Grammar Exercises

for Year 6



Singular and Plural

On the left are some singular nouns. Write in their plurals on the right side:

Singular noun	Plural noun
dog	
cat	
peach	
fox	
puppy	
journey	
dwarf	
wife	
mango	
tomato	
potato	
vertex	
bacterium	

Singular noun	Plural noun
crisis	
hippopotamus	
deer	
sheep	
ox	
piano	
zero	
photo	
house	
foot	
tooth	
child	
mouse	

Change the following so that the singular sentences become plural, and the plural ones become singular:

1 The boy is riding his bike up a very steep hill.

2 The women go to the oases with their oxen and camels to fetch water.

3 The deer and sheep must be protected from the wolves in the woods.

4 I have a box with a peach, a mango, a photo and a shark's tooth in it.

5 This book has an appendix at the back.

6 A rhombus is like a pushed-over square.

Pronouns

Pronouns are words that you can use **instead of nouns**, so that you don't have to repeat the same noun over and over again.

Examples pf pronouns are:

I, me, you, he, she, it, we, they, us, them, him, hers, mine, ours, its, either, each, no one, somebody, myself, who, which, that.

Write the following sentences and underline the pronouns.

a Stephen hit his head on the bar, but it didn't hurt him.

b You should go to the doctor if you are sick, and he will cure you.

c The teacher gave Leon a detention because he was so naughty.

d This book is mine, that is yours and those are theirs.

e We could go and visit them after our lesson.

f Nobody told me that it was your birthday.

g The boy, who lives down the road, likes to throw mud pies.

Types of pronouns

1 **Personal** pronouns refer to people and things:
He is coming to my place today.
We went to the beach with them.
She gave it a shake.

2 **Possessive** pronouns show possession:
This is mine and that is yours.
These roller blades are his.

3 **Demonstrative** pronouns point things out:
This is the way to the shops and that is the way home.
These are mine and those are yours.

4 **Interrogative** pronouns ask questions:
Who is coming with me?
What is the time?
Which is Tom's desk?

Adjectives

1 On the left are some nouns. Think of a good adjective to go with each one, to give it a description:

Noun	Adjective	Noun	Adjective
boy		circus	
mouse		monster	
lion		holiday	
teacher		volcano	
dream		dinner	
planet		dinosaur	

Verb Tenses

All verbs have **tense**:

- If the action happens now, the verb is in the **present** tense.
- If the action has finished, it is in the **past** tense.
- If the action hasn't happened yet, it is in the **future** tense.

Examples of the **present tense** are:

Cathy plays with Jim today. (present simple tense)

Cathy is playing with Jim today. (present continuous tense)

Examples of the **past tense** are:

Cathy played with Jim yesterday. (past simple tense)

Cathy was playing with Jim yesterday. (past continuous tense)

Examples of the **future tense** are:

Cathy will play with Jim tomorrow. (future simple tense)

Cathy will be playing with Jim tomorrow. (future continuous tense)

Notice that the continuous tense uses the verb 'to be' in front of the action word (am going, was singing), whereas the simple tense uses the action word alone (go, sang).

Verb Tenses

See if you can work out whether the underlined verbs in the following sentences are present, past or future, and whether they are simple or continuous.

For example: I <u>am going</u> to the Christmas party. (present, continuous)

1 Tina <u>likes</u> noodles. _____

2 Benn <u>ran</u> all the way to the shops. _____

3 Adam <u>was walking</u> in the bush, when he fell over. _____

_____

4 Bill <u>will do</u> his reading when he goes to bed. _____

_____

5 Toko <u>will be playing</u> in the garden, when you arrive. _____

_____

6 We <u>are coming</u> first in the competition. _____

7 James <u>dropped</u> his dinner all over the floor. _____

8 Gloria <u>will go</u> shopping with her sister Grace. _____

_____

9 Skye and Simon <u>were playing</u> with the little, yellow duckling. _____

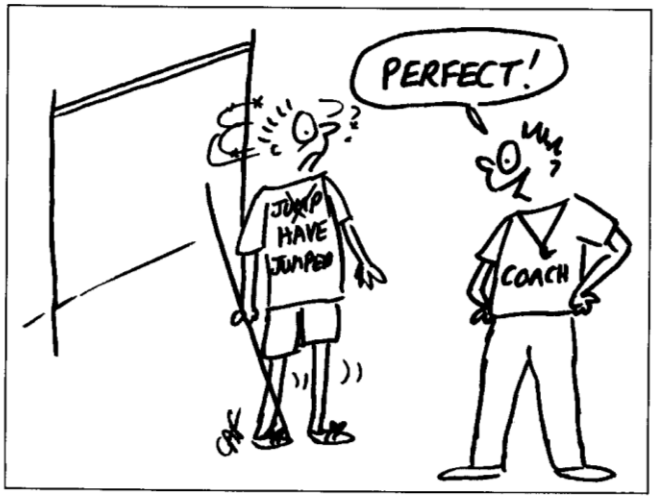
_____

10 Tim <u>will be</u> furious if he finds out what you did. _____

_____

GO!

