

What is SPaG?

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SPaG stands for **spelling, punctuation and grammar**.

Knowledge of spelling, punctuation and grammar will help children to properly arrange words in sentences and add the correct punctuation. Text speak is great for social media but formal language is needed to allow children to communicate effectively with others. The ability to spell, punctuate and produce grammatically-correct sentences is important as it is a life-long skill that is well worth practising and improving.

Newsletter Date
Spring 2016

Expectations:

Year 1: Regular Plural Noun Suffixes

Suffixes and Prefixes

Verbs Adjectives Conjunctions

Singular and Plural

Capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks

Year 2: Nouns using suffixes

Adjectives using suffixes

Adverbs

Conjunctions

Expanded Noun Phrases

Sentences with different forms Present/Past/Continuous Tense

Capital letters, full stops, question marks, exclamation marks, commas and apostrophes

Year 3 and 4: Nouns and prefixes such as super_, anti_, auto_

Determiners 'a' and 'an'

Conjunctions

Adverbs Prepositions Paragraphs

Headings and subheadings

Perfect form of verbs

Inverted commas

Clauses

Word families

Year 5 and 6:

Different verb tenses e.g. past perfect, past progressive, present progressive

Avoidance of double negatives

Antonyms & synonyms

Main / independent clauses and subordinate clauses

Phrases (prepositional, adverbial)

Complex (multi-clause) sentences punctuated correctly

Active and passive voice

Subordinating and co-ordinating conjunctions

Subjunctive form

Modal / auxiliary verbs

Cohesive devices

Relative pronouns

Punctuation e.g. colons, semi-colons, bullet points, ellipsis, dashes, hyphens & brackets

Please turn over for some ideas on how to help your child with SPaG at home



Ideas to help your child at home with SPaG:

- **Practise any spellings sent home and use in sentences**

-segment words into syllables e.g. Wed/nes/day

-highlight the tricky parts in a different colour

-**find words within words** e.g. competition

-**make up a mnemonic to help memorise** e.g. 'people' (people eat omelettes, people like eggs)

-**Look, say, cover, write, check**

-**Play antonym / synonym snap** (opposite or same meanings)

- '**Mallet's Mallet**' (word association game: one person calls out nouns while the other person calls out an adjective associated with that noun e.g. elephant: grey, mouse: squeaky, toy: plastic etc.)

- **Look out for SPaG homework** which will contain explanations of terminology (a free glossary is sent home in some classes and available for free online:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/244216/English_Glossary.pdf

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/335190/English_Appendix_2_-_Vocabulary_grammar_and_punctuation.pdf

- **Spelling lists for each year group** can be found online for free too:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/239784/English_Appendix_1_-_Spelling.pdf

- **Play games using the following websites:**

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

<http://www.spellingplay.co.uk/>

<http://www.grammaropolis.com/>

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

<http://grammar-monster.com/>

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk>

<http://www.twinkl.co.uk/>

<http://interactivesites.weebly.com/grammar.html>

<http://ictgames.com/phonemePatterns/index.html>

<http://interactivesites.weebly.com/phonemeswords.html>

<http://interactivesites.weebly.com/spelling.html> (Beware: some American spellings)

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

We hope you have found this newsletter useful and will have fun learning together with your child and playing games to reinforce their learning!