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**A Guide for Parents**

Year 1 Grammar & Punctuation

**Grammar**

**These are the key grammatical definitions we use in Year 1:**

**Adjective**: a describing word that gives information about the noun.

* *I went to a* ***fantastic*** *party yesterday.*

**Conjunction**: these words link clauses or sentences together; for us, the main one is **and**, but also **because,** before moving onto using **but, so, when, if** as well.

* *I went to the fair* ***and*** *bought a balloon.*
* *We stayed in* ***because*** *it was raining.*

**Noun**: the name of a person, place or thing.

* *My* ***friend*** *got a new* ***dog*** *today.*

**Openers:** a **sentence opener** is the first word in a sentence.

* *Simple openers: I, My, The*
* *More complex openers: On, Last, When*
* *Instructional openers: First, Next, Then, Finally*

**Plurals:** more than one. A plural noun normally has a suffix (see below\*)

–s or –es. Children in Year 1 also learn some common plural exceptions such as *children, teeth, men.*

* *I have one cat but my cousin has two cats.*

**Prefix:** a **prefix** is added at the beginning of a word in order to turn it into another word. The prefix we focus on in Year 1 is -un.

* *I was happy but my friend was* ***un****happy.*

**Proper noun**: the name of a **particular** person, place or thing, including days and months, as well as the personal pronoun *I*; these words begin with a capital letter.

* ***Tom*** *lives in* ***Spain****.*
* *It is* ***Monday*** *today.*
* ***I*** *will be six in* ***December****.*

**Sentence**: A **sentence** is a group of words that are put together to mean something. Each sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with a full stop (or an exclamation mark or a question mark).

* I like ice-cream.
* We think it’s brilliant!
* Where are you going?

**Suffix:** a **suffix** is an ‘ending’, used at the end of one word to turn it into another word. In Year 1 we focus on using *–ing, –ed, –er* and *–est* where no change is needed in the spelling of root words. For example:

* *help: helping, helped, helper*
* *quick: quicker, quickest*

**Punctuation**

**Here is the key punctuation terminology that we use in Year 1:**

Capital letters – A, F, I, M

Finger spaces – I am 5 years old.

Full stops – I like to eat apples.

Exclamation marks – Help!

Question Marks – How are you?