

Grammar



A Parents' Guide

A guide to the new national curriculum's grammatical terms for those of us who weren't taught grammar at school.



ARTICLES

YEAR 4

Articles don't really have a meaning of their own, but they affect the sentence they are a part of.

There are two types of article.

The definite article

the

When 'the' is used, it generally indicates the noun is familiar or specific.

The indefinite article

a or an

When 'a' or 'an' is used it normally gives less emphasis or shows less importance.

REMEMBER!

Articles are determiners.



ADVERBIALS

YEAR 4

Adverbials modify verbs. They tell us something about the clause of which they are a part.

They can be single words, phrases, or clauses.

Where?

When?

How?

words

here

usually

quickly

phrases

to work

for a day

by train

clauses

walking in
Spain

after we
had eaten

as he
always did

REMEMBER!

A fronted adverbial is always followed by a comma.



DETERMINERS

YEAR 4

A determiner will normally give more information about a noun.

Common determiners are

a/an, the
this, these
my, your
some, many

articles
demonstratives
possessives
quantifiers

They can determine whether a noun is singular or plural; how definite or specific a noun is, or how many.

REMEMBER!

Find the noun that affects the verb to find the head.



PRONOUNS

YEAR 4

Pronouns are words used in place of nouns or noun phrases.

Personal pronouns are the most common type.

FOR EXAMPLE

I - first person singular
you - second person singular
he/she - third person singular
we - first person plural
you - second person plural
they - third person plural

Verbs can react differently, depending on the pronoun that has been used.

REMEMBER!

Pronouns help to avoid repetition.



POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

YEAR 4

Possessive pronouns are used to show ownership.

FOR EXAMPLE

mine, yours, his, hers, their,
ours, its

'Its' doesn't require a possessive apostrophe.

When possessive words are determiners, they often change form.

FOR EXAMPLE

mine becomes my
yours becomes your

