Year 2 Grammar and Punctuation Glossary

This glossary builds on the terminology used in previous years.

Grammar/Punctuation term	What does it mean?
Adjective	An adjective is a word that describes a noun, e.g. There was a <u>huge, hairy</u> spider in the bathroom.
Adverb	An adverb tells you where, why or how much something is done, e.g. Jessica shouted <u>loudly</u>.
Apostrophe	Apostrophes are used to show possession, e.g. This is Robert's car. They are also used for contractions to show that letters are missing, e.g. I am – I'm, you are – you're.
Comma	A comma separates units of meaning in a sentence, e.g. Lana bought some apples, grapes, oranges, peaches and plums for her fruit bowl.
Command	A command gives an instruction or tells someone to do something. Commands usually begin with an imperative verb, e.g. Go and brush your teeth!
Compound	A compound word is a word created by two smaller words being joined together, e.g. lip + stick = lipstick.
Conjunction	A conjunction links two clauses together in a sentence. Co-ordinating conjunctions include 'and', 'but' and 'so'. Subordinating conjunctions include 'because', 'if' and 'until'.
Exclamation	A sudden cry or remark to show surprise, strong emotion or pain. It must start with 'what' or 'how' and should include a subject and a verb, e.g. What big eyes you have, Grandma! or How cold it is today!
Exclamation mark !	A punctuation mark used at the end of an exclamation, e.g. What a fantastic day we have

	had! It can also be used at the end of a statement or command to show something has been said with feeling or emotion, e.g. That was a really scary film!
Full stop .	A punctuation mark used to demarcate the end of a statement or command.
Noun	A naming word used to name a person, place or thing.
Noun phrase	A word or group of words in a phrase that acts like a noun, e.g. Lily wore a beautiful red dress. The group of words, 'a beautiful red dress', is a phrase and functions as a noun in the sentence.
Plurals	More than one. Using plurals can affect the nouns and verbs in a sentence.
Proper noun	A noun which names a particular person, place or thing. E.g. 'John', 'London', 'France', 'Monday', 'December'.
Question	A question is used to find out information, e.g. Why is your bedroom so messy?
Question mark ?	A punctuation mark which indicates a question and comes at the end of the sentence in place of the full stop.
Statement	A sentence that tells the reader something, e.g. Daniel watched the television.
Suffix	A suffix is added to the end of a word to make a new word, e.g. hope + suffix ful = hopeful, hope + suffix less = hopeless.
Verb	A verb is an action word. They describe what someone is doing, e.g. Jessica shouted.
Tense	A tense is a form of verb that shows the time when an action takes place, e.g. past, present or future.