TROTTS HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
GRAMMAR GLOSSARY

FOUNDATION/RECEPTION

Term	Meaning
Adjective	an adjective is a word used to describe and give more information about a noun which could be a person, place or object. *E.g. I caught a lovely, silver fish.*
Comma	is a punctuation mark used to help the reader by separating parts of a sentence. It is sometimes used to show a pause in speech.
Conjunction	is a word or phrase that joins one part of a text to another, e.g. *but, when, because, e.g. It was raining but it wasn't cold. We won't go out if the weather is bad.* Connecting **adverbs**, e.g. *however, then, therefore.*
Digraph	two letters representing one **phoneme** (sound): *e.g. ba/th; tr/ain, ch/ur/ch.* A **split-digraph** is where 'e' at the end of a word makes the vowel say its name, *e.g. made, cake.* These terms are used in **phonics.**
Exclamation	is an utterance of emotion (joy, wonder, anger, surprise, etc.), and is usually followed in writing by an **exclamation mark !**
Grapheme	is a written representation of sound. A term used in **phonics.**
Phoneme	is a unit of sound, *e.g. 'a'.* A term used in **phonics.**
Question mark	a question mark is used at the end of questioning **sentence***, e.g. Who was that? You're leaving already?*
Sentence/main clause	is a word or group of words that makes sense by itself. Sentences begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop, a question or an exclamation mark. Sentences usually contain a subject (doing something) and a verb (what is being done).
Syllable	is a single, unbroken sound of a spoken (or written) word. Syllables are sometimes called the 'beats' of a word. Single beat words such as. *Cat, fright, one,* are called **monosyllabic.** Words with more than one syllable such as, *super, coward, document,* are **polysyllabic.**
Trigraph	a **phoneme** (sound) made up of three sounds, *e.g.*

Adverbs	are used to tell how something is being done, it tells you how, when, where or why something is being done. *E.g. He works really slowly*. Many adverbs are formed by adding '-ly' to an adjective, e.g. *quickly, dangerously, nicely,* and so on.
Apostrophe	an apostrophe is a punctuation mark used to indicate either omitted letters (*haven't)* or possession (*the dog's dinner).*
Clause	is a group of words that expresses an event (*she drank some water)* or a situation *(she was thirsty, she wanted a drink)*. It usually contains a **subject** (*she* in the in the examples), and **verb** (*drank, was, wanted*).
Compound word	a word made up of two other words, e.g. *football, headrest, broomstick*
Consonant	all the letters of the alphabet except the **vowels** *a, e, i, o, u.* The letter *y* can represent a consonant sound as in *yes*, or a vowel sound as in *happy.*
Homophone	words which have the same sound as another but different spelling and meaning. E.g. *read/reed, pair/pear, write/right/rite.*
Indirect speech	is when we report what someone has said and speech marks are not used, *e.g. Helen said that she was going home; I asked them what they wanted.*
Noun	is a naming word, it is a thing, a person, an animal or a place. Nouns can be ***common, proper, abstract or collective.*** In the sentence, *My younger <u>sister</u> won some <u>money</u> in a <u>competition.</u>* The underlined words are **common nouns.** A **proper noun** is the name of people, places, organisations, etc. These begin with a capital letter, e.g. *Amanda, Manchester, Microsoft, Friday, November.*
Paragraph	is a section of writing consisting of one or more sentences grouped together and discussing one main subject.
Prefix	are added to the beginning of an existing word in order to create a new word with a different meaning, *e.g. happy/unhappy, appear/disappear.*
Pronoun	refer to a person or thing not by its actual name but by another word which stands for it. *E.g. I, you, me, he, she, its, mine, we, they, us, them, ours, yours, theirs, etc.*
Sentence (simple)	has a subject and one verb.
(compound)	is formed when you join two main **clauses** with a **connective**.
(complex)	is formed when you join a **main clau**se and a **subordinate clause** with a **connective.**

Suffix   are added to the end of an existing word to create a new word with a different meaning, *e.g. child/childish, like/likeable.*

Verb   expresses an action, a happening, a process or state. It can be thought of as a 'doing' or 'being' word. E.g. *Mark <u>is</u> tired and <u>wants</u> to <u>go</u> to bed*, the underlined words are verbs. Sometimes two or more words make up a **verb phrase,** such as *are going, didn't want, has been waiting.*

