

Progression in Grammar



Primary English
Education Consultancy

About this resource...

This document is intended to help teachers identify the requirements for vocabulary, grammar and punctuation by year group. The document identifies what should be taught in each year group by linking the programme of study for 'Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation' to English Appendix 2. Skills progression from years 1 to 6 is clearly presented in the document along with a set of minimum requirements for each group.

The organisation of the resource...

The document is divided into three parts. The first is an overview of English Appendix 2 presented in a tabulated form. This enables teachers to see the skills for vocabulary, grammar and punctuation as a progression of skills from year 1 to year 6

The second part of the document combines the specific elements of English Appendix 2 for each year group and the Programme of study for 'Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation'. This is particularly useful for teachers in years 3 and 4 and 5 and 6 where the programme of study spans two year groups. To help teachers ***we have identified the relevant objectives for each group from the programmes of study for 'Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation'.***

The final part of the document presents the key skills for children by year group. This is useful for setting minimum expectations for written work in each year of the school.

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Progression in grammar and punctuation

English Appendix 2: Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation

	Word	Sentence	Text	Punctuation	Terminology for pupils
1	Regular plural noun suffixes –s or –es (e.g. <i>dog, dogs; wish, wishes</i>) Suffixes that can be added to verbs where no change is needed in the spelling of root words (e.g. <i>helping, helped, helper</i>) How the prefix un- changes the meaning of verbs and adjectives (negation, e.g. <i>unkind</i>, or <i>undoing</i>, e.g. <i>untie the boat</i>)	How words can combine to make sentences Joining words and joining clauses using <i>and</i>	Sequencing sentences to form short narratives	Separation of words with spaces Introduction to capital letters, full stops, question marks to demarcate sentences Capital letters for names and for the personal pronoun I	letter capital letter word singular Plural sentence punctuation full stop question mark exclamation mark
2	Formation of nouns using suffixes such as –ness, –er and by compounding [for example, <i>whiteboard, superman</i>] Formation of adjectives using suffixes such as –ful, –less (A fuller list of suffixes can be found in English Appendix 1) Use the suffixes –er, –est in adjectives and the use of –ly in Standard English to turn adjectives into adverbs	Subordination (using <i>when, if, that</i> or <i>because</i>) and coordination (using <i>or, and, or but</i>) Expanded noun phrases for description and specification [for example <i>the blue butterfly, plain flour, the man in the moon</i>] How the grammatical patterns in a sentence indicate its function as a statement, question, exclamation or command	Correct choice and consistent use of present tense and past tense throughout writing. Use the progressive form of verbs in the present and past tense to mark actions in progress [for example, <i>she is drumming, he was shouting</i>]	Use of capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks to demarcate sentences Commas to separate items in a list Apostrophes to mark where letters are missing in spelling and to mark singular possession in nouns [for example, <i>the girl's name</i>]	noun, noun phrase statement, questions exclamation, command compound, adjective, verb suffix adverb tense (past, present) apostrophe comma

3	Formation of nouns using a range of prefixes, such as <i>super-, anti-, auto-</i> Use of forms <i>a</i> or <i>an</i> according to whether the next word begins with a consonant or a vowel (e.g. <i>a rock, an open box</i>) Word families based on common words, showing how words are related in form and meaning [for example, <i>solve, solution, solver, dissolve, insoluble</i>]	Expressing time, place and cause using conjunctions (for example, <i>when, so, before, after, while, because</i>) adverbs [for example, <i>then, next, soon, therefore</i>] or prepositions (for example, <i>before, after, during, in because of</i>)	Introduction to paragraphs as a way to group related material Headings and sub-headings to aid presentation Use of the perfect form of verbs instead of the simple past [for example, <i>He has gone out to play</i> contrasted with <i>He went out to play</i>]	Introduction to inverted commas to punctuate direct speech	Adverb preposition, conjunction word family, prefix clause, subordinate clause, direct speech consonant, consonant letter, vowel, vowel letter inverted commas (or 'speech marks')
4	The grammatical difference between plural and possessive –s Standard English forms for verb inflections instead of local spoken forms (<i>we were</i> instead of <i>we was</i>, <i>I did</i> instead of <i>I done</i>)	Noun phrases expanded by the addition of modifying adjectives, nouns and preposition phrases (e.g. <i>the teacher expanded to: the strict maths teacher with curly hair</i>) Fronted adverbials (e.g. <i>Later that day, I heard the bad news.</i>)	Use of paragraphs to organise ideas around a theme Appropriate choice of pronoun or noun across sentences to aid cohesion and avoid repetition	Use of inverted commas and other punctuation to indicate [for example, a comma after the reporting clause; end punctuation with inverted commas: <i>The conductor shouted, "Sit down!"</i>] Apostrophes to mark plural possession [for example, <i>the girl's name, the girls' name</i>] The use of commas after fronted adverbials	Determiner pronoun, possessive pronoun adverbial

