My Little Book of Grammar

Years Five and Six

 Using a colon to introduce a list:

*The following foods will be available: fresh salad, spaghetti bolognaise baked potatoes and roast chicken.*

Punctuation



Using commas:

To mark extra information:

*Jill, my boss, is 28.*

After a subordinate clause:

*Although it was cold, we didn’t wear coats.*

With connecting adverbs:

*Anyway, in the end I decided not to go.*

GFW: Units 19, 24, 28 and 40

Grammar is the study of making sentences.

English is a subject – verb – object language

Sentences:

* Made up of clauses
* Made up of phrases
* Made up of words

Subject – verb – object

The man was eating a bun.

How We Make Sentences

Semi-colons, colons or dashes to mark boundaries between independent clauses:

Colon can separate 2 sentences where the second explains the first.

*The dog walked sadly to his kennel: his owner had gone out for the day.*

Semi-colon can separate 2 closely related sentences.

*The girls wanted to play out; the boys wanted to stay in.*

Brackets, dashes and commas for parenthesis:

Parenthesis is a word or phrase inserted in a sentence to explain or elaborate.

*Sam and Emma (the oldest children) are visiting.*

*Margaret is generally happy-she sings in the mornings!-but responsibility weighs her down.*

*Sarah is, I believe, leaving next week.*

Subordinate clauses make sentences much more exciting.

Ways of Opening Sentences

A prepositional phrase:

* Place (*above, behind*)
* Position (*on, among*)
* Time (*until, since*)

GFW: Unit 42 & 44

An adverbial phrase:

*Sitting quietly, she watched.*

*Walking slowly, I crept into the room.*

*Trembling with fear, he left.*

Punctuation tip: have you noticed where the comma goes?

GFW: Unit 23, 39 & 44

A conjunction:

*Because he was leaving, John bought gifts for his friends.*

*Although the day was cold, the sky was bright.*

Nouns Pronouns Adjectives

Common nouns (*Dog, table, ball*)

Proper nouns (*London, Roger, National Gallery*)

Collective nouns (*herd, crown*)

Abstract nouns (*beauty, truth, justice*)

GFW: Unit 7 & 11

Pronouns

Personal: *I, me, you, he, him, she, her, it, we, us*

Possessive: *My, mine, your, yours, his, hers, its, our, theirs*

GFW: Unit 15 & 39

Expanded Noun and Adjectival Phrases:

*a glimmering rock* (expands the noun)

*The man with the tall white hat is the chef*. (The group of words acts as an adjective)

GFW: Unit 10, 26 & 44

Verbs

Conjunctions

Modal Verbs:

Can/could

Will/would

Shall/should

May/might

Must/ought

Modal verbs express a possibility. They are followed by an infinitive.

*We might go.*

*You ought to eat.*

*I wouldn’t do that.*

Perfect Tense

I have been

Progressive

I am being

Past tense

I was

We were

You were

She/he/it was

They were

Present tense

I am

We are

You are

She/he/it is

They are

Conjunctions join together:

* Two words
* Two phrases
* Two parts of a sentence

and but because or if that since yet as so that although for while both unless wherever till

GFW: Unit 17, 32, 34 & 47

Using conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to

express time and cause:

*later, after, next, until, before, firstly, then, because,*

Phrases and Clauses

Passive Voice

A sentence using the active voice is one where the subject of the sentence is the ‘agent’ of the action, and the object is the recipient.

*The mouse frightened the elephant.* Active

In using the passive voice, the sentence is turned around so the normal object becomes the subject.

*The elephant was frightened by the mouse.* Passive

GFW: units 45 & 48

Phrases can’t make a sentence alone. E.g.

*Was sitting*

*On the mat*

A clause contains a subject and a verb.

*A simple sentence has one clause.*

*e.g. The cat sat.*

Subjunctive Verbs

Subjunctive

... if I***were***you;

the report recommends that he***face***the tribunal;

it is important that they***be***aware of the provisions of the act.

These sentences all contain a verb in the **subjunctive mood**. The subjunctive is used to express situations which are hypothetical or not yet realized.

It is distinctive only in the third person singular, where the normal indicative **–s** ending is absent

 he***face*** rather than he***faces*** in the example above

and in the verb ‘to be’: I***were*** rather than I***was***

and they***be*** rather than they***are***

Types of Sentence

Relative Clauses

Relative clauses beginning with who, which, where, why, whose, that

 *The biscuits that Tom bought have all gone.*

*The team, whose boots were muddy, traipsed through the school.*

A compound sentence has two clauses of equal weight joined with: and, but, so, or

e.g. *The cat sat and the dog stood.*

Complex sentences

A complex sentence has a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses that are linked to the main clause.

e.g. *The cat sat, while the dog stood.*

Example of a Complex Sentence:

*When I arrived, the big dog, which was called Rover, was barking, because it was lonely.*