling, punctuation and grammar in Year 5.

This leaflet will explain the key aspects of spelling, punctuation and grammar that are taught in Year 5. We hope the suggested activities will be useful when supporting your child with spelling or writing activities at home.



Year 5 Grammar and Punctuation

These are the key aspects of grammar and punctuation learning in Year 5:

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.
Relative clause	A relative clause adds extra information and begins with who, that, which, where, when, whose or an omitted relative pronoun. These clauses do not make sense on their own.	<i>Roald Dahl, who is a famous children's author, was born in Llandaff, Wales.</i> This additional information helps to clarify who Roald Dahl is.
Fronted adverbial	Words or phrases used at the beginning of a sentence, used like adverbs to describe the action that follows. They are an effective way to structure writing.	<i>Smiling happily, she skipped into the room.</i> This fronted adverbial tells you how the girl skipped into the room.
Modal verbs or adverbs	Modal verbs change or affect other verbs in a sentence. They are used to show the level of possibility. Modal verbs behave differently to 'ordinary' verbs.	<i>I will have fish and chips for tea.</i> The certainty of the situation is shown through the modal verb, will.
Semicolons	A semicolon can be used between two closely related main clauses if they are not already joined by a coordinating conjunction (e.g. and, but, or).	<i>Alex bought a toy car; he played with it as soon as he got home.</i> The coordinating conjunction 'and' would make sense in place of the semicolon, showing they are both main clauses.
Colons	Colons are used to provide more information or can be used before a list.	<i>I want the following items: butter, sugar, and flour.</i> The colon is used before the list of ingredients.
Brackets, dashes and pairs of commas (parenthesis)	Parenthesis can be used to provide additional information. If we remove the extra information, the sentence will still make sense.	<i>My brother (who thinks he's really cool) never brushes his hair.</i> You can swap the brackets for dashes or commas depending on the desired effect.

Activities to try at home:

- Encourage your child to add extra information in different ways when writing stories or completing homework.
- Investigate how adverts use punctuation – why have they chosen dashes or brackets?
- Create a tagline for a book or film using modal verbs in a rhetorical question, e.g. *Will they survive the end of the world?*

Year 5 Spelling

In Year 5 we learn a range of spelling patterns and rules. We focus particularly on word endings:

Spelling Pattern/Rule	Example Words
Words ending in 'tious'	ambitious, cautious, infectious, nutritious
Words ending in 'cious'	conscious, precious, ferocious, gracious
Words ending in 'able'	reasonable, enjoyable, adorable, understandable
Words ending in 'ible'	horrible, terrible, visible, possible
Homophones	who's/whose, affect/effect, herd/heard, past/passed
Words containing the 'ough'	ought, bought, thought, nought, brought, fought rough, tough, enough cough though, although, dough thorough, borough plough, bough
Words with 'silent' letters	doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight

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**.