5	Converting nouns or adjectives into verbs using suffixes [for example <i>-ate</i>; <i>-ise</i>; <i>-ify</i>] Verb prefixes [for example <i>dis-</i>, <i>de-</i>, <i>mis-</i>, <i>over-</i>, and <i>re-</i>]	Relative clauses beginning with <i>who</i>, <i>which</i>, <i>where</i>, <i>why</i>, <i>whose</i>, <i>that</i>, or an omitted relative pronoun Indicating degrees of possibility using adverbs [for example, <i>perhaps</i>, <i>surely</i>] or modal verbs [for example, <i>might</i>, <i>should</i>, <i>will</i>, <i>must</i>]	Devices to build cohesion within a paragraph [for example, <i>then</i>, <i>after that</i>, <i>this</i>, <i>firstly</i>] Linking ideas across paragraphs using adverbials of time [for example, <i>later</i>], place [for example, <i>nearby</i>] and number [for example, <i>secondly</i>] or tense choices [for example, <i>he had seen her before</i>]	Brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis Use of commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity	modal verb, relative pronoun relative clause parenthesis, bracket, dash cohesion, ambiguity
6	The difference between vocabulary typical of informal speech and vocabulary appropriate for formal speech and writing [for example, <i>find out</i> – <i>discover</i>; <i>ask for</i> – <i>request</i>; <i>go in</i> – <i>enter</i>] How words are related by meaning as synonyms and antonyms [for example, <i>big</i>, <i>large</i>, <i>little</i>]	Use of the passive voice to affect the presentation of information in a sentence [for example, <i>I broke the window in the green house</i> versus <i>The window in the greenhouse was broken (by me)</i>] The difference between structures typical of informal speech and structures appropriate for formal speech and writing [for example, the use of question tags e.g. <i>He's your friend, isn't he?</i> Or the use of the subjunctive forms such as <i>If I were</i> or <i>Were they to come</i> in some very formal writing and speech]	Linking ideas across paragraphs using a wider range of cohesive devices: repetition of a word or phrase, grammatical connections [for example, the use of adverbials such as <i>on the other hand</i>, <i>in contrast</i>, or <i>as a consequence</i>), and ellipsis Layout devices [for example, headings, sub-headings, columns, bullets, or tables, to structure text]	Use of the semi-colon, colon and dash to mark the boundary between independent clauses [for example, <i>It's raining; I'm fed up</i>] Use of a colon to introduce a list Punctuation of bullet points to list information How hyphens can be used to avoid ambiguity [for example <i>man eating shark</i> versus <i>man-eating shark</i>, or <i>recover</i> versus <i>re-cover</i>]	Subject, object active, passive synonym, antonym ellipsis hyphen colon semi-colon bullet points

Year 1

Word	Sentence	Text	Punctuation	Terminology for pupils
Regular plural noun suffixes –s or –es (e.g. <i>dog, dogs; wish, wishes</i>) Suffixes that can be added to verbs where no change is needed in the spelling of root words (e.g. <i>helping, helped, helper</i>) How the prefix un- changes the meaning of verbs and adjectives (negation, e.g. <i>unkind</i>, or <i>undoing</i>, e.g. <i>untie the boat</i>)	How words can combine to make sentences Joining words and joining clauses using <i>and</i>	Sequencing sentences to form short narratives	Separation of words with spaces Introduction to capital letters, full stops, question marks to demarcate sentences Capital letters for names and for the personal pronoun I	letter capital letter word singular Plural sentence punctuation full stop question mark exclamation mark
Year 1 programme of study (statutory requirements) <i>Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation</i> Pupils should be taught to: - Develop their understanding of the concepts set out in Appendix 2 by: - Leaving spaces between words - Joining words and joining sentences using <i>and</i> - Beginning to punctuate sentences using a capital letter and a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark - Using a capital letter for names of people, places, the days of the week, and the personal pronoun 'I' - Learning the grammar for year 1 in English Appendix 2 - Use the grammatical terminology in English Appendix 2 in discussing their writing			Notes and guidance (non-statutory) <i>Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation</i> Pupils should be taught to recognise sentence boundaries in spoken sentences and to use the vocabulary listed in English Appendix 2 ('Terminology for pupils') when their writing is discussed. Pupils should begin to use some of the distinctive features of Standard English in their writing. 'Standard English' is defined in the glossary	

