English – Vocabulary, Grammar and Punctuation Progression

Taken from Development Matters, the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework and the National Curriculum for English

Explicit knowledge of grammar is very important as it gives us more conscious control and choice in our language. Building this knowledge is best achieved through a focus on grammar within the teaching of reading, writing and speaking. The table below focuses on Standard English and should be read in conjunction with the programmes of study as it sets out the statutory requirements. The table shows when concepts should be introduced first, not necessarily when they should be completely understood. It is very important, therefore, that the content in earlier years be revisited in subsequent years to consolidate knowledge and build on pupils' understanding. Teachers should also go beyond the content set out here if they feel it is appropriate.

Curriculum area of study	F1	F2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Word **See also…** **Little Wandle Spelling National Curriculum coverage Y2** **Spelling Shed MTP (stages 3-6, for years 3-6)**	Know that marks have meaning Recognise some words such as signage	Spelling words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters. Regular plural noun suffixes –s Use tricky words to form sentences.	Regular plural noun suffixes –s or –es [for example, dog, dogs; wish, wishes], including the effects of these suffixes on the meaning of the noun Suffixes that can be added to verbs where no change is needed in the spelling of root words (e.g. helping, helped, helper) How the prefix un– changes the meaning of verbs and adjectives	Formation of nouns using suffixes such as –ness, –er and by compounding [for example, whiteboard, superman] Formation of adjectives using suffixes such as –ful, –less Use of the suffixes –er, –est in adjectives and the use of –ly in Standard English to turn adjectives into adverb	Formation of nouns using a range of prefixes [for example super–, anti–, auto–] Use of the forms a or an according to whether the next word begins with a consonant or a vowel [for example, a rock, an open box] Word families based on common words, showing how words are related in form and meaning [for example, solve,	The grammatical difference between plural and possessive –s Standard English forms for verb inflections instead of local spoken forms [for example, we were instead of we was, or I did instead of I done]	Converting nouns or adjectives into verbs using suffixes [for example, –ate; –ise; –ify] Verb prefixes [for example, dis–, de–, mis–, over– and re–]	The difference between vocabulary typical of informal speech and vocabulary appropriate for formal speech and writing [for example, find out – discover; ask for – request; go in – enter] How words are related by meaning as synonyms and antonyms [for example, big, large, little].

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			[negation, for example, unkind, or undoing: untie the boat		solution, solver, dissolve, insoluble]			
Sentence	Speak in sentences.	Compose a sentence.	How words can combine to make sentences Joining words and joining clauses using and	Subordination (using when, if, that, because) and co-ordination (using or, and, but) Expanded noun phrases for description and specification [for example, the blue butterfly, plain flour, the man in the moon] How the grammatical patterns in a sentence indicate its function as a statement, question, exclamation or command	Expressing time, place and cause using conjunctions [for example, when, before, after, while, so, because], adverbs [for example, then, next, soon, therefore], or prepositions [for example, before, after, during, in, because of]	Noun phrases expanded by the addition of modifying adjectives, nouns and preposition phrases (e.g. the teacher expanded to: the strict maths teacher with curly hair) Fronted adverbials [for example, Later that day, I heard the bad news.]	Relative clauses beginning with who, which, where, when, whose, that, or an omitted relative pronoun Indicating degrees of possibility using adverbs [for example, perhaps, surely] or modal verbs [for example, might, should, will, must]	Use of the passive to affect the presentation of information in a sentence [for example, I broke the window in the greenhouse versus The window in the greenhouse was broken (by me)]. The difference between structures typical of informal speech and structures appropriate for formal speech and writing [for example, the use of question tags: He's your friend, isn't he?, or the use of subjunctive forms such as If I

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								were or Were they to come in some very formal writing and speech]
Text	Speaking in sentences.	Organising thoughts into a simple sentence.	Sequencing sentences to form short narratives	Correct choice and consistent use of present tense and past tense throughout writing Use of the progressive form of verbs in the present and past tense to mark actions in progress [for example, she is drumming, he was shouting]	Introduction to paragraphs as a way to group related material Headings and sub-headings to aid presentation Use of the present perfect form of verbs instead of the simple past [for example, He has gone out to play contrasted with He went out to play]	Use of paragraphs to organise ideas around a theme Appropriate choice of pronoun or noun within and across sentences to aid cohesion and avoid repetition	Devices to build cohesion within a paragraph [for example, then, after that, this, firstly] Linking ideas across paragraphs using adverbials of time [for example, later], place [for example, nearby] and number [for example, secondly] or tense choices [for example, he had seen her before]	Linking ideas across paragraphs using a wider range of cohesive devices: repetition of a word or phrase, grammatical connections [for example, the use of adverbials such as on the other hand, in contrast, or as a consequence], and ellipsis Layout devices [for example, headings, sub-headings, columns, bullets, or tables, to structure text]

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Punctuation	Beginning to recognise a capital letter at start of own name	Using finger spaces, full stops and capital letters in sentence writing Using a capital letter at the start of own name	Separation of words with spaces Introduction to capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks to demarcate sentences Capital letters for names and for the personal pronoun I	Use of capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks to demarcate sentences Commas to separate items in a list Apostrophes to mark where letters are missing in spelling and to mark singular possession in nouns [for example, the girl's name]	Introduction to inverted commas to punctuate direct speech	Use of inverted commas and other punctuation to indicate direct speech [for example, a comma after the reporting clause; end punctuation within inverted commas: The conductor shouted, "Sit down!"] Apostrophes to mark plural possession [for example, the girl's name, the girls' names] Use of commas after fronted adverbials	Brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis Use of commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity	Use of the semi-colon, colon and dash to mark the boundary between independent clauses [for example, It's raining; I'm fed up] Use of the colon to introduce a list and use of semi-colons within lists Punctuation of bullet points to list information How hyphens can be used to avoid ambiguity [for example, man eating shark versus man-eating shark, or recover versus re-cover

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Terminology for pupils	Sound, letter capital letter	Sound, grapheme, phoneme, diagraph, triagraph word, sentence capital letter, full stop, question mark	letter, capital letter word, singular, plural sentence punctuation, full stop, question mark, exclamation mark	noun, noun phrase statement, question, exclamation, command compound, suffix adjective, adverb, verb tense (past, present) apostrophe, comma	preposition, conjunction word family, prefix clause, subordinate clause direct speech consonant, consonant letter, vowel, vowel letter inverted commas (or 'speech marks')	determiner pronoun, possessive pronoun adverbial	modal verb, relative pronoun relative clause parenthesis, bracket, dash cohesion, ambiguity	subject, object active, passive synonym, antonym ellipsis, hyphen, colon, semi-colon, bullet points