

Key vocabulary

Blurb	The information found on the back of a book that tells you a bit more about the story or the contents of the book – it is there to try and hook you in!
Book review	Sharing your opinion about a book you have read. You might like to recommend it to others ... or you might think they should steer clear!
Comprehension	Understanding the text you read. Sometimes you will be asked comprehension questions verbally or as written questions – these may ask you to infer, predict, explain, retrieve, summarise, sequence or to think about what certain words mean and how they have been used to create an effect in the text.
Deduction	Using the evidence in the text to draw conclusions and make predictions.
Explanation	Drawing on reasons from the text, or your own knowledge and experience, to explain why certain things happen.
Genre	Different types of books that fit into fiction, non-fiction, poetry, plays or reference books. Have a look at the Book genres box to find out more.
Inference	Looking for clues in the story. You won't find this information written in the text but there will be things that point you in the right direction. You can infer the feelings, thoughts and motives from characters' actions – they are often shown through actions rather than told to you.
Prediction	Looking for clues in the text that help you to suggest what might happen next. Try and think of logical ideas and a reason for your predictions.
Retrieval	Finding a piece of information from the text – it will be there if you re-read the words!
Sequence	Thinking about the key events or ideas and putting them in a defined order. You will need to go back through the text to find each piece of information that needs sequencing.
Summary	Taking lots of information and squashing it down into one or two sentences. Summarising shows that you have understood the text and can tell someone else about it.

Book reviews

- Who are the main characters?
- What is the main plot? (Without giving too much away!)
- What were the highlights?
- Who was your favourite/least favourite character? Why?
- Was it unputdownable? If so, why?
- Were there any weak or boring bits?
- Did you discover any new words?
- Are there any other similar books or books by the same author that you would like to read next?

Book genres

- Modern fiction
- Historical fiction
- Mystery
- Fairy tale/fable/folktale
- Fantasy
- Science fiction
- Reference books
- Biography/autobiography
- Poetry
- Playscripts

Choosing books

- Is there an author you know or like?
- Do you want to read a specific genre of book?
- Does the picture on the front catch your eye?
- Does the title excite you?
- Read the blurb on the back – does it sound interesting and exciting?
- Read the first few sentences – are you hooked? Do you want to read more?
- Is the book the right amount of challenge for you?

Answering comprehension questions

- Read the text carefully then re-read it through a second time.
- Re-read bits of the text to answer questions.
- Underline key words in the question.
- What is the question asking you to do? Suggest ideas? Predict? Find information? Look at the vocabulary? Summarise something? Explain the order?
- To find alternative words, try swapping some of your ideas in.
- Re-read the sentence/s before and after a referenced word of part in a question – reading around helps.
- Answer the question out loud first and check that it makes sense before writing it down.
- A quote or being asked to reference the text means you need to find parts of the text to back up your answer. A quote is a direct copy of a piece of text.
- Use part of the question to start the answer!
- Look at the marks for each question – one mark is probably looking for some key words while two or three marks will want more detail.

Books to read

A Day in the Life of a Poo, a Gnu and You by Mike Barfield and Jess Bradley
After the Fall by Dan Santat
All Because of Jackson by Dick King-Smith
Amazing Islands by Sabrina Weiss and Kerry Hyndman
Amelia Fang and the Barbaric Ball by Laura Ellen Anderson
An Alien in the Jam Factory by Chrissie Sains and Jenny Taylor
Arthur and the Golden Rope by Joe Todd-Stanton
At Our House by Isabel Minhos Martins
Beast Quest by Adam Blade
Charlie Changes into a Chicken by Sam Copeland and Sarah Horne
Charlotte's Web by E. B. White and Garth Williams
Dilly the Dinosaur by Tony Bradman
Dog in the Dungeon by Lucy Daniels
Dog Man by Dav Pilkey
Dr Maggie's Grand Tour of the Solar System by Chelen Ecija and Maggie Aderin-Pocock
Egypt Magnified by David Long and Harry Bloom
Ellie and the Cat by Malorie Blackman and Matt Robertson
Explorers by Nellie Huang and Jessamy Hawke
Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl
Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown
Flyntlock Bones – The Eye of Mogdrod by Derek Keilty and Mark Elvins
Guardians of the Planet by Clive Gifford and Jonathan Woodward
Harley Hitch and the Iron Forest by Vashti Hardy and George Ermos
Harry the Poisonous Centipede by Lynne Reid Banks
Hilda and the Troll by Luke Pearson

