

Year 6 Writing Mat

Punctuating lists

For short lists, use commas and 'and':

The day was warm, sunny and bright.

For longer lists, use a colon at the start and a semi-colon to separate items. Before the colon must come a complete clause (a subject and a verb). After the final semi-colon, include 'and'.

Geoffrey's dad bought: five cans of soup; a cheese and tomato sandwich; and a cabbage.

Apostrophes for possession

Add 's to singular nouns: the dog's, the princess's, James's.

For plural nouns ending with 's', add a single '':
The fishes' fins, the princesses' pens, the children's pencils.

Edit to keep the tenses consistent

e.g. She went up the stairs and steps into the room.
(This sentence moves from the past tense to the present tense).

She went up the stairs and stepped into the room.
She goes up the stairs and steps into the room.

CHECK CAREFULLY!

A . ? ! '

Capital letters, full stops, question/exclamation marks and apostrophes for contraction (e.g. doesn't).

Cohesive Devices

Link sentences and paragraphs with cohesive devices:

Adverbials of time/place/manner/emphasis: In a minute, downstairs, naturally, in fact, consequently, conversely

Conjunctions: Therefore, because

Synonyms (words with the same meaning): Use a thesaurus to vary the words you use.

Semi-colons, colons and dashes

Use instead of conjunctions to link two clauses in sentences (remember, clauses contain a **subject** and a **verb**).

- ; Use **semi-colons** for contrasting ideas. (e.g. Tom liked chips; his sister preferred pizza)
- : Use **colons** for ideas that follow on or add detail. (e.g. Tom liked chips: the chips at McDonalds were his favourite.)
- Use **dashes** to add information in a less formal way. (e.g. Tom loved chips - loved, loved, loved them!)

Active Voice

subject verb object

The boy ate the cake.

Passive Voice

object verb subject

The cake was eaten by the boy.

The subject does the action (verb), the object is affected by the action (verb).

Subordination

Use the following conjunctions to extend your sentences.: if, since, as, when, although, while, after, before, until & because.

Hyphens to avoid ambiguity

The man-eating shark jumped.

[The hyphenated adjective 'man-eating' means the shark eats men.]

The man eating shark jumped.

[No hyphen, so it's the man who was eating a shark that jumped.]