

Staveley C E Primary School



Support your child at home
with
Spelling, Punctuation and
Grammar
Years 3 and 4

Speaking

Before children are able to use correct punctuation in their writing they need to be able to speak correctly. The most important way to help and support them is to talk together. Talk about what interests them and what you are doing or are going to be doing. Talk about stories and books, toys and films.

If children make mistakes and use tenses incorrectly model how it should be said. Simply repeat what was said using the correct tense or word order rather than pointing out mistakes all the time. Provide an alternative or expand on what has been said demonstrating how speech can be improved.

Reading

Reading is a vital, and very enjoyable, way in which children learn about spelling, punctuation and grammar. When reading and having books read to them children are experiencing language used in a more formal way, using different sentence structures etc. The importance of this experience cannot be emphasised enough. Immersing children in texts gives them the models to use in their own writing.

By the end of Year 3 most children should know...

- How to express time, place and cause using conjunctions – (e.g. when, before, after, while, so, because), adverbs (e.g. then, next, soon, therefore), or prepositions (e.g. before, after, during, in, because of).
- The basics of using paragraphs as a way of grouping related material;
- How to use headings and sub headings to aid presentation;
- How to use the present perfect form of verbs instead of the simple past (e.g. He has gone out to play. contrasted with... He went out to play).
- How to use inverted commas to punctuate direct speech.

Words for pupils: adverb, preposition, conjunction, word family, prefix, clause, direct speech, consonant, vowel, inverted commas (or 'speech marks').
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Useful activities for year 3...

Read! Read! Read!

Take a page of writing (fiction or non-fiction). Put it under the microscope. How many sentences are there? What type of sentences can you see? What sort of sentence does the author use first? How does that make you feel? What is the page about? What types of words are used?

Punctuation police

Look at a selection of magazines, advertisements, newspapers or leaflets. Highlight the punctuation marks you can see.

How many of each type can you see?

Why are they there?

Can you think of a rule?

Can you find any exclamation marks?

Why are they where they are? What emotion are they showing – surprise, anger, fear or anything else?

Scriptwriter!

Look at a short piece of film with the sound turned down (not too many characters). Look at the action and discuss what the characters might be saying to each other.

What sort of mood are they in?

How would they be talking? – shouting, whispering, grunting etc.?

Write out the dialogue using speech marks and the correct punctuation.

Try to avoid using 'said' all of the time. "I want to be the top man!" bellowed the Godfather. "Why is that?" enquired his son.

Try these...Can you spot the conjunctions in these sentences? Underline them:

1. I put on my shoes and I went out to play.
2. I can't eat my sweets until after dinner.
3. I can't go out tonight because I have to stay in and do my homework.
4. It had been a long time since I had last played football.

5. I was going to eat the sweets but I saved them for my sister.
6. She was nice to me although she wouldn't let me play with the lego.

Use conjunctions to make these sentences more interesting.

7. I can't go swimming. I have forgotten my swimming trunks.
8. I'd like to go to the park. My mum won't let me.
9. The old woman wanted to feed her dog. There was nothing in the cupboard.
10. I bought some sweets. I ate them on the way home.
11. The teacher was cross. She was late.
12. I went to the pictures. I really wanted to stay at home.
13. I couldn't go out. My dad came home.

Try some of these online activities to support learning...

Paragraphs

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling_grammar/paragraphs/play/

Sentences

https://hwb.wales.gov.uk/cms/hwbcontent/Shared%20Documents/vtc/sentence_detectives/eng/Introduction/default.htm

Punctuation marks

<http://www.funenglishgames.com/punctuation.swf> Adjectives etc.
http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/grammar/grammar_tutorial.htm

By the end of Year 4 most children should know...

- How to expand noun phrases by the addition of modifying adjectives, nouns and preposition phrases (e.g. the teacher expanded to: the strict teacher with curly red hair),
- About fronted adverbials (e.g. Later that day, I heard the bad news).
- Use of 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; end punctuation within inverted commas: The conductor shouted, “Sit down!”) .
- Apostrophes to mark singular and plural possession (e.g. the girl’s name, the girls’ names).

Words for pupils: determiner, pronoun, possessive pronoun, adverbial
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Useful activities for year 4...

Make as many as you can... root words

The challenge is to find as many words as you can from one root ...e.g. wind – windy, windier, windfall, windpipe, windscreen , window etc. rain... heavy... happy... and so on and so on.

Poetry please... Work together to write fantastic descriptive poetry... Select a topic ... the sea. Player 1 - thinks of three adjectives to describe the sea – raging, crashing, sparkling ... write them on pieces of card. Player 2 – collects three more words – encourage use of thesaurus (online or otherwise) Carry on taking it in turns to collect words and record on card. When you have enough – arrange and rearrange them to build your poems; Try this with other types of topic.

Try some of these online activities to support learning...

Contractions in apostrophes...

Sentences... <http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Flash.aspx?e=spelling-grammar03>

Punctuation <http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/grammar/punctuation.htm>

More sentences <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2literacy.html>