Present	Past	Perfect	Future
know		have known	will know
blow		have	will
throw		have	will throw
show	showed	have	will show
run		have run	will
speak		have spoken	will speak
strike		have struck	will
eat		have eaten	will eat
see		have seen	will see
put		have put	will put
shut		have shut	will
sew	sewed	have	will sew
mean		have meant	will mean
hide	hid	have	will hide
drive	drove	have	will
ride	rode	have	will ride
slide		have slid	will
sit		have sat	will



Conjugating verbs

A verb conjugation is a list that shows **how a verb changes** in the various tenses. Some verbs follow a simple pattern for present, past and perfect tenses, whereas other verbs change their form dramatically. Those that follow a regular pattern are called **regular verbs** and have regular (weak) conjugations. Verbs that change form in the different tenses are called **irregular verbs** and have irregular (strong) conjugations. Examples of regular and irregular conjugations are shown below:

Regular (weak) conjugation

Pronoun	Present	Past simple	Perfect
I	jump	jumped	have jumped
You (singular)	jump	jumped	have jumped
He/she/it	jumps	jumped	has jumped
We	jump	jumped	have jumped
You (plural)	jump	jumped	have jumped
They	jump	jumped	have jumped

Verb Tenses

Use the right form of the verb in brackets to complete the sentence.

1 If you had (be) _____ here, this would never have (happen) _____.

2 I (go) _____ to the shops very early, so that it wouldn't be too crowded.

3 She has (drive) _____ them to the beach, so they won't be back till this afternoon.

4 I was so tired that I (lie) _____ down for a sleep.

5 I (bring) _____ a chair from home, but he (buy) _____ a brand new one from the shops. (past simple)

6 The hen has just (lay) _____ a beautiful brown egg, and now she has (lie) _____ down to have a rest.

7 The burglar (hide) _____ behind the bushes and (wait) _____ for the people to leave their house. (past simple)

8 I have (make) _____ up my mind to tell them the truth about what really happened.

9 Today he (say) _____ it is hard, but yesterday he (say) _____ that it was easy.

10 The cat didn't (eat) _____ the fish last night, but he (eat) _____ it last week, and he has (eat) _____ fish many times before.

11 We have (have) _____ enough to drink, and you have (sleep) _____ for long enough now.

Adverbs

Types of Adverbs:

1. Adverbs of **manner** tell **how** something is done. They usually end in 'ly':

   I bent [verb] over slowly [adverb], because I had a sore back.

2. Adverbs of **time** tell **when** something is done:

   Because you arrived [verb] late [adverb], you missed the train.

3. Adverbs of **place** tell **where** something is done:

   The boys were kept [verb] inside [adverb], because they were naughty.

4. Adverbs of **quantity** tell **how much** something is done or something is like. They often describe adjectives and other adverbs, as well as verbs:

   We really [adverb] enjoyed [verb] the bushwalk, although we were absolutely [adverb] exhausted [adjective].

Adverbs

1 See if you can spot the adverbs in the following sentences and underline them. Also say whether they tell how, how much, where or when about the verb.

For example: Kim came to my place yesterday. (when)

a Tomorrow is my birthday. _____

b Nasser can run faster than Ken. _____

c The drunk driver crashed violently into the tree. _____

d The taxi drove too slowly and we were very late. _____

e The sun came up, and the birds started to sing sweetly. _____

f In maths, if you get behind, it's hard to catch up. _____

g The thief crept quietly into the room. _____

h The snowman melted quickly in the hot sun. _____

i Peter spoke rudely to his mother, so he was punished. _____

j You were quite right to ignore the bully. _____

k The surgeon operated carefully and the patient was saved. _____

2 Some of these sentences have more than one adverb, so beware!
Circle the adverbs and underline the words they describe (modify).
Under each adverb, state whether it is one of time, manner, quantity or place:

a The children skipped cheerfully home from school.

_____

b I feel miserable today. (Note: 'miserable' is an adjective. Find the adverb.)