How to Change the World by Rashmi Sirdeshpande and Annabel Tempest
I Bet I Can Make You Laugh by Joshua Seigal et al.
Ice Palace by Robert Swindells
Interview with a Tiger by Andy Seed and Nick East
It Was a Dark and Stormy Night by Janet Ahlberg
Jelly Boots, Smelly Boots by Michael Rosen and David Tazzyman
Kid Normal by Greg James
King Kong by Anthony Browne
Knights and Bikes by Gabrielle Kent
Krindlekrax by Philip Ridley
Leon and the Place Between by Angela McAllister and Grahame Baker-Smith
Me and Mister P by Maria Farrer and Daniel Rieley
Mr Penguin and the Lost Treasure by Alex T. Smith
Mrs Cackle's Cat by Philippa Pearce
Mrs Pepperpot Stories by Alf Proysen
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale by John Steptoe
My Naughty Little Sister by Dorothy Edwards
Ocean Meets Sky by Eric Fan and Terry Fan
Ottoline and the Yellow Cat by Chris Riddell
Picasso Perkins by Adele Geras
Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgren
Sam Wu is Not Afraid of Ghosts! by Kevin Tsang, Katie Tsang and Nathan Reed
Small Worlds: Earth by Lara Hawthorne and Camilla De La Bedoyere
Space Detectives by Mark Powers and Dapo Adeola
Stars with Flaming Tails by Valerie Bloom and Ken Wilson-Max
Stig of the Dump by Clive King and Edward Ardizzone

StoryWorlds: A Moment in Time: A Perpetual Picture Atlas by Thomas Hegbrook
The Abominables by Eva Ibbotson
The Accidental Prime Minister by Tom McLaughlin
The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd
The Charlie Moon Collection by Shirley Hughes
The Creakers by Tom Fletcher and Shane Devries
The Diary of a Killer Cat by Anne Fine
The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
The Invisible Boy by Trudy Ludwig
The Iron Man by Ted Hughes and Chris Mould
The Magic Finger by Roald Dahl
The Nothing to See Here Hotel by Steven Butler and Steven Lenton
The Orchard Book of First Greek Myths by Saviour Pirotta
The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark by Jill Tomlinson
The Railway Cat by Phyllis Arkle
The Reluctant Dragon by Kenneth Grahame
The Rhythm of the Rain by Grahame Baker-Smith
The Secret Life of Bees by Moira Butterfield and Vivian Mineker
The Secret World of Polly Flint by Helen Cresswell
The Street Beneath My Feet by Yuval Zommer
The Thing by Simon Puttock and Daniel Egneu
The Tin Forest by Helen Ward and Wayne Anderson
The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka
The Wild Robot by Peter Brown
The World According to Humphrey by Betty G. Birney
The Worst Witch by Jill Murphy

This Bee is not Afraid of Me edited by Fran Long and Isabel Galleymore
This Morning I Met a Whale by Michael Morpurgo
Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright! by Fiona Waters and Britta Teckentrup
Tiny: The Invisible World of Microbes by Nicola Davies and Emily Sutton
Toto the Ninja Cat and the Great Snake Escape by Dermot O'Leary and Nick East
Until I Met Dudley by Roger McGough and Chris Riddell
Unusual Day by Sandi Toksvig
Varjak Paw by SF Said
Voices in the Park by Anthony Browne
Wangari's Trees of Peace by Jeanette Winter
Who's in the Loo? by Jeanne Willis
Wilf the Mighty Worrier Saves the World by Georgia Pritchett
Willa and Old Miss Annie by Berlie Doherty
Winnie-the-Pooh Collection by A. A. Milne
You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum! by Andy Stanton and David Tazzyman



Narrative (stories)**KEY FEATURES:**

A title that reflects what will happen in the story
Exciting and interesting language (adjectives, adverbs, powerful verbs)
Dialogue, using inverted commas
Emotions and feelings of characters
Plenty of action

THINK ABOUT:

How to make the story flow
How you will use paragraphs
How to create suspense
Which tense to use
How and when to introduce your main character
The setting (who, what, when, where, why)
What the problem or dilemma will be and how it will be solved
How the story will end.

Letters**KEY FEATURES:**

Sender's and recipient's addresses
The date
An appropriate greeting
Either formal or informal language depending on the letter
An appropriate sign off (formal phrases such as Yours sincerely, or Yours faithfully, or informal phrases such as from or best wishes)

THINK ABOUT:

The purpose of the letter: to persuade, to complain, to give information, to apply for a job, to say thank you, to keep in touch
Whether the letter is informal or formal
How to introduce the letter and explain why you are writing
How to conclude the letter.

Recounts/Diaries**KEY FEATURES:**

An introduction paragraph that briefly explains 'who, what, where and when'
Chronological order
Quotations from witnesses
Emotive language
A concluding paragraph
Writer's feelings and thoughts
Past tense

THINK ABOUT:

Whether to write in the first or third person
How to use paragraphs
The style of writing: is it formal, or more informal and chatty?

Explanations**KEY FEATURES:**

A title often starting with 'How' or 'Why'
An opening sentence to introduce the process
Time adverbs and conjunctions
Causal conjunctions
Technical vocabulary
Diagrams
Present tense
Third person
Glossary

THINK ABOUT:

How to make the writing clear and simple.

