



Glossary of Grammar Terms

Year 4

adjective a word that describes someone or something (*tall, big* and *brilliant* are adjectives)

adverb a word that describes how, when or where something happens (*quickly, slowly* are adverbs)

adverbial a word or phrase that gives more information about when, where or why something happens

apostrophe (') use this to show possession or omission

determiner a word that you use in front of a noun (*a, the, this, many* and *some* are determiners)

direct speech the exact words spoken by someone to someone else, shown using inverted commas (*"I have to go home," she said.*)

inverted commas (" ") use this around words to show that someone is speaking

noun a word that is the name of a person, place, thing or ideas (*chair, cat, London* and *sport* are nouns)

plural a form of a word that you use when you are talking about more than one thing (the plural of *book* is *books*)

possessive pronoun expresses ownership, (*mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, yours, theirs*)

prefix a group of letters that is added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning (*un-* and *dis-*)

pronoun a word you can use instead of a noun or noun phrase so that you don't have to repeat a noun (*he, she* and *it* are pronouns)

proper noun a name of a particular person, place, thing (*Italy, George, the Tower of London*)

reported speech a report of words that someone has said; inverted commas are not used in reported speech (*Amy said she had to go home.*)

root word a word to which a prefix or suffix can be added to make a new word. In the word *unhappy*, *un-* is a prefix and *happy* is the root word

suffix a group of letters that is added to the end of a word to change its meaning or make it a different word class. The suffix *-ly* changes an adjective into an adverb (*safe, safely*)

syllable one of the sounds or beats in a word (*chim-pan-zee* has three syllables)

verb a word that describes what someone or something is doing (*eat* and *bring* are verbs)