

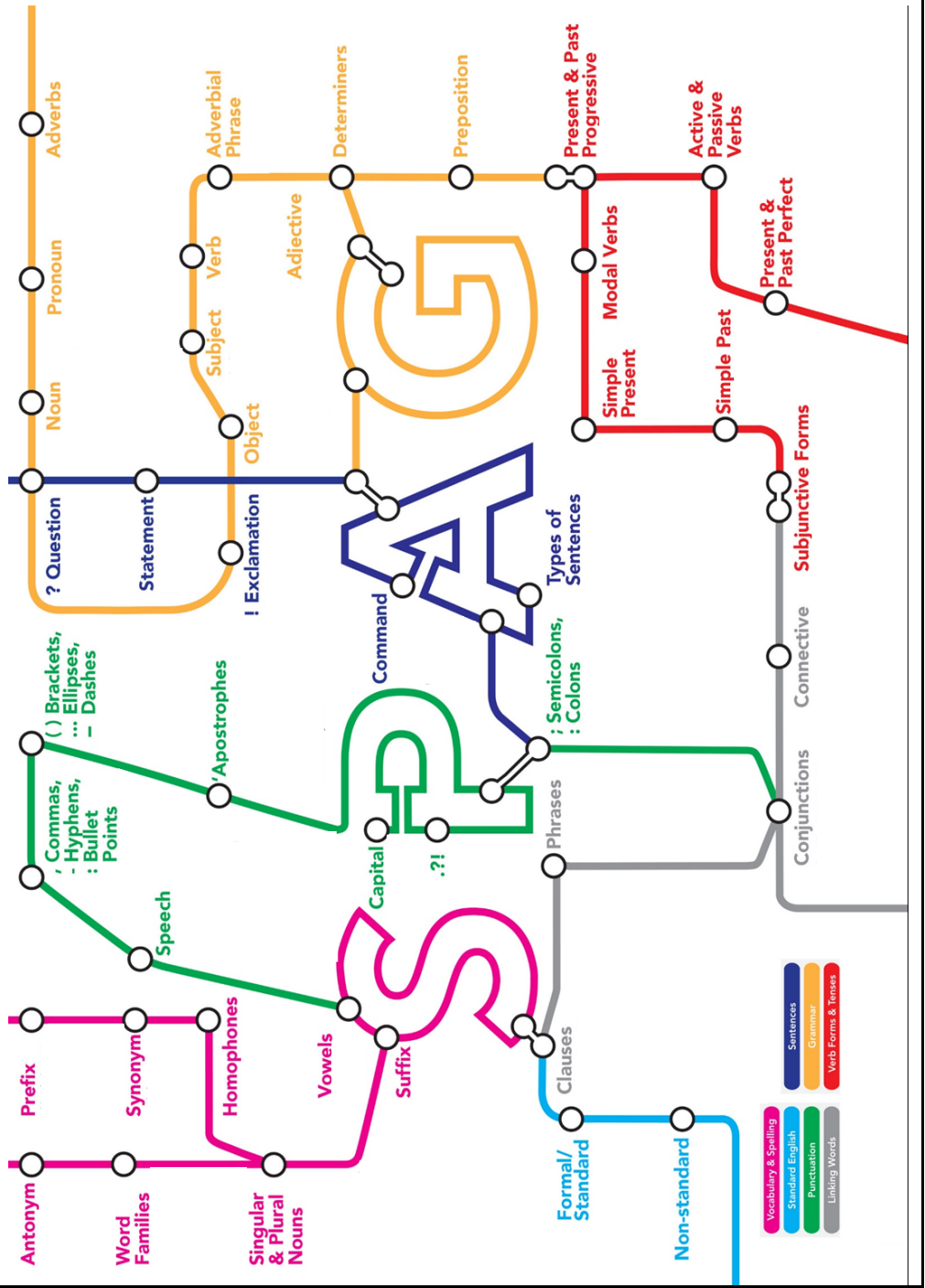
# Westfields Junior School



**Years 5 and 6**  
**SPaG Workshop**



# SPaG Overview



# Punctuation and their uses:

## Commas

A comma separates units of meaning in a sentence.

A comma separates items in a list.

Jenna bought some apples, grapes, bananas and pears for her fruit salad.

A comma separates off a subordinate opening.