Instructions**KEY FEATURES:**

A title that explains what the text is about, often beginning with "How to..."
Subheadings to create clear sections
An opening sentence encouraging the reader to 'have a go'
A list of materials and equipment
Chronological order
Time adverbs and conjunctions
Imperative verbs
Technical vocabulary
Present tense
Second person

THINK ABOUT:

The clear simple steps needed
How to make the writing clear and simple.

Non-chronological reports**KEY FEATURES:**

A topic title that covers the whole subject
An introduction using who, what, where
Subheadings
Facts and factual language
Technical language
A glossary
Third person
Formal language
Present tense

THINK ABOUT:

The purpose of the report, e.g. non-fiction books, information leaflets or posters, fact sheets
How to use paragraphs.

Chronological report**KEY FEATURES:**

A headline
Facts about the main event
A concluding paragraph
Technical language
Past tense

THINK ABOUT:

The purpose of the report, e.g. newspaper, match report
Where, when, what, why, who.

Biography**KEY FEATURES:**

A question in the opening to hook the reader in
Adverbials of time to link paragraphs
Past tense
Third person

THINK ABOUT:

How you will summarise the main events of the person's life in the first paragraph
Writing in past tense
How to use a range of third person pronouns.

Poetry**KEY FEATURES:**

Title
Powerful verbs and adjectives
Alliteration
Rhyme
Similes
Personification
Interesting verbs and adjectives
Repetition
Interesting vocabulary
Stanzas

THINK ABOUT:

The type of poem: rhyming poems, haiku, kenning, diamantes, free verse, limericks, shape
How to keep a rhyming pattern
How to show mood and feelings.

Types of words to use in your writing

Adverbs	An adverb is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, another adverb, or a clause. Adverbs tend to show us how, when, where or why something happens. Lots of adverbs use the suffix 'ly'.	Examples <i>then, next, soon, therefore, quickly, cautiously, loudly, carefully, firstly, happily</i>
Conjunctions of time, cause and place	Conjunctions are a type of connective. They come in two forms: co-ordinating conjunctions, which join two equal parts of text, and subordinating conjunctions, which join a subordinate clause to a main clause.	Examples <i>Co-ordinating conjunctions: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so</i> <i>Subordinating conjunctions: when, after, before, while, whenever, until, so that, if, because, although, where, wherever, unless, as</i>
Expanded noun phrases	A simple expanded noun phrase includes a noun and words to describe it.	Examples <i>The purple coat.</i> <i>Some crimson, glowing sparks.</i> <i>The enchanting green forest.</i>
Powerful verbs	Powerful verbs are very descriptive, interesting and exciting verbs.	Examples <i>mutter, dance, smash, whisper, groan, tiptoe, shuffle, march, shout</i>
Prepositions	Prepositions link nouns, pronouns or noun phrases to another word in the sentence. They can describe locations, directions, or relations of time.	Examples <i>before, during, in, because of, without, between, including, across, behind, through, into</i>

Remember...

