

SPaG: Year 6 Grammar Terms

Subject and object, active and passive, punctuation, synonyms and antonyms, ellipsis and more.

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Learning objective: I can identify and use Year 6 grammar terms correctly.

Terms follow the statutory national curriculum glossary (English Appendix 2).

1 Match the term Draw a line from each grammar term to its meaning.

subject ●	● A A word that means the opposite of another word.
object ●	● B The noun, pronoun or noun phrase that names who or what is doing or being the verb.
passive ●	● C Leaving out a word or phrase because the reader can easily work out what is missing.
synonym ●	● D The noun, pronoun or noun phrase that the verb acts on. It usually comes straight after the verb.
antonym ●	● E A word that means the same, or nearly the same, as another word.
ellipsis ●	● F A sentence where the subject has the action done to it, e.g. <i>The cake was eaten.</i>

2 Subject and object Underline the subject and circle the object in each sentence.

- The goalkeeper caught the ball.
- My grandma bakes delicious bread every Sunday.
- After lunch, the children planted sunflowers.
- Ravi's older sister painted a huge mural.

3 Active or passive? Tick one box for each sentence.

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
1 Mia opened the heavy door.	☐	☐
2 The cake was eaten by the twins.	☐	☐
3 The window was broken during the storm.	☐	☐
4 Our class planted three trees.	☐	☐

Remember: in a passive sentence, the person or thing that does the action can be added with *by* (*by the twins*) or left out completely (*The window was broken*). Passive verbs are useful in formal writing such as reports.

Challenge: say sentence 2 in the active voice.

SPaG: Year 6 Grammar Terms – continued**4 Make it passive** Rewrite each sentence in the passive voice. Keep the same meaning.

1 The dog chased the postman.

2 The class wrote a letter to the mayor.

3 A storm damaged the old bridge.

5 Colons and semi-colons Add the punctuation shown in brackets in the correct place.

1 Pack these items for the trip a coat, a torch and a water bottle. (add a colon)

2 The museum was closed we went to the park instead. (add a semi-colon)

3 On our tour we visited Cardiff, Wales Belfast, Northern Ireland and Glasgow, Scotland.
(add two semi-colons)

6 Hyphens Hyphens can stop a sentence being ambiguous (having two meanings).

Explain the difference in meaning:
a man-eating shark and **a man eating shark**

Tick the sentence that means *put a new cover on the armchair*.

- ☐ We need to recover the old armchair.
☐ We need to re-cover the old armchair.

7 Synonyms and antonyms

a) Write a **synonym** for *enormous*.

b) Write an **antonym** for *generous*.

c) Circle the **antonym** of *ancient*.

old modern historic ruined

d) Circle the **synonym** of *brave*.

fearful calm courageous timid

8 Ellipsis and formal language

a Cross out the words that can be left out using **ellipsis**:

I wanted to go to the cinema, but my brother didn't want to go to the cinema.

b Circle the correct word to complete this formal sentence (the **subjunctive** form):

*If I **was** **were** the headteacher, I would make lunchtime longer.*

c Add a **question tag** to finish the sentence:

You have finished your homework, _____ ?

Answer Key

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Question	Answers
1 Match the term	subject → B ; object → D ; passive → F ; synonym → E ; antonym → A ; ellipsis → C
2 Subject and object	1. subject: <u>The goalkeeper</u> · object: the ball 2. subject: <u>My grandma</u> · object: delicious bread 3. subject: <u>the children</u> · object: sunflowers 4. subject: <u>Ravi's older sister</u> · object: a huge mural Accept the head noun alone (e.g. <i>goalkeeper</i> , <i>grandma</i> , <i>sister</i> , <i>ball</i> , <i>bread</i> , <i>mural</i>). In 3, <i>After lunch</i> is a fronted adverbial, not the subject.
3 Active or passive?	1 active; 2 passive; 3 passive; 4 active Challenge: The twins ate the cake.
4 Make it passive	1. The postman was chased by the dog. 2. A letter was written to the mayor by the class. (Also accept: A letter to the mayor was written by the class.) 3. The old bridge was damaged by a storm.
5 Colons and semi-colons	1. Pack these items for the trip: a coat, a torch and a water bottle. 2. The museum was closed; we went to the park instead. 3. On our tour we visited Cardiff, Wales; Belfast, Northern Ireland; and Glasgow, Scotland. In 2, a colon or a dash between the two independent clauses is also correct, but the task asks for a semi-colon.
6 Hyphens	a man-eating shark is a shark that eats people; a man eating shark is a man who is eating shark meat. Tick: We need to re-cover the old armchair. (<i>recover</i> means get it back, or get better.)
7 Synonyms and antonyms	a) e.g. huge, gigantic, massive, immense, vast b) e.g. mean, selfish, stingy, miserly c) modern d) courageous
8 Ellipsis and formal language	a) Cross out <i>want to go to the cinema</i> → "...but my brother didn't." (Also accept crossing out only <i>go to the cinema</i> → "...didn't want to.") b) were c) haven't you