Although she was tired, Tilly went to the party.

A comma marks out a relative clause (extra information that has been added into the sentence).

The children, who were in class six, were very excited.

## Apostrophes

Apostrophes are used to show possession.

This is Amy's car.

Robert's shoes are dirty.

The cats' whiskers are long.

The children's toys are in the box.

Apostrophes are used when letters are missing.

I am - I'm  
you are - you're  
they will - they'll

does not - doesn't  
could have - could've

do not - don't  
he will - he'll  
she will - she'll

## Dashes

Dash - creates a break in the sentence, halfway between , and . Usually used in more informal writing.

Shows a sharp break between two main clauses.

The film was very informative - I learned a great deal.

Marks out extra information embedded in the sentence.

Playing in Grandma's garden - which is huge - is always good fun.

One thing's for sure - he doesn't want to go!

A toad's skin is dry and bumpy - not like the frog's smooth, wet skin!

## Hyphens

Hyphen - links words or parts of words. Different from a dash because you do not leave a space between a hyphen and the words in the sentence and it is half as long as a dash.

Used to show that a word continues on the next line.

Gemma walked slowly towards the lion.

Used to link separate words into one new word.

Mother-in-law

## Parentheses/Brackets

Brackets are used to separate off information that isn't essential to the meaning of the rest of the sentence.

Mount Everest (8,828m) is the highest mountain in the world.

Robyn's hair (which was red) was the longest in the class.

## Colons

Colons are used at the end of a clause to show an answer, elaboration or explanation follows.

I would like the following:  
milk, cheese and butter.

I have two hobbies:  
reading and running.

## Semicolons

Semicolons are used to separate two main clauses that are closely related to each other, but could stand on their own as sentences.

I have a big test tomorrow;  
I can't go out tonight.

I've just had a big meal;  
however, I am hungry again!

# Strategies for learning spellings:

Spelling Challenge

## Rainbow Words

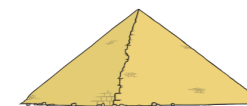
Write your words out in pencil. Next, draw around each letter **five more times** using a different coloured pencil.

literacy

Spelling Challenge

## Pyramid Writing

Write each of your words like a pyramid:



s  
so  
some  
some

Spelling Challenge

## Fancy Letters

Write each of your words using **fancy writing**. Your letters could be curly or dotty... or whatever you decide!

happy

Spelling Challenge

## Join the Dots

Write each of your words using **dots**. Then, **join the dots** with a coloured pencil to make your word.

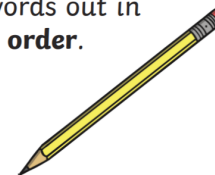
HELLO

Spelling Challenge

## ABC Order

Write your words out in **alphabetical order**.

apple  
carrot  
tomato



Spelling Challenge

## Air Writing

Write your words **in the air** with your finger. Ask someone to read your words as you write. Or, ask someone to air write the letters you tell them to spell your word.



Spelling Challenge

## Backwards Words

Write your words out **forwards** then **backwards**.

backwards  
sdrawkcab

Spelling Challenge

## Blue Vowels

Write out each of your words. Go over the vowels in each word using **blue** pencil.