A before a consonant. **An** before a vowel

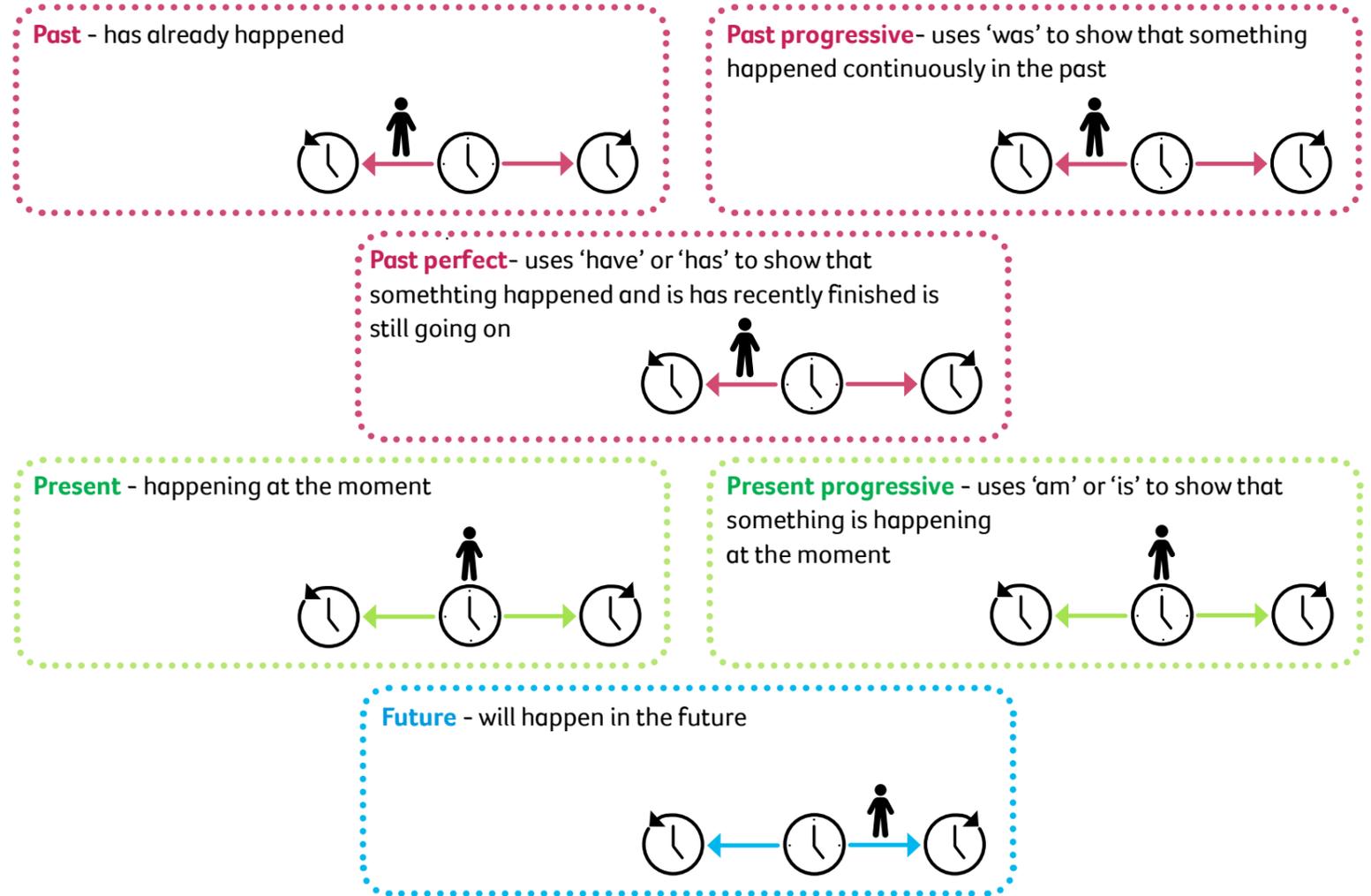
Sentences and paragraphs

Include sentences with **subordinate clauses** (e.g. We must get up when the alarm sounds. The ball that I found seemed to glow magically.).

Start a **new paragraph** when there is a change of time, place or person.

Use a mix of pronouns and nouns to avoid repetition e.g. she, the young girl, Eliza.

Tenses



Punctuation



Full stop - used at the end of a sentence



Question mark - used at the end of a question



Exclamation mark - used at the end of an exclamation or to show that something, loud, scary, exciting...has happened



Apostrophe - used for a missing letter/s (e.g. did not become didn't) or to show possession (e.g. Esther's coat).



Inverted commas or speech marks - used to show direct speech



Comma - used to separate items in a list

Prefixes



Together



Verb prefix-
reduce or remove



Verb prefix-
too much



Not



Verb prefix-
opposite



Not or in



Verb prefix-
opposite of



Verb prefix-
again



Better quality



Between or among



Against or opposite



Self or same



Lower

Suffixes



Full of



Without



Action or a result of



A state of quality



The manner in which
something is done



Makes something
a noun



Full of

Homophones

These words sound the same when you say them aloud, but they are spelt differently and mean different things.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| ball/bawl | plain/plane |
| berry/bury | rain/rein/reign |
| brake/break | scene/seen |
| fair/fare | weather/whether |
| grate/great | |
| groan/grown | |
| here/hear | |
| heel/heal/he'll | |
| knot/not | |
| mail/male | |
| main/mane | |
| meat/meet | |
| medal/meddle | |
| missed/mist | |
| peace/piece | |

Words to learn

- | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| accident | continue | group | notice | regular |
| accidentally | decide | guard | occasion | reign |
| address | describe | guide | occasionally | remember |
| although | different | heard | often | sentence |
| answer | different | heart | opposite | separate |
| appear | disappear | height | ordinary | special |
| arrive | early | history | particular | straight |
| believe | earth | imagine | peculiar | strange |
| bicycle | eight | important | perhaps | strength |
| breath | eighth | increase | popular | suppose |
| breathe | enough | interest | position | surprise |
| build | exercise | island | possess | therefore |
| business | experience | knowledge | possession | though |
| busy | experiment | learn | possible | thought |
| calendar | extreme | length | potatoes | through |
| caught | famous | library | pressure | various |
| centre | favourite | material | probably | weight |
| century | february | medicine | promise | woman |
| certain | forward | mention | purpose | women |
| circle | forwards | minute | quarter | |
| complete | fruit | natural | question | |
| consider | grammar | naughty | recent | |