

Year 5 Grammar Glossary

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Grammar term	What does it mean?
Adjectival phrase	A phrase built around an adjective – for example ‘bright red’, ‘frighteningly bad’.
Ambiguity	A sentence contains ambiguity if it could be open to more than one meaning. Pupils are taught to use hyphens to avoid ambiguity; for example, the sentence ‘Jaws is about a man eating shark’ could be ambiguous, but with the insertion of a hyphen becomes much clearer: ‘Jaws is about a <u>man-eating</u> shark’.
Brackets ()	A punctuation mark used to set a non-essential section of a sentence apart. Also known as parenthesis. For example, ‘My friend Chloe (who is three months older than me) is coming to my house tonight’.
Cohesion	A sentence will have cohesion if all its parts fit together, for example if tenses and pronouns are consistent and determiners refer to the correct noun.
Dash	Used in a similar way to brackets or parentheses to set information apart in a sentence. For example, ‘My three friends – Jack, Sam and Callum – are coming to my house for tea’.
Embedded clause	A clause used in the middle of another clause. It is usually marked by commas. For example, ‘The man, <u>walking along with his dog</u> , whistled a tune to himself’.
Future tense	A verb tense which describes actions that are going to take place in the future. Often uses the modal auxiliary verb ‘will’. For example, ‘Tomorrow I will do the shopping’.
Modal verb	A special verb which affects the other verbs in the sentence by showing obligation (e.g. ‘You should do your homework’), possibility (e.g. ‘I <u>might</u> have pizza for tea’), ability (e.g. ‘You <u>can</u> ride a bike now’) or permission (e.g. ‘You <u>may</u> go out now’).
Parenthesis	See brackets.

Relative clause	A relative clause is a type of subordinate clause that adapts, describes or modifies a noun by using a relative pronoun (who, that or which). For example, 'He ate too many cakes, <u>which</u> made him feel ill'.
Relative pronoun	A pronoun used in a relative clause (who, that, which).
Second person	A sentence is written in the second person if it is written from the point of view of a person being spoken to – in other words, using the pronoun 'you'.
Third person	A sentence is written in the third person if it is written from the point of view of a person being spoken about – in other words, using the pronouns 'he', 'she', 'it' or 'they'.