



“Grammar to a writer is to a mountaineer a good pair of hiking boots or, more precisely, to a deep-sea diver an oxygen tank.”





# Learning Outcomes

- Understand the meaning of SPaG
- Explore definitions of key grammatical terminology
- Look at examples of statutory end of Key Stage assessments
- Practical ways of supporting your child at home and the importance of reading
- Question and answer session



# What does it mean?

# SPaG

**S** – Spelling

**P** – Punctuation

**A** – and

**G** – Grammar



# Before we go any further....

- We are not asking you to spend every spare moment doing Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation activities with your child
- We would like to raise your awareness of its importance and place in the New Curriculum





# Parent Challenge...

## Word Classes

nouns	
adjectives	
pronouns	
verbs	
adverbs	
conjunctions	
prepositions	
determiners	



*"Grammar is a slippery eel"*

It is about the *job of the word* in the sentence and *how we tie/connect sentences together*.

*'Green' is often used as an adjective but in 'plays on the green' it is used as a noun.*

**BLUE**



# Cutting a Path through Key Terminology



# Statutory Tests

## *Why does my child need to sit these tests?*

- The Department for Education is introducing the test to make sure that when children leave primary school they are confident in SPaG.
- The ability to write and communicate are key life skills. In the long term, your child will be able to use these skills throughout their education and employment, and their adult life.





# Examples of End of Key Stage 1 Statuary Tests



- 3 Look at the next part of the story in the box below. It is missing **capital letters** and a **full stop**.
- a) **Write** a full stop in the correct place.
  - b) Circle **three** words that must have a capital letter.

mary and john are waiting for their breakfast in the kitchen they want a boiled egg and a glass of fresh milk.





# Examples of End of Key Stage 2 Statutory Tests

5

Circle **all** the **determiners** in the sentence below.

There wasn't much juice left in the fridge, so I bought a new bottle.

1 mark

6

Circle the **relative clause** in the sentence below.

The blue car that was parked outside the shop was for sale.

1 mark



# Examples of End of Key Stage 2 Statutory Tests

12

Explain how the **comma** changes the meaning in the two sentences below.

Are you coming to see, Ali?

Are you coming to see Ali?

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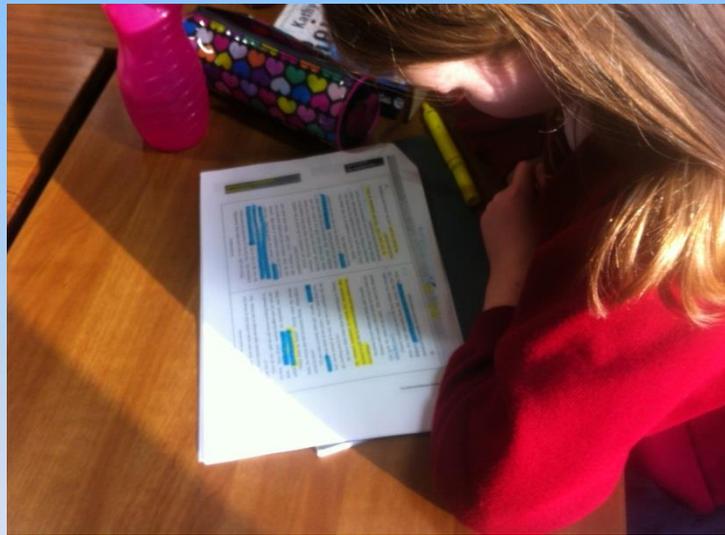
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1 mark



# How does this link to reading?





# The Power of Reading!

- Creating a love of reading in children is potentially one of the most powerful ways of improving academic standards in school.

Reform Minister Nick Gibb recently said:

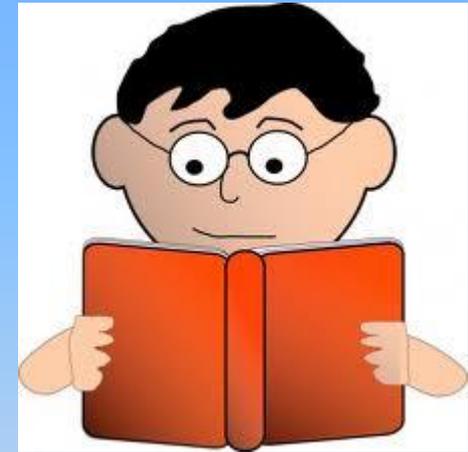
*'Nothing is more important than ensuring every child can read well. Poor reading can hold people back throughout their adult lives. Our plan for education is focused on ensuring all children leave primary school with a good grasp of literacy, a habit of and love of reading'*

- Reflected in the National Curriculum 2014
- There can be few better ways to improve pupils chances in school, or beyond in the wider world than to enable them to become truly independent readers.



# READING IS CRUCIAL

- Vocabulary
- Spellings
- Grammar
- Oracy
- Punctuation
- Discussion





# Reading requires two skills

## Phonics and Word Recognition

The ability to recognise words presented in and out of context.

The ability to blend letter sounds (phonemes) together to read words.



## Understanding

The ability to understand the meaning of the words and sentences in a text.

The ability to understand the ideas, information and themes in a text.

Understanding how punctuation and structure contribute to meaning.



# Closed Questions to Open Questions!

*It is not a test! It's a dialogue.*

Do you like this book; why?

Which words tell you what the character is like?

What would you do if...?

Why has the author used that adjective?

What does the exclamation mark show you about how the character is feeling?

Can you find the proper noun in the sentence?

**You do not have to be a confident reader yourself to discuss ideas and enthuse your child about reading.**





# IMPACT ON WRITING

- Children will be writing sentences that make sense, are punctuated appropriately and all words are spelt correctly.





# Spelling

- Though spelling is not the most important aspect of writing, there are statutory spelling patterns and words all children are expected to learn.

## Fun Spelling Activities

### UPPER and Lower

Write your spelling words  
two times each.

First, write each word in UPPERCASE  
letters. Second, write each word in  
lowercase letters.

\*Example- SLIDE slide

### Pyramid Writing

"Pyramid write" your spelling words.  
You must write neatly!

\*Example: home h  
ho  
hom  
home



# What can you do?

- Encourage your child to read from a range of texts and discuss the texts with them
- For writing tasks, correct some spelling mistakes with them
- Read through their writing with them and help to correct grammar and punctuation errors



# Does SPAG matter?

Let's eat Grandma.  
Let's eat, Grandma.  
Commas save lives.





**Thank you.**

**Any questions?**