Year 2

Word	Sentence	Text	Punctuation	Terminology for pupils
Formation of nouns using suffixes such as <i>–ness, –er</i> and by compounding [for example, <i>whiteboard, superman</i>] Formation of adjectives using suffixes such as <i>–ful, –less</i> (A fuller list of suffixes can be found in English Appendix 1) Use the suffixes <i>–er, –est</i> in adjectives and the use of <i>–ly</i> in Standard English to turn adjectives into adverbs	Subordination (using <i>when, if, that</i> or <i>because</i>) and coordination (using <i>or, and, or but</i>) Expanded noun phrases for description and specification [for example <i>the blue butterfly, plain flour, the man in the moon</i>] How the grammatical patterns in a sentence indicate its function as a statement, question, exclamation or command	Correct choice and consistent use of present tense and past tense throughout writing. Use the progressive form of verbs in the present and past tense to mark actions in progress [for example, <i>she is drumming, he was shouting</i>]	Use of capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks to demarcate sentences Commas to separate items in a list Apostrophes to mark where letters are missing in spelling and to mark singular possession in nouns [for example, <i>the girl's name</i>]	noun, noun phrase statement, questions exclamation, command compound, adjective, verb suffix adverb tense (past, present) apostrophe comma
Year 2 programme of study (statutory requirements) <i>Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation</i> Pupils should be taught to: - Develop their understanding of the concepts set out in English Appendix 2 by: - Learning how to use both familiar and new punctuation correctly (see English Appendix 2), including full stops, capital letters, exclamation marks, question marks, commas for lists and apostrophes for contracted forms and the possessive (singular) - Learn how to use: - Sentences with different forms: statements, question, exclamation, command - Expanded noun phrases to describe and specify, e.g. the blue butterfly - Subordination (using <i>when, if, that, or because</i>) and co-ordination (using <i>or, and, or but</i>) - the grammar for year 2 in English A - some features of written Standard English - Use and understand the grammatical terminology in English Appendix 2 in discussing their writing			Notes and guidance (non-statutory) <i>Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation</i> The terms for discussing language should be embedded for pupils in the course of discussing their writing with them. Their attention should be drawn to the technical terms they need to learn.	

Year 3

Word	Sentence	Text	Punctuation	Terminology for pupils
Formation of nouns using a range of prefixes, such as <i>super-</i>, <i>anti-</i>, <i>auto-</i> Use of forms <i>a</i> or <i>an</i> according to whether the next word begins with a consonant or a vowel (e.g. <i>a</i> rock, <i>an</i> open box) Word families based on common words, showing how words are related in form and meaning [for example, <i>solve</i>, <i>solution</i>, <i>solver</i>, <i>dissolve</i>, <i>insoluble</i>]	Expressing time, place and cause using conjunctions (for example, <i>when</i>, <i>so</i>, <i>before</i>, <i>after</i>, <i>while</i>, <i>because</i>) adverbs [for example, <i>then</i>, <i>next</i>, <i>soon</i>, <i>therefore</i>] or prepositions (for example, <i>before</i>, <i>after</i>, <i>during</i>, <i>in</i>, <i>because of</i>)	Introduction to paragraphs as a way to group related material Headings and sub-headings to aid presentation Use of the perfect form of verbs instead of the simple past [for example, <i>He has gone out to play</i> contrasted with <i>He went out to play</i>]	Introduction to inverted commas to punctuate direct speech	Adverb preposition, conjunction word family, prefix clause, subordinate clause, direct speech consonant, consonant letter, vowel, vowel letter inverted commas (or 'speech marks')
YEAR 3 OBJECTIVES Years 3-4 programme of study (statutory requirements) <i>Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation</i> Pupils should be taught to: - Develop their understanding of the concepts set out in English Appendix 2 by: - Extending the range of sentences with more than one clause by using a wider range of conjunctions, e.g. <i>when</i>, <i>if</i>, <i>because</i>, <i>although</i> - Using the present perfect form of verbs in contrast to the past tense - Using conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express time and cause - Learning the grammar for years 3 and 4 in English Appendix 2 - Indicate grammatical and other features by: - Using and punctuating direct speech - Use and understand the grammatical terminology in English Appendix 2 accurately and appropriately when discussing their writing and reading			Notes and guidance (non statutory) <i>Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation</i> Grammar should be taught explicitly: pupils should be taught the terminology and concepts set out in English Appendix 2, and be able to apply them correctly to examples of real language, such as their own writing or books that they have read. At this stage, pupils should start to learn about some of the differences between Standard English and non-Standard English and begin to apply what they have learnt [for example, in writing dialogue for characters].	