literacy

## Grammar Glossary:

active voice	A sentence written in the active voice has the subject of the sentence carrying out the main action.
adjective	A word which describes a noun.
adverb	A word which describes how a verb action is being carried out.
antonym	A word with the opposite meaning to another e.g. good/bad, wise/foolish, long/ short.
article	Words which tell us if a noun is general or specific. 'The' is called the 'definite article' and refers to specific nouns: 'The man's hat is blue'. The 'indefinite articles' are 'a' and 'an', referring to general nouns: 'A cow eats grass'.
clause	Clauses are the building blocks of a sentence. They are groups of words that contain a subject and a verb. They can be 'main' or 'subordinate'.
command	A type of sentence which instructs or orders an action to take place. Contains an imperative verb which does not need a subject. Often a command will begin with this imperative verb or with a time connective e.g. 'Eat your dinner. Next add the eggs to the mixture'.
complex sentence	Formed by joining a main clause with a subordinate clause using a subordinating conjunction. They can also be called multi-clause sentences. The main clause can stand alone but the subordinate or dependent clause cannot e.g. 'I burned dinner when I was on the phone'.
compound sentence	Formed by joining two main clauses with a connective. The two clauses can stand on their own as sentences e.g. 'I like dogs but my friend likes cats'.
conjunction	A type of connective that joins clauses. Co-ordinating conjunctions include 'and', 'but' and 'so'. Subordinating conjunctions include 'because', 'if' and 'until'.
contracted form	Short words made by putting two words together and omitting some letters, which are replaced by an apostrophe e.g. 'did not' is contracted to 'didn't'.
determiner	A word that introduces a noun and identifies it in detail. This may be a definite or indefinite article (a, an, the), a demonstrative (this, that), possessive (your, my), a quantifier (some, many) or a number (six, ten, half).
direct speech	A sentence where the exact words spoken are represented, and shown in speech marks (also known as inverted commas). ("Tidy your room, please," said Mum).
exclamation	A sentence which expresses surprise or wonder, and ends with an exclamation mark in place of a full stop. Begins with the words 'how' or 'what' and must also contain a verb e.g. 'What big eyes you have, Grandma!' or 'How cold it is today!'
formal speech	A type of speech or writing used in formal, 'serious' texts and situations. Pupils are taught the difference between the language we use when speaking informally (e.g., to our friends) and the language we may use for a formal text, such as a letter of complaint.
fronted adverbial	Words or phrases used at the beginning of a sentence, used like adverbs to describe the action that follows e.g. 'With a happy smile, she skipped into the room'.
future tense	A verb tense which describes actions that are going to take place in the future. Often uses the modal auxiliary verb 'will' e.g. 'Tomorrow I will do the shopping'.
indirect speech	A sentence where the main points of what someone has said are reported without actually writing the speech out in full e.g. She said she was going to the shops.

## Grammar Glossary:

main clause	The leading clause in a sentence which indicates the main subject and action of the sentence. It stands alone without any additional clauses e.g. 'Even though the weather is bad, I <u>will still go for a walk</u> '.
modal verb	A special verb which affects the other verbs in the sentence by showing obligation (e.g. 'You <u>should</u> 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').
noun	A naming word for things, animals, people, places and feelings. Can be common, proper, concrete, abstract or collective.
object	The object of a sentence is involved in the action but does not carry it out e.g. 'I dropped <u>my cup</u> on the floor'.
passive voice	A sentence is written in the passive voice when the subject is having something done to it e.g. 'The mouse was chased by the cat'.
past perfect tense	A tense used to describe actions that were completed by a certain time in the past e.g. 'Yesterday I was late because I <u>had walked</u> to school'.
past progressive tense	Also known as past continuous tense, a form of the past tense where something goes on for a period of time in the past - e.g., 'I was walking in the park'. Usually formed by adding the suffix '-ing' to a verb.
past tense	Any one of a set of verb tenses which describe action that took place in the past.
plural	More than one. Using plurals can affect the nouns and verbs in a sentence.
preposition	A linking word in a sentence, used to show where things are in time or space e.g. 'under', 'after', 'next', 'behind'.
prepositional phrase	A phrase which contains a preposition e.g. 'under the carpet', 'behind the door', 'after school'.
present perfect tense	The tense which describes actions that are completed at an unspecified time before this moment e.g. 'I <u>have cycled</u> two miles already.'
present progressive tense	A tense which describes an action which began in the past and is still going on now e.g. 'I <u>am learning</u> to speak French'.
present tense	Any one of a set of tenses that describe actions which are happening now.
pronoun	Any word which can be used to replace a noun.
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) e.g. 'He ate too many cakes, <u>which</u> made him feel ill'.
relative pronoun	A pronoun used in a relative clause (who, that, which).
singular	Referring to only one. Use of the singular may affect the nouns, pronouns and verbs in a sentence.
statement	A sentence that conveys a simple piece of information e.g. 'It is a sunny day today'.
subject	The subject of a sentence is the thing or person carrying out the main action e.g. 'The <u>cow</u> ate the grass'.
subordinate clause	A clause that cannot stand alone as a complete sentence, but is linked to a main clause using a subordinating conjunction. It does not express a complete thought, and if read on its own it requires additional information e.g. 'I played out until it <u>went dark</u> '. Subordinate clauses contain a subject noun and a verb.
verb	A word used to describe an action, occurrence or state. An essential part of a sentence.