

Writing Mat

Greater Depth Year 6

Spellings... I need to know all of these:

accommodate	correspond	hindrance	recognise
accompany	criticise	individual	recommend
according	curiosity	interfere	relevant
achieve	definite	interrupt	restaurant
aggressive	desperate	language	rhyme
amateur	determined	leisure	rhythm
ancient	develop	lightning	sacrifice
apparent	dictionary	marvellous	secretary
appreciate	embarrass	mischievous	shoulder
attached	environment	muscle	sincere
available	equip(-ped)	necessary	sincerely
average	equipment	neighbour	soldier
awkward	especially	nuisance	stomach
bargain	exaggerate	occupy	sufficient
bruise	excellent	occur	suggest
category	existence	opportunity	symbol
committee	explanation	parliament	system
communicate	familiar	physical	temperature
community	foreign	prejudice	thorough
competition	forty	privilege	twelfth
conscience	frequently	profession	variety
conscious	government	programme	vegetable
controversy	guarantee	pronunciation	vehicle
convenience	harass	queue	yacht

Punctuation Reminders:

A . ! ? ' , " () ... : ; -

Use a full range of punctuation.

Check for:

- consistent tense and person
- subject/verb agreement
- paragraphs with cohesive links
- genre features
- layout devices
- pronouns/ nouns for cohesion

Active and Passive

Use active and passive sentences appropriately:

Active: In front of millions of screaming fans, the star striker missed a vital penalty.

Passive: In front of millions of screaming fans, a vital penalty was missed by the star striker.

Create a Mood!

Where appropriate, in formal writing, use the subjunctive mood:

If I were The Queen, ...

Were there to be a change in my circumstances...

Splendid Subordination!

Use these conjunctions in varied places in your multi-clause sentences:

if because as
before after until
unless since when

Use a thesaurus to look for more ambitious synonyms. Why use 'frightened' when you could use...

startled alarmed
 apprehensive

Or 'show' a character's feelings:

his breathing quickened
her heart raced
sweat trickled
gasping for air

Perfect Parenthesis!

Use brackets, commas or dashes to punctuate extra information and asides:

The tomb of Tutankhamen (the Ancient Egyptian pharaoh) was discovered by Howard Carter.

The advancing alien, who was speaking a Martian language, looked dangerous.

The daffodils – my favourite sign of spring – swayed gently in the woodland breeze.

Be a Punctuation Professional!

Use semi colons, colons and dashes to mark independent clauses:

It felt like forever- the longest six weeks holiday of all time.
Jack's eyes slowly opened; there was no one to be seen.
They all knew his secret: he was a specialist secret agent.

Important Links!

Link your sentences and paragraphs using time, place, frequency, contrast/cause and manner adverbials, e.g.

Later that day, Deep inside the forest, Occasionally, On the other hand, Consequently, Waiting anxiously,

Managing Formality!

Where appropriate, can you switch between levels of formality from formal to informal?

passive sentence structures

precise, formal word choices

independent clauses marked with semi-colons or colons

A survey has been published this week, which says almost 50% of the UK population believe that there is other intelligent life out there within the universe; in fact, it is a mainstream viewpoint shared across most of the western world. So, what do you think? Martians, aliens, little green men – or whatever you want to call them – after years of searching, have yet to be found anywhere in the universe. Does that mean they ever will,

question tags

who knows?

colloquialisms, slang or less formal language

refer directly to the reader

Modal Verbs

Use modal verbs to describe the possibility of something happening.

We **ought** to go and see Granny today.
You **shall not (shan't)** go to the ball.