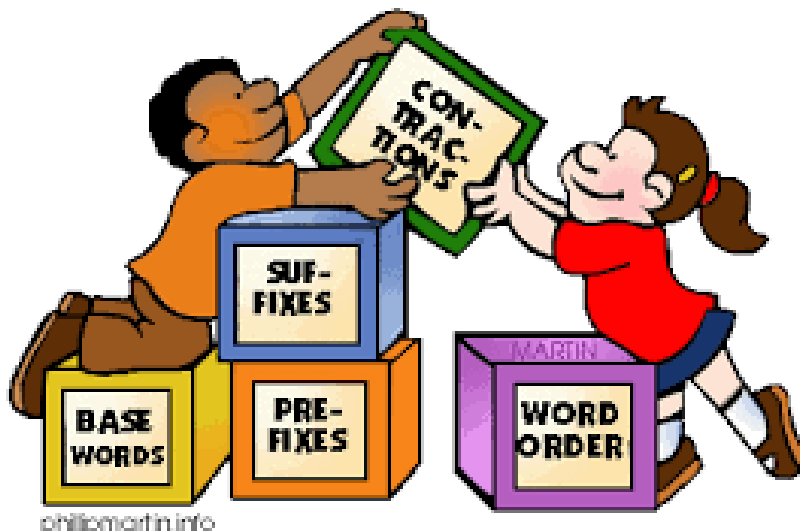


SPAG BUSTERS

For KS1

***A handy parent's guide to help your child
with SPAG (spelling, punctuation & grammar).***



Welcome

We have put together this booklet to help you clearly see the Government's requirements for this area in English. We also hope to give you suggestions of fun activities for home that will help your child's understanding & progression

What is the benefit to the children of this greater emphasis on the teaching of grammar, punctuation & spelling?

The ability to write & to communicate are key life skills. Your child will be able to use these skills throughout their education, employment and adult life.

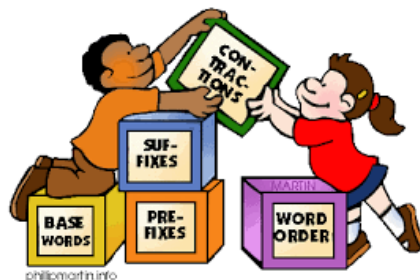
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Year 1

Phonics
ee ur ow
wh y au

Phonics linked to spelling

Y1 need to learn

- All the letters (graphemes) of the alphabet and the sounds (phonemes) they usually represent.
- Two consonants together to make one sound (consonant digraph) e.g. sh, ch, ff, etc.
- Two vowels together (vowel digraph) e.g. oo, ai, ea, etc.
- Breaking down a word into sounds (segmenting) before choosing graphemes to spell the word.
- Spell words with two consonants next to each other where you can hear two sounds. (e.g. went, stop).
- Can spell most of the common words correctly (e.g. days of the week).
- Use the prefix (letters added to the beginning of a word) 'un' e.g. undo.
- Add the suffixes (letters added to the end of a word) -ed -ing -er -est -ly e.g. played, playing, player, fairest, fairly.
- Use the spelling rule for adding -s, -es in plurals e.g. girls or tomatoes.

Activities

- Play "I Spy" using letter names or sounds eg I spy with my little eye something beginning with "ch" ~ church
- Treasure Hunt~ look through books, comics & magazines for words with letter patterns they are learning eg "ow"
- Prefix/ suffix ~ find examples of prefixes & suffixes in books, road signs etc
- Independence~ encourage your child to have a go at spelling words using sounds & spellings they know.



Grammar & Punctuation

Y1 need to learn to

- Make sentences.
- Make stories written in sentences.
- Join words and clauses with and use finger spaces between words.
- Use capital letters at the beginning of a sentence, their name and for I.
- Use full stops, capital letters, exclamation marks and question marks to end a sentence.
- Use capital letters for proper nouns (e.g. Mrs Chell, Alsagers Bank, Sunday).
- Use a verb (action word).
- Use a range of nouns (naming words).
- Use an adjective (describes a noun).
- Use some exciting words.

Possible Activities

Show your child a picture about something they are interested in e.g. favourite TV character (CBeebies, Marvel Comics website)
Get them to make up sentences about pictures.

Say and write sentences about family, friends, pets, toys, anything!!!

Make up stories together- take it in turns to say a sentence. This can be a retelling of a favourite story, a funny family story or made up using TV characters, etc.

Say a boring sentence, add in more interesting words.

E.g "The cat ran across the road." becomes "The scared, tortoiseshell cat scampered across the busy road."

Always check that your child uses capital letters to begin a sentence, to begin a name and for the word I.

When sharing a book, find examples of full stops, exclamation marks and question marks.

Read! Read! Read! Children who are always reading tend to be good at writing and spelling too.

Phonics & spelling

Y2 need to learn to

- Use phonic knowledge learnt in Y1 to spell words.
- Spell most of the common exception words (see additional materials in appendix).
- Add the suffixes (letters added to the end of a word) to spell longer words e.g. -ment -ful -ness -less -ly. e.g. enjoyment, careful, happiness, careless, slowly.
- Spell some homophones (words that sound the same but are spelt differently) e.g. -their/there/they're.
- Correctly spell common contractions (words with missing letters) e.g. Can't, isn't. (the o is missing)

Activities

Speed spell~ Write a new word correctly as many times as you can in one minute.

Suffix search~ Find examples of different suffixes in books & around & about

Independence ~ Encourage your child to independently spell words using the sounds & spellings they know – ask them to write down the part they know before asking you for help.

