English Home Learning Pack: Grammar & Punctuation
Parts of speech quiz

Here is a passage from a story for you to read. Then, see if you can answer the questions below. You’ll find the answers on the next page.

It was getting dark, and the animals in the jungle were slowly beginning to stir. The tiger opened one eye, then stretched and yawned lazily. He was feeling hungry, because he hadn’t eaten for two days. He looked up at the moonlit sky above. The Moon was small and pale, so there wasn’t much light. Yes! It would be a perfect night for hunting!

nouns
- tiger
- Moon

verbs
- stretched
- would be
- opened
- began
- stretched
- yawned
- looked

adjectives
- dark
- hungry

tenses
- was getting
- were beginning

adverbs
- slowly
- only

conjunctions
- and

prepositions
- in

interjections
- Yes!

determiners
- a
- the
- much

pronouns
- it

adverbs
- lazily

Can you find 11 more verbs in the story? (Don’t forget to include different forms of the verb be.)

1. What tense is was getting and were beginning?
2. Can you find four verbs in the past tense, and one verb in the past perfect?

1. Is and a coordinating conjunction or a subordinating conjunction?
2. Can you find two subordinating conjunctions?

Can you find two more prepositions?

Can you find one more adverb of manner?

Can you find one adverb of place, and one adverb of time?

Can you find two numbers that are determiners?

Can you find two more prepositions?

Can you find one interjection?

Can you find the pronoun that replaces the word tiger?

Can you find four more adjectives in the story?

Answers

Have a go at this quiz, all about verbs, nouns, and more! Answers are at the bottom of the page. Did you get them right?

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Punctuation quiz

Here is a passage from a story for you to read. Then, see if you can answer the questions.

Ben and I called Detective Brown and then stayed close behind as he and his partner followed the robbers back to their house (a small house near the park). As we watched from a distance, we saw that the robbers were inside, and were taking things out of their large, black bag: money, jewellery and expensive-looking watches – all the things they had stolen earlier. Suddenly, Ben gasped. “What’s the matter?” I asked. “Look,” he whispered. “There! That’s Grandma’s purse!” We looked at each other and smiled; we couldn’t wait to see Grandma’s face when we told her we’d found her purse ...

**capital letters**

As Suddenly

1. Why are capital letters used in these words?
2. Can you find four capital letters used in the characters’ names?

**inverted commas “” “”**

“What’s the matter?”

What do the inverted commas show?

**question marks ? ?**

What’s the matter?

Is the question mark inside or outside the inverted commas?

**exclamation marks ! !**

That’s Grandma’s purse!

Why is there an exclamation mark here?

**full stops ... I asked.**

1. How many more full stops can you find?
2. What is there at the end of the story, instead of a full stop? What does it suggest?

**commas**

As we watched from a safe distance, we ...

1. What does this comma separate?
2. Can you find a comma in a list, and a comma between two adjectives?

**colons**

they started taking things out of their bag: money, jewellery and expensive-looking watches

What does the colon introduce?

**apostrophes ‘’ ‘’**

What’s the matter?

1. What does the apostrophe replace here?
2. Can you find two possessive apostrophes?

**hyphens and dashes**

expensive-looking

1. Why is there a hyphen here?
2. Can you find a dash – is it longer or shorter than a hyphen?
3. Why is it there?
Common mistakes in grammar

It’s easy to make mistakes with grammar! Here are a few things to watch out for.

**It’s** means it is or it has. **Its** shows that something belongs to an animal or an object.
- Check, it’s a polar bear.
- Check, its a polar bear.

**They’re** means they are. We use **there** to refer to a place. **Their** means belonging to them.
- Check, look at the ducks. They’re swimming on the lake. They use their feet to paddle.
- Check, look at the ducks. There swimming on the lake. They use they’re feet to paddle.

**We’re** means we are. **Were** is the past tense of the verb be.
- Check, yesterday we were at school.
- Check, we’re on holiday now!
- Check, we’re good at drawing.

**Who’s** means who is or who has. You use **whose** to ask who something belongs to.
- Check, who’s coming to your party?
- Check, whose coming to your party?
- Check, whose shoes are these?
- Check, who’s shoes are these?

You use **what** to ask questions. You use **that** in relative clauses.
- Check, what are those? Are they lychees?
- Check, this is a fruit salad that I made.
- Check, this is a fruit salad what I made.

**You’re** means you are. **Your** things are the things that belong to you.
- Check, you’re good at drawing.
- Check, your good at drawing.
- Check, are these your pencils?
- Check, are these your pencils?

**He’s** means he is. **His** things belong to him.
- Check, he’s my brother.
- Check, his my brother.

Watch out for grammar mistakes! Use this page to help avoid mistakes with your next piece of English class work.

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Common mistakes in punctuation

It’s easy to make mistakes with punctuation! Here are a few things to watch out for.

Always use a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence, for names (proper nouns) and for the pronoun I.

✓ Giraffes live in Africa.
✓ giraffes live in africa.

Don’t use a capital letter after a colon or a semi-colon (unless it’s a proper noun or the pronoun I).

✓ He showed me what was in his pencil case: pencils, pens and a rubber.
✗ He showed me what was in his pencil case: Pencils, pens and a rubber.

Use an apostrophe to show possession, and remember to put it in the correct place.

Singular
✓ my brother’s trainers
✗ my brothers’ trainers

Plural
✓ my brother’s trainers
✗ my brothers’ trainers

Always use a comma between adjectives, when they come before a noun.

✓ a beautiful, colourful bird
✗ a beautiful colourful bird

Use a comma between adjectives, when they come before a noun.

✓ a huge, terrifying dinosaur
✗ a huge terrifying dinosaur

Always use a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence, for names (proper nouns) and for the pronoun I.

✓ “Let’s play on the swings,” Zara said.
✗ “Let’s play on the swings”, Zara said.

You can use brackets for adding extra information. The full stop usually goes after brackets, but it goes inside the brackets if the information in the brackets is a full sentence.

✓ I love those shoes (the red ones).
✗ I love those shoes (the red ones.)

“I’ve always wanted a hamster. (My mum has always refused to buy me one.)
✓ I’ve always wanted a hamster. (My mum has always refused to buy me one.)

Watch out for punctuation mistakes! Use this page to help avoid mistakes with your next piece of English class work.

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