

Year 6

Subject

The subject of a verb is normally the [noun](#), [noun phrase](#) or [pronoun](#) that names the 'do-er' or 'be-er'.

The subject's normal position is:

- just before the [verb](#) in a statement
- just after the [auxiliary verb](#), in a question.

That is uncertain.

The children will study the animals.

Will the children study the animals?

Object

An object is normally a [noun](#), [pronoun](#) or [noun phrase](#) that comes straight after the [verb](#), and shows what the verb is acting upon.

Year 2 designed puppets. [noun acting as object]

I like that. [pronoun acting as object]

Some people suggested a pretty display. [noun phrase acting as object]

Contrast:

- *A display was suggested.* [object of active verb becomes the subject of the passive verb]

Year 2 designed pretty. [incorrect, because adjectives cannot be objects]

Progressive Verbs

The progressive form is a verb tense used to show an ongoing action in progress at some point in time. It shows an action still in progress.

- Present Progressive: The cake **is baking** slowly.
- Past Progressive: The trees **were waving** back and forth.
- Past Progressive: Gemma **was doing** her science homework
- Future Progressive: The children **will be laughing**.

Perfect + Progressive

The perfect and progressive forms can be combined, as in the following examples (again, the form of the helping verbs indicates the tense):

- Present Perfect Progressive: I **have been running** for an hour.
- Past Perfect Progressive: I **had been running** for an hour.
- Future Perfect Progressive: I **will have been running** for an hour.

Antonym

Two words are antonyms if their meanings are opposites.

hot – cold light – dark light – heavy

Synonym

Two words are synonyms if they have the same meaning, or similar meanings. Contrast [antonym](#).

talk – speak old – elderly

Active voice

An active [verb](#) has its usual pattern of [subject](#) and [object](#) (in contrast with the [passive](#)).

Passive

The sentence *It was eaten by our dog* is the passive of *Our dog ate it*.

A visit was arranged by the school.

Our cat got run over by a bus.

Active versions:

Active: *The school arranged a visit.*

- *The school arranged a visit.*
- *A bus ran over our cat.*

Passive: *A visit was arranged by the school.*

Not passive:

- *He received a warning.* [past tense, active *received*]
- *We had an accident.* [past tense, active *had*]

SEMICOLON

Between independent clauses not joined by coordinating conjunctions

(*for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*)

Example

He promised to reform; a few days later he forgot everything.

Between items in a series containing internal punctuation

Example

Captain Zeno, a television star; Harriet Smith, who writes fiction; and Mel Stevens, a world-famous psychiatrist, meet for an hour every Thursday to discuss the geopolitical situation.

Colons and semicolons are two types of punctuation.

Colons (:) are used in sentences to introduce that something follows like a quotation, example or a list.

Semicolons (;) are used to join two independent clauses, to separate main clauses joined by a conjunctive adverb or to separate items in a list that already uses commas.

Hyphen to avoid ambiguity –

John had twenty pound notes (suggesting John had 20 x £1 notes)

John had twenty-pound notes (suggesting John had £20 notes)

Ellipsis '...'

An ellipsis has different purposes and can be very useful in your writing.

- It can be used to show a word or words have been removed from a quote.
- It can create suspense by adding a pause before the end of the sentence.
- It can also be used to show the trailing off of a thought.

Subjunctive

In some languages, the inflections of a verb include a large range of special forms which are used typically in subordinate clauses, and are called 'subjunctives'. English has very few such forms and those it has tend to be used in rather formal styles.

The Subjunctive is used to emphasize urgency or importance. It is used after certain expressions

The school requires that all pupils be honest.

The school rules demand that pupils not enter the gym at lunchtime.

If Zoë were the class president, things would be much better.

Bullet points

Bullet Points are used to draw attention to important information within a document so that a reader can identify the key issues and facts quickly. There are no fixed rules about how to use them, but here are some guidelines:

1. The text introducing the list of bullet points should end with a colon.
2. If the text that follows the bullet point is not a proper sentence, it doesn't need to begin with a capital letter, nor end with a full stop. For example:

Tonight's agenda includes:

- *annual review of capital gains issues*
- *outstanding inheritance tax issues*

3. If the text following the bullet point is a complete sentence, it should begin with a capital letter, while a full stop at the end is technically required but is not absolutely essential:

The agenda for tonight is as follows:

- *We will conduct an annual review of capital gains issues.*
- *Attorney Sanso will talk about outstanding inheritance tax issues.*