

**Supporting your child at  
home**

**Punctuation and Grammar**

**Year 4**

By the end of year 4, children should know:

- How to expand noun phrases by the addition of modifying adjectives, nouns and prepositions (e.g. 'the teacher' expanded to 'the strict teacher with curly red hair')
- How to use **fronted adverbials** (e.g. Later that day, I heard the bad news.)
- To use commas after **fronted adverbials**.
- How to use paragraphs to organise ideas around a theme.
- How to choose the correct **pronoun** or **noun** within and across **sentences** to aid cohesion and avoid repetition.
- How to use inverted commas and other punctuation to indicate direct speech (e.g. a comma after the reporting clause and end punctuation within inverted commas: "Sit down," said the teacher.)
- **Apostrophes** to mark singular and plural possession (e.g. the girl's name, the girls' names)

Word for pupils: *determiner, pronoun, possessive pronoun, adverbial*

## Activities to do with your child:

### Root words:

The challenge is to find as many words as you can from one root word. E.g. **wind-** *windy, windier, windfall, windpipe, windscreen, window*

- Rain
- Heavy
- Happy

Choose your own root words too!

### Poetry:

Work together to write fantastic descriptive poetry:

- Select a topic (e.g. the sea)
- Player 1- thinks of three adjectives to describe the sea (raging, crashing, sparkling) and write them on pieces of paper.
- Player 2- collects three more words (you could use a thesaurus to find more interesting words).
- Carry on taking it in turns to collect words and record on piece of paper.
- When you have enough, arrange and rearrange them to build your poems in this structure:

**Sneakers!**  
I like *sneakers*.  
\_\_\_\_\_ *sneakers*,  
\_\_\_\_\_ *sneakers*,  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ *sneakers*,  
Any kind of *sneakers*.  
I like *sneakers*.  


**Monsters!**  
Monsters, monsters, monsters,  
\_\_\_\_\_ monsters,  
\_\_\_\_\_ monsters,  
\_\_\_\_\_ monsters,  
These are just a few.  
\_\_\_\_\_ monsters,  
\_\_\_\_\_ monsters,  
\_\_\_\_\_ monsters, too.  
\_\_\_\_\_ monsters,  
\_\_\_\_\_ monsters,  
\_\_\_\_\_ monsters,  
Don't forget \_\_\_\_\_ monsters,  
Last of all, best of all,  
I like \_\_\_\_\_ monsters.

**Spring**  
\_\_\_\_\_ wind,  
\_\_\_\_\_ sun,  
Super Sunny Spring!  
\_\_\_\_\_ grass,  
\_\_\_\_\_ flowers,  
Super Sunny Spring!  
By \_\_\_\_\_

**Spring**  
\_\_\_\_\_ wind,  
\_\_\_\_\_ sun,  
Super Sunny Spring!  
\_\_\_\_\_ grass,  
\_\_\_\_\_ flowers,  
Super Sunny Spring!  
By \_\_\_\_\_

### Punctuation poem:

Read these statements:

- 1) This represents the beginning of a sentence. We use these to spell the first letters of places, things and people (capital letters).
- 2) This piece of punctuation shows us a question has been asked (question mark).

- 3) When we see this punctuation, we know to take a little pause. These also make longer sentences easier to read (commas).
- 4) This punctuation shows exactly what a character has said (speech marks).
- 5) Without this bit of punctuation, we would not recognise whether someone was surprised, excited or shouting (exclamation mark).
- 6) We always find these at the end of a sentence (full stop)

Punctuation bingo!			Punctuation bingo!		
Capital letter ABCDEFG	Full stop .	Comma ,	Exclamation mark !	Capital letter ABCDEFG	Full stop .
Exclamation mark !	Question mark ?	Speech mark “ ”	Comma ,	Question mark ?	Paragraph <small>.....</small>

Punctuation bingo!		
Full stop .	Comma ,	Capital letter ABCDEFG
Question mark ?	Paragraph <small>.....</small>	Apostrophe ,

Punctuation bingo!		
Commas ,	Speech marks “ ”	Full stop .
Brackets (.....)	Capital letter ABCDEFG	Question mark ?

Punctuation bingo!		
Capital letter ABCDEFG	Full stop .	Comma ,
Paragraph <small>.....</small>	Apostrophe ,	Speech mark “ ”

Punctuation bingo!		
Commas ,	Speech marks “ ”	Full stop .
Brackets (.....)	Capital letter ABCDEFG	Exclamation mark !

Try some of these online activities to support your child's learning:

- Contractions: <http://www.learninggamesforkids.com/vocabulary-games/contractions/contraction-memory-match.html>
- Sentences: <http://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/spelling-and-grammar>
- Punctuation: <http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/grammar/punctuation.htm>
- More sentences: <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2literacy.html>