

# ENGLISH

## Punctuation, Grammar and Spelling Test Pack 2

*for SEAG Entrance Assessment*

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# Introduction

This Test Pack is a comprehensive revision package covering all aspects of the **Punctuation, Grammar and Spelling** element required for the SEAG Entrance Assessment. It also covers the content and syllabus of the Northern Ireland Curriculum for Language and Literacy to the end of Key Stage 2.

The test pack comprises:

- \* A comprehensive reference file detailing all aspects of the **Punctuation, Grammar and Spelling** element required for the SEAG Entrance Assessment and at the end of Key Stage 2. The content, which should be learnt, is covered briefly in a number of **NEED TO KNOW** boxes.
- \* **29 Check-up exercises** to assess understanding of a variety of punctuation, grammar and spelling rules.

**NEED TO KNOW**

# Prefixes

## NEED TO KNOW

Children should be aware of common **prefixes** and be able to add an appropriate prefix to complete words.



*What are prefixes?*

**Prefixes** are groups of letters placed at the start of a word. The opposite of words can often be made using a prefix, e.g. appear ⇒ disappear.



## Examples of common prefixes



**Check-up 4** Complete these sentences using an **antonym** beginning with a prefix **un-**, **dis-**, **in-**, **ir-**, **il-**, **im-** or **non-**.  
An example has been done for you.

**E.G.** An *irresponsible* person is not responsible for his actions.

- 1 An object that cannot be moved is said to be **im**\_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Something that is different can be **un**\_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 This was forbidden by law so it was **il**\_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 The **dis**\_\_\_\_\_ man did not thank his host as he left.
- 5 An **in**\_\_\_\_\_ occasion does not happen very often.
- 6 A person who does not smoke is a **non**\_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 An **in**\_\_\_\_\_ item does not cost very much.
- 8 A **dis**\_\_\_\_\_ child does not do as he is told.
- 9 An **un**\_\_\_\_\_ person is not sure of their decision.
- 10 Someone who does not care about his actions is **ir**\_\_\_\_\_.
- 11 His writing could not be read so it was **il**\_\_\_\_\_.
- 12 The event was unlikely to happen. It was **im**\_\_\_\_\_.
- 13 Something that is described as ridiculous is **non**\_\_\_\_\_.
- 14 Someone who is not liked is **un**\_\_\_\_\_.
- 15 When an object moves away it has **dis**\_\_\_\_\_.
- 16 If someone is detached, they are **in**\_\_\_\_\_.
- 17 I thought he was mad because his thinking was totally **ir**\_\_\_\_\_.
- 18 If someone is unable to read, they are **il**\_\_\_\_\_.
- 19 The magician made the rabbit **dis**\_\_\_\_\_ from the hat.
- 20 The music played constantly. It was **non**\_\_\_\_\_.

**Common words ending in -ar / -or / -er**

<b>-ar</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>-or</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>-er</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
beggar		ancestor		announcer	
burglar		bachelor		dancer	
cellar		conductor		docker	
circular		councillor		grocer	
familiar		decorator		jester	
grammar		doctor		register	
muscular		exterior		porter	
particular		inferior		waiter	
peculiar		inventor			
popular		junior			
regular		mayor			
scholar		similar			
similar		radiator			
		sculptor			
		sailor			
		superior			
		tailor			

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*Write in the meaning of each of the words listed above.  
Use a dictionary to help you. Add unfamiliar words you meet to the list.*

**Suffixes**

## Examples of nouns that break the normal rules

The nouns listed below ending with <b>f</b> add an <b>s</b> to make the plural		The nouns listed below ending with <b>o</b> add <b>s</b> to make the plural		The nouns listed below ending in a vowel plus <b>o</b> (e.g. <b>eo</b> , <b>io</b> , or <b>oo</b> ) add an <b>s</b> to make the plural	
belief	beliefs	piano	pianos	cameo	cameos
brief	briefs	solo	solos	kangaroo	kangaroos
chief	chiefs	soprano	sopranos	radio	radios
gulf	gulfs			rodeo	rodeos
handkerchief	handkerchiefs			studio	studios
proof	proofs			zoo	zoos
reef	reefs				
roof	roofs				
waif	waifs				

Some singular nouns keep the same plural form, e.g.

<b>one</b>	<b>many</b>
aircraft	⇒ aircraft
fish	⇒ fish (and many different types of fish, e.g. cod, trout)
headquarters	⇒ headquarters
sheep	⇒ sheep
species	⇒ species

Some plurals do not follow a recognised pattern, e.g.

child	⇒ children
die	⇒ dice <i>or</i> dies
foot	⇒ feet <i>or</i> foot
goose	⇒ geese
man, woman	⇒ men, women
mouse	⇒ mice
ox	⇒ oxen
tooth	⇒ teeth

**Note:** You *never* form a plural by adding an apostrophe and an *s*.

**Write the plural form of the following words:**

roof \_\_\_\_\_

match \_\_\_\_\_

box \_\_\_\_\_

potato \_\_\_\_\_

wife \_\_\_\_\_

piano \_\_\_\_\_

Check your answers from the previous page.



(g) to separate clauses in long sentences to make them easier to read.

