

Year 6

Passive vs active sentences

Passive voice often 'disguises' the agent and is not specific when it is important or preferable to be non-specific. Can be useful in suspense writing.

The tax was increased to cover the cost.

Passive voice requires an auxiliary verb for example: *is, was, will, are*

Active voice makes it clear who has completed the action.

I will increase taxes to cover the cost

Using punctuation to separate clauses

Semi Colons (;), colons (:) and dashes can be used to separate boundaries between two clauses.

Bats are excellent hunters: they track small insects using echo-location.

A **semi colon** can be used in place of a conjunction where we want the writing to flow where the clauses are closely related.

We lost the ball too many times and we lost the game

Becomes:

We lost the ball too many times; we lost the game.

A **dash** is often best used to summarise:

The use of nuclear weapons during World War 2 is much debated and discussed—in short it was a divisive event.

Subjunctive Voice

The subjunctive is specific verb form used to express when something is wished rather than an actual situation. It is often used to express a desirable situation.

If I were you, I wouldn't climb that tree.

Auxiliary verb 'were' is used in the subjunctive, it is often confused with 'was'.

What you should be able to do by the end of year 6

- Use of the passive to affect the presentation of information in a sentence.
- The difference between structures typical of informal speech and structures appropriate for formal speech and writing.
- Linking ideas across paragraphs using a wider range of cohesive devices: repetition of a word or phrase, grammatical connections [for example, the use of adverbials such as on the other hand, in contrast, or as a consequence], and ellipsis.
- Layout devices, such as headings, subheadings, columns, bullets, or table.
- Use of the semi-colon, colon and dash to mark the boundary between independent clauses.
- Use of the colon to introduce a list and use of semi-colons within lists.
- Know how hyphens can be used to avoid ambiguity.

Vocabulary

Active

When the subject carries out the action eg David Beckham scored the penalty.

Antonym

A word that has the exact opposite meaning of another word

Bullet points

Organisation device used to list short phrases or items.

Colon

Punctuation (:) that indicates that an example, a list or a more detailed explanation follows

Ellipsis

Punctuation (...) that shows where words are left all or to create a cliff-hanger.

Hyphen

Punctuation that joins one or more words or adds a prefix to a word.

Object

The object is the noun that refers to a person or thing other than the subject, which is involved in or affected by the action of the verb.

Passive

When the subject or verb has the action done to them eg The window was smashed.

Semi-colon

Punctuation (;) used in place of a connective. It separates two sentences which are related and can be used in lists of phrases.

Subject

The subject is the noun, pronoun or noun phrase that stands before the verb and which is involved in a subject-verb agreement.

Synonym

A word that means the same thing as another word.

Using hyphens

Hyphens are used to avoid confusion being caused by certain words or phrases: eg man eating shark v man-eating shark

Prior Learning

Children can use relative clauses as well as modal verbs in their writing. They can build cohesion within a paragraph as well as linking ideas across a paragraph. They can use parenthesis and commas to clarify meaning.