

Information Sheet

1. Nouns are the names of things. There are five different types of nouns: common (table), proper (English), collective (herd), abstract (happiness) and compound (whiteboard).
2. Verbs are action or doing words. A sentence must contain a verb. e.g. He *slept* in the hammock.
3. A prefix is a group of letters placed at the beginning of a word to change its meaning. e.g. *unfair*.
4. A suffix is a group of letters placed at the end of a word to change its meaning. e.g. *thoughtful*.
5. Synonyms are words which are similar in meaning. e.g. afraid/scared.
6. Antonyms are words which have opposite meanings. e.g. arrive/leave.
7. Homonyms are words which are alike in sound but have more than one meaning. e.g. bank — a place to keep money, bank — the side of a river; bank — to depend on.
8. Homophones are words which sound the same, but have different spellings and different meanings. e.g. threw/through.
9. An abbreviation is the short way of writing some words, by using only some letters. e.g. St, meaning Street.
10. A contraction is also a short way of writing words, but some of the letters have been left out and an apostrophe is used to show where the letter or letters should be. e.g. 'Does not' becomes 'doesn't' — the apostrophe shows where the 'o' should be.
11. Singular and plural tell us if there is one of any particular thing or if there is more than one. e.g. one *child*, three *children*.
12. Adjectives are words used to describe, or tell us more about a noun, e.g. a *beautiful* princess.
13. Adverbs are words used to modify, or tell us more about a verb. e.g. He ran *quickly* through the rain. Adverbs often end in 'ly'.
14. A pronoun is a word used instead of a noun. e.g. The boy ran away. *He* was afraid.
15. Tense is simply the period of time when something is happening, e.g. past tense — Yesterday I *went* to the cinema; present tense — Today I *am going* to the cinema; future tense — Tomorrow I *will be going* to the cinema.
16. Conjunctions are words used to join two or more sentences together to make one longer, more interesting sentence. e.g. The beautiful princess suddenly awoke. The prince had kissed her. The beautiful princess suddenly awoke *because* the prince had kissed her.
17. Prepositions are words placed before nouns or pronouns to show how one word relates to another. e.g. We found him *at* home.
18. Comparatives and superlatives are forms of adjectives used when we are comparing two or more objects. e.g. He was a *small* child; He was the *smaller* of the two children; He was the *smallest* child in the whole class.
19. A phrase is a group of words which does not usually contain a verb. e.g. the house *on the hill*.
20. Root words are words from other languages which have been used in making English words, e.g. We use the Greek root 'phone', which means voice, in the English words *telephone* and *microphone*.