Example sentences

When I arrived at the airport, I was told that my flight would be delayed, so I went to the coffee shop and had an espresso and a blueberry muffin.

The climate in the Serengeti is dry and hot, and therefore seasonal downpours prove essential in replenishing the scorched vegetation, as well as providing necessary water for dehydrated wildlife.

(h) to separate thousands when writing numbers in figures.

Examples

3,000    7,500    £9,608    5,000,000

### Colons and Semi-colons

**Colons** are used:

(a) to introduce a list.

Example sentences

I want to see three cities in Italy: Rome, Florence, and Venice.

There are 5 train stations around the centre of Belfast: Lanyon Place, Great Victoria Street, Titanic, City Hospital and Yorkgate.

Energy sources can be used to produce: heat, light, movement or sound.

(b) to introduce direct speech or a quotation.

Example sentences

Gandhi famously said: "Non-violence is a weapon of the strong."

Perhaps this is the most famous sentence spoken by President John F. Kennedy: "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

(c) to separate two parts of a sentence where the first part leads on to the second part.

Example sentences

I just want you to remember: two can play at that game.

# Apostrophes (possession)



What are  
apostrophes?

## NEED TO KNOW

Children should be aware that an apostrophe can be used to show possession or ownership of something.

Apostrophes can be used to show possession or ownership of something.



(a) In the singular form the apostrophe goes between the last 2 letters of the person or thing that owns the item,

- e.g. the girl's pencil case  
(the pencil case belongs to the girl)  
the dog's nose  
(the nose belongs to the dog).

(b) In the plural form for possession the apostrophe should be put after the 's',

- e.g. the teachers' rooms  
(the classroom belonging to the teachers –  
more than one teacher).

But with regular plurals the apostrophe should be put before the s.

- e.g. the children's toys  
the people's princess  
The sheep's loud bleating let the shepherd know they were injured.

### Its or It's?

**It's** means *it is* or *it has*,

e.g.

it's lovely weather

means *it is lovely weather*

it's been warm this week

means *it has been warm this week*

**Its** means *belonging to it*. So although you would expect an apostrophe you do not use an apostrophe, even though possession is being indicated,

e.g.

its colour was red

no apostrophe as it doesn't

make sense to say

*it is colour was red*

The dog was chasing its tail.

### Common Contractions

<b>not</b>	isn't, wasn't, can't, won't, doesn't, didn't, can't, haven't, hasn't, mustn't, mightn't, shan't, shouldn't, wouldn't, won't, can't, needn't, daren't
<b>am</b>	'm
<b>is</b>	's, 's, it's, 's, that's, how's, 's, where's, what's
	we're, you're, they're
<b>have</b>	I've, you've, we've, they've, where've
<b>will</b>	I'll, you'll, he'll, she'll, it'll, they'll, there'll
<b>would</b>	I'd, you'd, he'd, she'd, we'd, they'd, there'd, who'd

**Note:** You *never* form a plural by adding an apostrophe and an s, except when you make the plural of a single letter, e.g.

Make sure you dot your **i's** and cross your **t's**.

# Alliteration

## NEED TO KNOW

Children should be familiar with the term alliteration and be able to identify its use in written English.



*What is alliteration?*

When two or more words in a poem begin with the same letter or sound this is called **alliteration**.



Some examples of alliteration:

He clasped the crag with crooked hands.

Rabbits running over roses.

She sells seashells on the seashore.

### Check-up 1

Fill in a word at the end of each line so that it alliterates with the rest of the phrase.

- 1 An angry \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Ten terrible \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 A hundred happy \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Four friendly \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 Five frisky \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 Six smiley \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 Seven sickly \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 Eight evil \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9 Nine naughty \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10 Ten trembling \_\_\_\_\_.

# Similes

## NEED TO KNOW

Children should be familiar with the term simile and be able to identify and use similes in context.



*What are similes?*

**Similes** are figures of speech that compare something to another thing of a different kind using the words 'as' or 'like'



Some examples:

The fog was **as** thick as pea soup

The lamb's fleece was **as** white as snow

He had a broad face and a little round belly

That shook, when he sat down **like a bowl full of jelly.**

— from "A Visit from St. Nicholas" by Clement Clarke Moore

And it seemed to me that I had lived your life **like a candle in the wind**

Never knowing when to blow to when the rain set in.

— from "Candle in the Wind"/"Goodbye England's Rose" by Elton John

and Beyoncé's "Survivor"

Now I'm flippin' **like a butterfly. Stinging like a bee.**

I earned my stripes. I went from zero to my own hero.

— from "Roar" by Katy Perry

Everybody here is watching you 'cause **you feel like home.**

**You're like a dream come true.**

— from "When We Were Young" by Adele

**Answer  
Key**

**SAMPLE**



## Metaphors

### Check-up 1

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1. The boy was a light feather.
2. The boxer was strong ox.
3. The sky was a fireball.
4. The room was a palace.
5. The burglar was a cunning fox.
6. The teacher was nail-hard.
7. The mountains were monuments.
8. The class were angels.
9. At the end of the concert the venue was a pigsty.
10. During the evening trek the stars were diamonds in the sky.

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