

## Glossary of Literacy terms

<u>term</u>		<u>example</u>
active voice	An active verb has its usual pattern of subject and object (in contrast to passive).	Active: The school arranged a visit. Passive: A visit was arranged by the school.
adverbial	An adverbial is a word or phrase that is used, like an adverb, to modify a verb or clause. Adverbs can be used as adverbials but many other types of words and phrases can be used this way, including prepositional phrases and subordinate clauses.	The bus leaves <i>in five minutes</i> . She promised to see him <i>last night</i> . She worked <i>until she had finished</i> .
antonym	Two words are antonyms if their meanings are opposite.	hot - cold light - dark light - heavy
article	The articles <b>the</b> and <b>a</b> or <b>an</b> are the most common type	<b>The</b> dog found <b>a</b> bone in <b>an</b> old box.
clause	A clause is a special type of phrase whose head is a verb. Clauses can sometimes be complete sentences. Clauses may be main or subordinate.	It was raining. (single clause sentence) It was raining but we were indoors. (two finite clauses) <u>If you are coming to the party</u> , please let me know. (subordinate clause inside a main clause) Sam went upstairs <u>to play on her computer</u> .
conjunction	A conjunction links two words or phrases to gether.	James bought a bat <u>and</u> ball. (links 2 words as an equal pair) Kim is young <u>but</u> she can kick a ball. ( 2 clauses as an equal pair) Everyone watches <u>when</u> Jo does backflips. (introduces a subordinate clause)
finite verb	Every sentence has at least one verb which is either past or present tense.  Verbs that are not finite cannot stand on their own, they are linked to another verb in the sentence.	Lizzie <b>does</b> the dishes every day. <b>Do</b> the dishes, Lizzie!  I <i>have done</i> the dishes. I <i>will do</i> the dishes.

homonym	Two different words are homonyms if they both look exactly the same when written and sound exactly the same when pronounced.	Has he <b>left</b> yet? Yes, he went through the door on the <b>left</b> . The noise a dog makes is a <b>bark</b> . Trees have <b>bark</b> .
homophone	Two different words are homophones if they sound the same but are spelt differently.	hear, here some, sum there, their, they're
main clause	A sentence contains at least one clause which is not subordinate.	<b>It was raining</b> but <b>the sun was shining</b> . ( 2 main clauses) The man <b>who wrote it</b> told me that <b>it was true</b> . (one main clause containing 2 subordinate clauses)
noun phrase	A noun phrase is a phrase with a noun as its head. - Some foxes with bushy tails.	<u>Adult foxes</u> can jump. (Adult modifies the noun) <u>Almost all healthy foxes in this area</u> can jump. ( all the other words help modify foxes so are a noun phrase).
passive	The sentence - It was eaten by our dog - is the passive of - Our dog ate it.	<u>A visit was arranged by the school</u> . (P) The school arranged a visit. <u>Our cat got run over by a bus</u> .(P) A bus ran over our cat.
phrase	A phrase is a group of words that are connected so that they stay together, and that expand a single word - called the head.	She waved to <u>her mother</u> .
preposition	A preposition links a following noun, pronoun or noun phrase to some other word in the sentence. They often describe locations or directions, but can describe other things, such as time.	Tom waved goodbye <b>to</b> Chris. She'll be back <b>from</b> Australia soon. I haven't seen my dog <b>since</b> this morning. The boy was <b>under</b> the bridge.
relative clause	A relative clause is a special type of subordinate clause that modifies the noun.	That's the boy <b>who lives near school</b> . The prize <b>that I won</b> was a book. Tom broke the game, <b>which annoyed Bill</b> .
subordinate clause	A clause is subordinate to some other part of the same sentence.	That's the street <b>where Ben lives</b> . He watched her <b>as she disappeared</b> .