Adverb	is a word which modifies a verb, which means that it tells you how, when, where or why something is being done. E.g. *He works really <u>slowly.</u>* Many adverbs are formed by adding *–ly* to an adjective, e.g. *quickly, dangerously, nicely,* and so on.
Adverbial phrase	is a group of words which works in the same way as a single adverb. E.g. *by car, to school, last week, three times a day.* *They left yesterday. (adverb) She looked at me strangely. (adverb)* *They left a few days ago.* **(adverbial phrase)** *She looked at me in a strange way.* **(adverbial phrase)**
Alliteration	often used in poetry, is the repetition of an initial letter or sound in closely connected words. E.g. *one wet wellington, several silent, slithering snakes.*
Article	*a, an, the,* are articles. *A (an* before a vowel) is the **indefinite article**, *the* is the **definite article.**
Clause	is a group of words which contains a **verb**; it is part of a **sentence**. There are two types of clauses: **a main clause** makes sense on its own, e.g. *Sue bought a new dress.* **a subordinate clause** does not make sense on its own but depends on the main clause for its meaning, e.g. *He heard a cry, <u>which was a shout</u>, coming from the other end of the island.*
Colon (:)	is a punctuation mark used to introduce a list or a following example. E.g. *Here is a list of things you will need: a raincoat, wellington boots, a hat.* It may also be use before a second clause that expands or illustrates the first: *He was very cold: the temperature was below zero.*
Conjunction	a word used to link **clauses** within a sentence. E.g. *It was raining <u>but</u> it wasn't cold. We won't go out <u>if</u> the weather's bad.* The words underlined are conjunctions.
Direct speech	actual words spoken by a character shown by speech marks (also called inverted commas or quotes). E.g. *Helen said, "I'm going home." "What do you want?" I asked.* **Indirect speech** is when we report what someone has said and speech marks are not used. E.g. *Helen said that she was going home; I asked them what they wanted.*
Homograph	words that have the same spelling as another but different meaning, e.g. *The calf was drinking. My calf is aching.*

Homophone words which have the same sound as another but different spelling and meaning. E.g. *read/reed; pair/pear; right/write/rite*

Singular/plural **singular** names one person, place or thing (*a single item*), *e.g. one bike, one mango, one dress, one turkey, etc.*
plural names more than one person, place or thing, *e.g. three bikes, four mangoes, two dresses, five turkeys.*

UPPER KEY STAGE 2 (all the previous terms plus the following)

Abbreviation

is where a word is shortened usually followed by a full stop; e.g. *ref. – reference.* These are used in note taking.

Acronym

is an **abbreviation** which is made up of the initial letters of a group of words and is pronounced as a single word. E.g. *laser – light amplification by the stimulated emission of radiation; NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.* Acronyms are to be confused with **abbreviations** in which the separate letters are pronounced; e.g. *USA – pronounced as U-S-A.*

Active and passive

many **verbs** can be active or passive. E.g. *bite – the dog bit Ben (active)* because the subject *(the dog)* performs the action. *Ben was bitten by the dog (passive)* because the subject *(Ben)* is on the receiving end of the action. Both sentences give similar information.

Antonyms

are words with opposite meanings, e.g. *love/hate, hot/cold.*

Determiners

are words which come before a noun; they introduce the noun and give the reader important information about it.

Double negative

in non-standard English a double negative may be used. E.g. *We didn't see nobody. I never took nothing.* Such double negatives ae not acceptable in **standard English.**

Draft

a first stage in the writing process which may be changed and improved; a **text** many develop through a number of drafts before reaching a final piece of writing.

Ellipsis …

used to show there is a long pause, or at the end of sentence to create suspense. *E.g. "The sight was awesome… truly amazing." "It's gone…" Her voice trailed off as she realised the implication of the loss."*

Genre

refers to different types of writing each with its own specific characteristics which relate to origin (*legend/myth/fable)*, or reader interest area – the types of books they choose to read (*adventure, romance, science fiction).*

Metaphor

He had wings on this feet – it states that he had wings on his feet but it is to illustrate that he moved speedily.

Onomatapoeia

is a word that imitates the natural sound of a noun; it creates a sound effect that mimics the thing described. *E.g. splash, bang, pop.*

Parenthesis   is a word or phrase inserted into a sentence to explain or elaborate. It may be placed in **brackets**, or between **dashes** or **commas.** E.g. *Sam and Emma (his oldest children) are coming to visit him next weekend. Margaret is generally happy – she sings in the mornings! – but responsibility weighs her down. Sarah is, I believe, our best student.*
The term **parenthesis** can also refer to the brackets themselves.

Personification   is when you give human qualities to an inanimate object or an animal; *e.g. Lightening danced across the sky. The wind howled in the night.*

Prefix   is a group of letters which can be added to the beginning of a word to change it meaning. E.g. ***in**edible, **dis**appear, **un**intentional.*

Preposition   are words which show the relationship of one thing to another, *e.g. after, before, on, etc. <u>After</u> walking for miles she rested <u>on</u> a wall.*

Pronoun   there are several types of pronoun: **personal:** *e.g. I/me, he/him, she/her, we/us, they/them, it.* **Possessive:** *mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs, its.* **Reflexive:** *myself, herself, themselves, etc.*

Simile   makes a comparison of the subject (object, person, etc.) to something else usually using words such as '*as*' and *'like'. E.g. Her eyes sparkled <u>like</u> sunlight on water. He was as tall <u>as</u> a mountain.*

Synonym   words which have a similar meaning to another: *bad – awful, terrible, horrible; happy – content, joyful, ecstatic.*