_____

c He worked slowly because he found it hard. (Note: 'hard' is an adjective. Find the adverb.)

_____

d Today we are going nowhere.

_____

e The petrol tank is almost empty.

_____

f The wind howled spookily through the trees.

_____

g The stars in the night sky looked incredibly beautiful.

_____

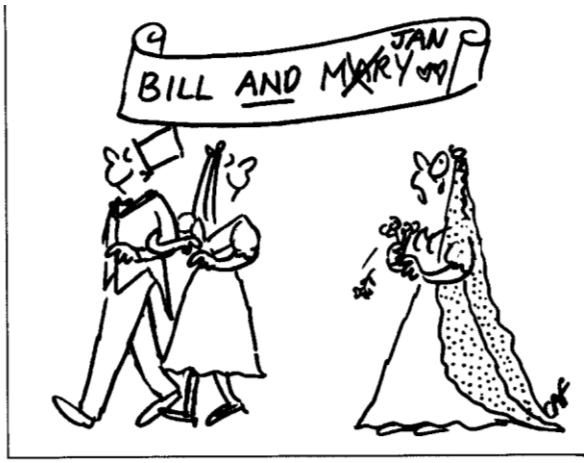
h You never eat your vegetables.

_____

i The mouse ran away, before the cat saw it.

Conjunctions

What are they?



Conjunctions are **joining words**. They join one sentence to another. 'And', 'but' and 'than' are all conjunctions.

Examples of conjunctions are:

Jon has an apple. Jon has a book.
Jon has an apple <u>and</u> a book.
It rained. We went anyway.
It rained, <u>but</u> we went anyway.
Kim went up the hill. Kirstie went up the hill.
Kim <u>and</u> Kirstie went up the hill.
('went up the hill' in omitted after 'Kim' but is understood)
Justin runs. Peter runs faster.
Peter runs faster <u>than</u> Justin. ('runs' is omitted after 'Justin' but is understood)

Here are some other conjunctions: because, although, whenever, if, since, so, while, unless, that, until.

Conjunctions can be used in the middle of sentences, as shown above, or at the beginning of sentences:

<u>Unless</u> you have combed your hair, you won't be allowed to go out.
<u>While</u> you were out, the phone rang.
<u>Although</u> the tornado swept past, the house remained standing.

They can also be used to join two nouns, verbs, adjectives or adverbs.

Find and underline the conjunctions in the following sentences:

1 I looked everywhere, but I couldn't find it.

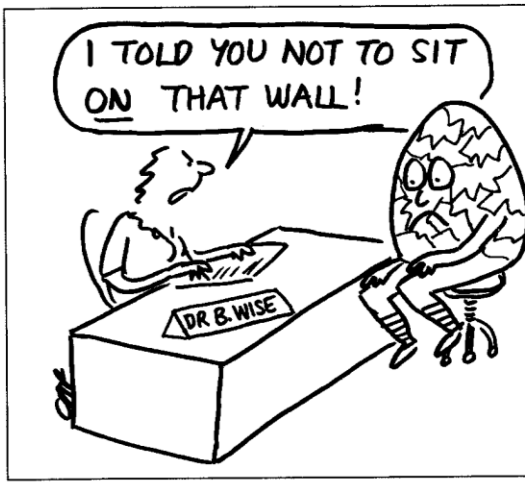
2 Mary ate a biscuit and Tom ate a cake.

3 We ran home because it was raining.

4 David sneezes whenever he is near a cat.

Prepositions

What are they?



Prepositions are **relating words**, which relate a noun or pronoun in the first part of the sentence with one in the second part. They often tell about **position**. Notice the word 'position' is hidden inside the word 'preposition'.

Examples of prepositions are:

in, out, up, over, under, beside, beyond, between, below, among, to, at, with, for.

Prepositions are nearly always followed by a noun or pronoun. This noun or pronoun is called the 'object of the preposition'.

Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall.

'Humpty Dumpty' (noun) is related to the 'wall' (noun) by the preposition 'on'.

Jack fell down the hill.

'Jack' (noun) is related to the 'hill' (noun) by the preposition 'down'.

Little Miss Muffet sat on her tuffet.

'Little Miss Muffet' (noun) is related to the 'tuffet' (noun) by the preposition 'on'.

See if you can underline the prepositions in the following:

1 Jack jumped over the candlestick.
2 Mary took her lamb to school.
3 Josh had great big boots on his feet.
4 Jill hid among the bushes.
5 Bad men go to gaol.
6 The big, black clouds are in the sky.