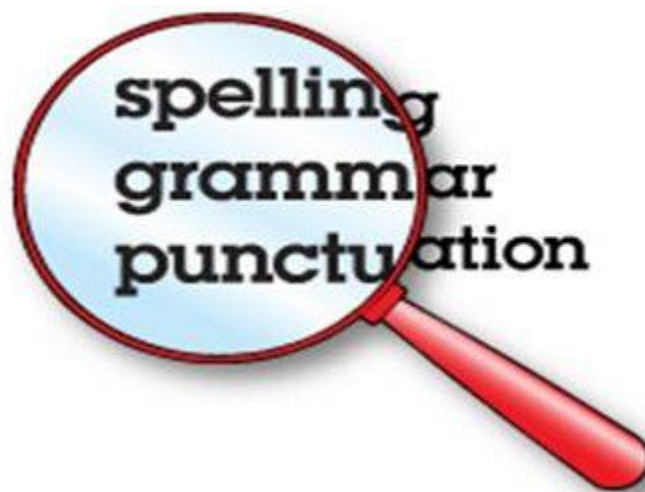


# **SPaG Buster!**

## **How to help your child with spelling, punctuation and grammar in Year 6**

This leaflet will explain the key aspects of spelling, punctuation and grammar that are taught in Year 6. We hope the suggested activities will be useful when supporting your child with spelling or writing activities at home.



## Year 6 Grammar and Punctuation

These are the key aspects of grammar and punctuation learning in Year 6:

Key term	Definition	Example
Synonym/Antonym	Synonyms are words that mean the same or nearly the same as each other. Antonyms are words that mean the opposite of each other.	<b><i>Big, little, large, small, tiny, miniscule</i></b> * <u>Big</u> and <u>large</u> are <i>synonyms</i> *An <b>antonym</b> of <u>large</u> would be <u>small</u>
Formal/Informal	Formal language is used in official or formal situations. Informal language is the language used in everyday situations.	*Formal- It is anticipated that all groups will participate *Informal – Everyone needs to take part
Subjunctive	The subjunctive mood is the verb form used to express a wish, a suggestion, a command, or a condition that is contrary to fact.	<b><i>If</i></b> William <b><i>were</i></b> a better footballer, he could kick the ball. *Sentences will usually start with <u>if</u> and contain <u>were</u> .
Active and Passive	With the active verb, the subject is doing the action. With the passive verb, the object is having the action done to it by the subject.	If you can put ‘by zombies’ after the verb then it is in the passive voice. *Active - The cat chased the ball. *Passive - The ball was chased by the cat.
Semi Colon	A semi colon can be used to separate two sentences or main clauses which are of equal importance. It can also be used in a list. They are used to separate longer phrases in a list.	*The film was brilliant; I had a great time. *We all brought four things: a pair of trainers; a brightly coloured t-shirt; a swimming costume and some kind of musical instrument.
Colon	A colon can be used to introduce a list. It can also be used to introduce examples or explanations. The examples or explanations, which give you more information, come after the colon.	*I play the following sports: hockey, badminton, tennis and rounders. * I like the colour blue: it is the colour of my favourite team.
Hyphen	A hyphen is used to join two or more words or to join some prefixes to words.	It’s the difference between – *A man eating snake (a man who is eating a snake) And *A man-eating snake (a snake that eats man)

### Activities to try at home:

- Include a variety of punctuation to alter the sentence structures within your writing.
- Practise the subjunctive mood by thinking about what you would like to be when you’re older. If I were...
- Look out for how hyphens have been used in books that are read and how the meaning of the sentence would be altered without it.

## Year 6 Spelling

In Year 6 we learn a range of spelling patterns and rules.

Spelling Pattern/Rule	Example Words
Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in -fer	refeering, referred, referral, preferring, preferred, transferring, reference, referee, transference
Words ending in -ant, -ance, -ancy, -ent, -ence, -ency	-ant observant, tolerant, assistant -ance observance, assistance, substance -ancy hesitancy -ent decent, frequent, independent -ence independence, innocence, -ency decency, frequency
Endings -cious or -tious	-cious vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, -tious ambitious, cautious, fictitious, infectious
Ending -ial	official, special, artificial, partial, confidential, essential
Homophones that can often be confused	advice/advise device/devise licence/license farther/further/father principal/principle stationary/stationery

## 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**.