Year 4

Word	Sentence	Text	Punctuation	Terminology for pupils
The grammatical difference between plural and possessive –s Standard English forms for verb inflections instead of local spoken forms (<i>we were</i> instead of <i>we was</i>, <i>I did</i> instead of <i>I done</i>)	Noun phrases expanded by the addition of modifying adjectives, nouns and preposition phrases (e.g. <i>the teacher expanded to: the strict maths teacher with curly hair</i>) Fronted adverbials (e.g. <i>Later that day</i>, <i>I heard the bad news.</i>)	Use of paragraphs to organise ideas around a theme Appropriate choice of pronoun or noun across sentences to aid cohesion and avoid repetition	Use of inverted commas and other punctuation to indicate [for example, a comma after the reporting clause; end punctuation with inverted commas: <i>The conductor shouted, "Sit down!"</i>] Apostrophes to mark plural possession [for example, <i>the girl's name</i>, <i>the girls' name</i>] The use of commas after fronted adverbials	Determiner pronoun, possessive pronoun adverbial
YEAR 4 OBJECTIVES Years 3-4 programme of study (statutory requirements) <i>Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation</i> Pupils should be taught to: - Develop their understanding of the concepts set out in English Appendix 2 by: - Choosing nouns or pronouns appropriately for clarity and cohesion and to avoid repetition - Using fronted adverbials - Learning the grammar for years 3 and 4 in English Appendix 2 - Indicate grammatical and other features by: - Using commas after fronted adverbials - Indicating possession by using the possessive apostrophe with the singular and plural nouns - Using and punctuating direct speech - Use and understand the grammatical terminology in English Appendix 2 accurately and appropriately when discussing their writing and reading			Notes and guidance (non statutory) <i>Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation</i> Grammar should be taught explicitly: pupils should be taught the terminology and concepts set out in English Appendix 2, and be able to apply them correctly to examples of real language, such as their own writing or books that they have read. At this stage, pupils should start to learn about some of the differences between Standard English and non-Standard English and begin to apply what they have learnt [for example, in writing dialogue for characters].	

Year 5

Word	Sentence	Text	Punctuation	Terminology for pupils
Converting nouns or adjectives into verbs using suffixes [for example <i>-ate; -ise; -ify</i>] Verb prefixes [for example <i>dis-, de-, mis-, over-, and re-</i>]	Relative clauses beginning with <i>who, which, where, why, whose, that</i> , or an omitted relative pronoun Indicating degrees of possibility using adverbs [for example, <i>perhaps, surely</i>] or modal verbs [for example, <i>might, should, will, must</i>]	Devices to build cohesion within a paragraph [for example, <i>then, after that, this, firstly</i>] Linking ideas across paragraphs using adverbials of time [for example, <i>later</i>], place [for example, <i>nearby</i>] and number [for example, <i>secondly</i>] or tense choices [for example, <i>he had seen her before</i>]	Brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis Use of commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity	modal verb, relative pronoun relative clause parenthesis, bracket, dash cohesion, ambiguity
YEAR 5 OBJECTIVES Year 5-6 programme of study (statutory requirements) <i>Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation</i> Pupils should be taught to: - Develop their understanding of the concepts set out in English Appendix 2 by: - Using the perfect form of verbs to mark relationships of time and cause - Using modal verbs or adverbs to indicate degrees of possibility - Using relative clauses beginning with <i>who, which, where, why, whose, that</i> or with an implied (i.e. omitted) relative pronoun - Learning the grammar for years 5 and 6 in English Appendix 2 - Indicate grammatical and other features by: - Using commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity in writing - Using brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis - Use and understand the grammatical terminology in Appendix 2 accurately and appropriately in discussing writing and reading			Notes and guidance (non-statutory) <i>Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation</i> Pupils should continue to add to their knowledge of linguistic terms, including those to describe grammar, so that they can discuss their writing and reading.	

