



SWALECLIFFE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR THE WRITING CURRICULUM

Active and passive voice -

verbs can be active or passive.

Active

The subject performs the action, e.g.

The dog bit Ben

I have repaired it.

Passive

The subject is on the receiving end of the action, e.g.

Ben was bitten by the dog

It has been repaired.

Adjectives -

is a word that describes somebody or something, e.g. those shoes look **nice** or a **busy** day.

Comparative form

An adjective + -er or more + adjective, e.g.

old – **older**

dangerous – **more** dangerous.

Superlative form

The adjective + -est or most, e.g.

Small – **smallest**

Important – **most** important.

Adverb - adverbs give extra meaning to a verb, an adjective, another adverb or a whole sentence, e.g.

I **really enjoyed** the party (adverb + verb)
She's **really nice** (adverb + adjective)
He works **really slowly** (adverb + adverb)
Really, he should do better (adverb + sentence)

In many cases, adverbs tell us:

How	-	slowly, happily
Where	-	here, outside
When	-	now, later
How often	-	often, regularly

Adverbial

Phrase - a group of words that function in the same way as a single adverb, e.g. She looked at me **in a strange way**.

Alliteration - a phrase where adjacent or closely connected words begin with the same phoneme:
slithering snakes, free phone.

Antonym - words with opposite meaning to another: hot – cold, dark – light.

Clause - a clause is a group of words that expresses an event or a situation. It usually contains a **subject** (she) and a **verb** (drank), e.g. he drank some water.

Main clause A main clause is complete on its own and can form a sentence, e.g. It was raining.

Subordinate clause This cannot exist as a sentence on its own, e.g. Although it was cold, the weather was pleasant enough (the subordinate clause is underlined)

Determiner - are used with nouns and they 'determine' the reference of the noun in some way, examples include:

a/an, the (articles)
my, your (possessives)
three, fifty (numbers)
any, some (quantities)

Direct speech -	uses the speaker's original words using inverted commas , e.g. "What are you doing?" she asked. Helen said "I'm going home".
Metaphor -	where the writer writes about something as if it were really something else, e.g. the crystal moon.
Noun -	nouns are sometimes called "naming words" because they name people, places and things. A noun denotes somebody or something, e.g. Our dog bit the burglar! - Nouns can be singular (only one) or plural (more than one) - There are different types of nouns
Common -	identifies a person, place or thing more generically, e.g. apply, restaurant
Proper -	the name of a specific person, place or thing, e.g. Snow White, France, Monday
Collective -	refers to a group of people, animals or things, e.g. family, herd, team
Concrete -	refers to objects that exist physically, e.g. clock, pens, dog
Abstract -	names a 'thing' such as a feeling, quantity or concept that has no physical form, e.g. sorrow, courage, freedom.
Noun phrase -	is a group of connected words used in place of the noun. The noun 'heads' the phrase and the other words modify it, e.g. Adult foxes can jump. An example of an expanded noun phrase is: the dry arid desert.
Parenthesis -	is a word or phrase inserted into a sentence to explain or elaborate. It may be placed in brackets or between dashes/commas.
Personification -	a form of metaphor in which language relating to human action or emotion is used to refer to non-human objects or concepts, e.g. the tree danced in the wind.
Pronoun -	is a word that can act as a substitute for a noun or noun phrase. Pronouns can be used in a text to avoid repetition and strengthen cohesion
Personal	indicate person, number and gender, e.g. I, me, she, he, you
Relative	Introduce a relative clause, e.g. who, whom
Possessive	used to express ownership, e.g. mine, yours, his, hers.

Phrase - for example: 'a big dog'. It does not say what the dog did or what happened to it. It does not contain a **verb**.

Prefix - is added at the beginning of a word to turn it into another, e.g. **overnight**, **disappear**.

Preposition - a preposition is a word which shows the noun's relationship to another word, often used to show position, e.g. The bowl of fruit stood **on** the table.

Pun - a play on words with similar sounds but different meaning to humorous effect. For example: I'm on a seafood diet: I see food and I eat it.

Reported speech - we report what the original speaker said but speech marks are not used. Typically, we change pronouns and verb tenses. For example:

I asked them what they wanted.
Helen said that she was going home.

Root word - a word which is not made of any smaller root words, or prefixes or suffixes e.g. play, fair.

Sentence - a group of words which are grammatically connected

Simple consists of one clause, e.g. It was late

Compound where two or more clauses are joined, e.g. It was late but I wasn't tired

Complex consists of a main clause and one or more subordinating clauses

Simile - the writer creates an image in the readers' minds by comparing a subject to something else, e.g. as strong as an ox.

Subject and Object - John kicked the ball. 'John' is the subject, 'the ball' is the object.

Suffix - is something used at the end of one word to turn it into another word e.g.

call → **called**
teacher → **teacher** (becomes a noun)
terror → **terrorise** (becomes a verb)

Synonym - words that have the same meaning as another word, or similar: wet/damp. Child should avoid overuse of any word.

Tense - a tense is a verb form that most often indicates time. English verbs have two basic tenses: present and past.

Present

I play (simple)
I am playing (continuous)

past

I played (simple)
I was playing (continuous)

Word family - word families consist of groups of words that share a common root, e.g. act, action, react.

Verb - a word used to describe an action, state, or occurrence, and forming the main part of the predicate of a sentence, such as *hear, become, happen*.

Modal verb these are verbs that express a degree of possibility, probability and certainty. Core modal verbs are: can, could, may, might, shall, should, will, would, must.