

ENGLISH · Y6 / GRADE 6

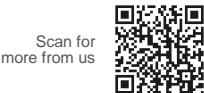
Y6 SATs SPaG

The technical English children need to recognise

About the SPaG paper

Word classes — must-know terminology

Term	What it means	Example
Noun	Person, place, thing, idea	Sam, school, ball, freedom
Common noun	General — not a name	school, dog, table
Proper noun	Specific name, capital letter	Sam, London, Tuesday
Pronoun	Replaces a noun	he, she, it, they, who
Possessive pronoun	Shows ownership	his, hers, theirs, ours
Verb	Action or state	ran, is, thought, eats
Modal verb	Possibility or obligation	could, should, must, might, will
Adjective	Describes a noun	large, blue, exciting



Term	What it means	Example
Adverb	Describes a verb / adjective / adverb	quickly, very, extremely
Preposition	Position / direction / time	on, under, after, before
Conjunction	Joins clauses	and, but, because, although
Determiner	Comes before noun	the, a, my, his, every, some
Subject	Who / what does the verb	Sam ran (Sam is the subject)
Object	Receives the action	Sam kicked the ball (ball is the object)

Sentence types & clauses

Term	What it means	Example
Statement	States a fact	The dog is sleeping.
Question	Asks something	Is the dog sleeping?
Command (imperative)	Orders / instructs	Sit down.
Exclamation	Starts with What/How + verb at end	What a beautiful day it is!
Main clause	Could stand alone as a sentence	The dog ran.
Subordinate clause	Cannot stand alone — depends on main	...because it was scared
Relative clause	Adds info about a noun, uses who/which/that/whose	The dog, which was scared, ran.
Embedded clause	Subordinate clause inside main clause	The dog, which was scared, ran.
Active voice	Subject does the verb	Sam ate the cake.
Passive voice	Subject receives the verb	The cake was eaten by Sam.

Verb tenses



Tense	Example	Note
Past simple	I walked	Most past actions
Past progressive	I was walking	Past, ongoing
Past perfect	I had walked	Past before another past
Present simple	I walk	Habits, facts
Present progressive	I am walking	Happening now
Present perfect	I have walked	Action completed, recent
Future (with 'will')	I will walk	Future
Future progressive	I will be walking	Future, ongoing

Punctuation rules — most-tested

Mark	Use	Example
Capital letter	Sentence start, names, days, months, 'I'	On Monday, I went to London.
Full stop	End of statement / command	The dog ran.
Question mark	End of question	Where is the dog?
Exclamation mark	Exclamation / strong emotion / command	Stop!
Comma in lists	Separates items in a list	I bought apples, bread, and cheese.
Comma after fronted adverbial	After the opening phrase	Quietly, the dog crept in.
Comma before subordinate clause	When subordinate comes first	Although it was raining, we went out.
Apostrophe — possession	Shows ownership	Sam's bag (singular); friends' bags (plural)
Apostrophe — contraction	Shows missing letters	don't (do not), I'm (I am)
Inverted commas / speech marks	Around direct speech	"Hello," said Sam.
Colon	Introduces explanation or list	The rule is simple: be kind.



Mark	Use	Example
Semi-colon	Joins two related main clauses	The rain stopped; the sun came out.
Hyphen	Joins words to make one term	well-known author
Dash	Adds extra info — like brackets	The dog — a tiny terrier — was loud.
Brackets / parentheses	Adds extra info	The dog (a terrier) was loud.

Specific common questions

SPaG paper strategy

- Read every question carefully — what type of answer is wanted?
- If asked for a complete sentence, write a complete sentence
- Capital letters at the start of sentences and proper nouns
- Spelling section: write neatly — illegible words = wrong
- Don't leave anything blank — guess if you must
- If asked to identify a word class, MARK only that word
- Punctuation must be correct in your answer (you'll be penalised)
- If unsure between two answers, choose the more technical one
- If you genuinely don't know a spelling, attempt the most likely version