Year 6

Word	Sentence	Text	Punctuation	Terminology for pupils
The difference between vocabulary typical of informal speech and vocabulary appropriate for formal speech and writing [for example, <i>find out</i> – <i>discover</i>; <i>ask for</i> – <i>request</i>; <i>go in</i> – <i>enter</i>] How words are related by meaning as synonyms and antonyms [for example, <i>big, large, little</i>]	Use of the passive voice to affect the presentation of information in a sentence [for example, <i>I broke the window in the green house</i> versus <i>The window in the greenhouse was broken</i>(by me)] The difference between structures typical of informal speech and structures appropriate for formal speech and writing [for example, the use of question tags e.g. <i>He's your friend, isn't he?</i> Or the use of the subjunctive forms such as <i>If I <u>were</u></i> or <i><u>Were they</u> to come</i> in some very formal writing and speech]	Linking ideas across paragraphs using a wider range of cohesive devices: repetition of a word or phrase, grammatical connections [for example, the use of adverbials such as <i>on the other hand, in contrast, or as a consequence</i>), and ellipsis Layout devices [for example, headings, sub-headings, columns, bullets, or tables, to structure text]	Use of the semi-colon, colon and dash to mark the boundary between independent clauses [for example, <i>It's raining; I'm fed up</i>] Use of a colon to introduce a list Punctuation of bullet points to list information How hyphens can be used to avoid ambiguity [for example <i>man eating shark</i> versus <i>man-eating shark</i>, or <i>recover</i> versus <i>re-cover</i>]	Subject, object active, passive synonym, antonym ellipsis hyphen colon semi-colon bullet points
YEAR 6 OBJECTIVES Year 5-6 programme of study (statutory requirements) <i>Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation</i> Pupils should be taught to: - Develop their understanding of the concepts set out in English Appendix 2 by: - Recognising vocabulary and structures that are appropriate for formal speech and writing, including subjunctive forms - Using passive verbs to affect the presentation of information in a sentence - Using expanded noun phrases to convey complicated information concisely - Using modal verbs or adverbs to indicate degrees of possibility - Learning the grammar for years 5 and 6 in English Appendix 2 - Indicate grammatical and other features by: - Using hyphens to avoid ambiguity - Using semi-colons, colons or dashes to mark boundaries between independent clauses - Using a colon to introduce a list - Punctuating bullet points consistently - Use and understand the grammatical terminology in Appendix 2 accurately and appropriately in discussing writing and reading			Notes and guidance (non-statutory) <i>Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation</i> Pupils should continue to add to their knowledge of linguistic terms, including those to describe grammar, so that they can discuss their writing and reading.	

Quick reference of minimum expectations by year group

Year 1 Regular plural noun suffixes –s or –es Suffixes that can be added to verbs How the prefix un- changes the meaning of verbs and adjectives How words can combine to make sentences Joining words and joining sentences using <i>and</i> Separation of words with spaces Capital letters, full stops, question marks to demarcate sentences Capital letters for names and for the personal pronoun	Year 4 Plural and possessive –s Standard English forms for verb inflections instead of local spoken forms Appropriate choice of pronoun or noun within a sentence Fronted adverbials Inverted commas to punctuate direct speech Apostrophes to mark singular and plural possession
Year 2 Formation of nouns using suffixes–ness, -er Formation of adjectives using suffixes –ful, -less Use the suffixes –er and -est to form comparisons of adjectives and adverbs Subordination (when, if, that or because) and coordination (or, and, or but) Expanded noun phrases Statements, question, exclamation, and commands Capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks Commas to separate items in a list Apostrophes to mark contracted spellings	Year 5 Converting nouns or adjectives into verbs using suffixes Verb prefixes (e.g. <i>dis-</i>, <i>de-</i>, <i>mis-</i>, <i>over-</i>, and <i>re-</i>) Relative clauses beginning <i>with who, which, where, why, whose, that</i>, or an omitted pronoun Indicating degrees of possibility using modal verbs or adverbs Brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis Use of commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity
Year 3 Formation of nouns using a range of prefixes, such as <i>super-</i>, <i>anti-</i>, <i>auto-</i> Use the forms <i>a</i> or <i>an</i> according to whether the next word begins with a consonant or a vowel Word families based on common words Conjunctions (e.g. <i>when, so, before, after, while, because</i>) Adverbs (e.g. <i>then, next, soon, therefore</i>) Prepositions (e.g. <i>before, after, during, in because of</i>) The introduction of the present perfect form of verbs instead of the simple past Introduction to inverted commas to punctuate direct speech	Year 6 The difference between vocabulary typical of informal speech and vocabulary appropriate for formal speech and writing Use of the passive voice to affect the presentation of information in a sentence Expanded noun phrases to convey complicated information concisely The difference between structures typical of informal speech and structures appropriate for formal speech and writing Use of the semi-colon, colon and dash to mark the boundary between independent clauses Use of a colon to introduce a list Punctuation of bullet points to list information How hyphens can be used to avoid ambiguity