Word Games~ Play word games eg Junior scrabble, Boggle, BBC schools online games

Previous Learning

Use some of the activities from Y1

“Posh”~ Have fun speaking “posh” without contractions eg You should not go there.

Word Detective~ Collect examples of words that sound the same but are spelt differently- Can you think of a way to remember the different spellings.

Grammar & punctuation



Y2 need to learn to

- Use Y1 punctuation accurately.
- Use commas for lists and “ ” (inverted commas - this has replaced speech marks).
- Pick out nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs (see glossary).
- Use lots of different adjectives in writing.
- Use descriptive phrases (a group of words) to add detail, including similes, alliteration and onomatopoeia (see glossary).
- Use adverbs to describe actions- slowly walking.
- Use present tense and past tense properly.
- Begin to use apostrophes e.g. the girl's book.
- Pick out and use the four different types of sentence statement, question, exclamation and command.
- Use different conjunctions (joining words)- and, but, so, yet, because. Use and punctuate direct speech correctly (including inverted commas, commas, new speaker/ new line).
- Use conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express time and cause.

Possible Activities

Treasure Hunt

Find as many different punctuation or sentence types as possible ~ use books, websites; TV guides & magazines; recipes & instructions; newspapers; leaflets & brochures. Give points & prizes as rewards.

Word Hunter

Learn new vocabulary through books. Encourage your child to record the new words, phrases & punctuation you have found together in their home/school book.

Question Time

All children enjoy listening to stories and poems being read aloud- whilst reading, point out or question your child on different word and sentence types.

Food Game

Keep adding adjectives to your favourite food. e.g. The ham pizza; the ham and cheese pizza; the delicious, ham and cheese pizza, the hot, delicious, ham and cheese pizza, etc. Don't forget the commas in a list!

Adverb Charades

Choose an adverb e.g. slowly, awkwardly, stupidly, shyly, sleepily. The rest of the family give you actions (verbs) to perform e.g. eat a meal, get out of bed, Hoover, etc. You perform the actions using your secret adverb- the family have to guess the adverb.

Awesome sentences

Add more interesting phrases in to boring sentences. e.g. “The cat ran across the road.” becomes “The cute, colourful cat capered across the busy road like a rocket.”

Important English Information

Speaking and listening is very important in all areas of the curriculum and in developing social skills. Children should be taught how to talk through, explain and discuss their ideas. Children must have the opportunity to take part in role play and drama.



How can I help my child?

Talk with your child. The more you talk, the better your child's understanding, vocabulary, reading and writing will be.

- Encourage your child to ask questions.
- Help your child learn new vocabulary from visits, books and TV.
- Develop listening skills by telling and reading stories and listening to the radio and podcasts.
- Encourage your child to take part in role play. This could include dressing up, pretending to do a job or be someone else, use dolls, figures, toy animals and cars to make up stories and situations.

Encourage your child to pronounce sounds and words correctly (in their own accent). Ask in school if unsure how to say the sounds on the sound mats.

- Demonstrate the correct grammar to your child.
- Examples of common mistakes:

We was going- we were going

Them ones- those ones

Going shops- going to the shops

Summat- something

Should of, could of, would of= should have, could have, would have



Writing - What's new?

- Children need to learn to plan and improve their own writing.
- Spelling and phonics expectations are set out clearly for every year group.

How Can I Help My Child?

- Read and speak with your child- most of their language for writing will come from these experiences.
- When you are writing a list, email or filling in a form, talk to your child about what you are writing and why.
- Don't expect your child to spell everything perfectly but help them to learn a few new words each time- record them in the back of the reading diary to create a word bank.
- Encourage your child to find their own errors e.g. tell them there are 3 full stops missing and get them to find them rather than correcting it yourself. You might want to use this simple check list:

Full stops; Capital letters; interesting words;
check simple spellings; finger spaces.

- Talk to your child about their school writing target and practise at home.
- School projects and homework

Correct grammar is given more importance and there are detailed expectations for each year group.

- Handwriting has been given more importance – children should be joining their handwriting from an earlier age.
- Organise writing so that different audiences can understand and enjoy what has been written.
- They need to develop new vocabulary through reading & speaking and listening and use it in their writing.

At Home

- Provide your child with a writing kit- this could include –pencils and paper; white board and pen; tracing materials; tricky words bookmark or dictionary for KS2 child; notebook, exercise book or scrap book.
- Communicate with school - what are the phonics and spellings being taught?
- Practise spellings in a fun way- games and writing silly sentences including the words.
- Follow school's handwriting style.
- Encourage your child to write for a real person and purpose: e.g. letters and emails to relatives; invitations; write their own messages in birthday and Christmas cards; write a story or poem for a younger family member; Create their own project about an interest;
- Talk to your child about what they are learning in grammar and encourage them to use correct grammar in speaking and writing.

Appendix / Additional materials

This booklet refers to documents published by the government and as teachers we recommend you have a look at these. They will show you expectations of learning and comprehensive lists of specific terms and words your child should be learning in each age group at school.

The national curriculum can be viewed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-framework-for-key-stages-1-to-4>

Vocabulary, Punctuation and Grammar Year 1 to 6 - Pages 65 - 69

Glossary for the Programme of Study Pages 70 – 88

Websites for Grammar

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

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Flash.aspx?e=spelling-grammar01>

<http://www.funbrain.com/grammar/>

<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/grammar>

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/literacy2.htm>

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

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