**Apostrophes**

There are two main reasons why we use apostrophes:

* For possession
* To replace a letter or letters

NOTE: Apostrophes are NEVER used to denote plurals!

**Apostrophe for Possession**

If a single thing or person owns anything, add an apostrophe + **’s**

* The dog**’s** bone
* James**’s** Bakery

However, if it is plural, an apostrophe comes after the **s’**.

* The dogs**’** bones
* The boys**’** homework

**Common Contractions**

**Aren’t Hasn’t I’d**

**She’ll Can’t He’d**

**We’d What’s Doesn’t**

**How’s She’d We’ll**

**Couldn’t You’re Wouldn’t**

**Writing Skills**

**Sentence Types**

**Simple Sentences**

A sentence that only contains one subject and one verb – ***My new laptop computer has already crashed twice.***

**Compound Sentences**

A sentence that links two main clauses with a connective – ***My brother and I went shopping yesterday, but we didn’t buy anything.***

**Complex Sentences**

A sentence that contains one clause and one subordinate clause – ***I enjoy school, even though I get lots of homework.***

**Paragraphs**

Remember the **TIPTOP** rule: you start a new paragraph when you change **ti**me, **p**lace, **to**pic or **p**erson.

* **Time** – Start a new paragraph when you move to a new period of time.
* **Place** – Start a new paragraph when you move to a new place.
* **Topic** – Start a new paragraph when you move to a new topic.
* **Person** – Start a new paragraph when you bring a new person into the writing or when writing speech and a new person starts to speak. E.g.

“Good morning” said the teacher.

“It’s the afternoon!” replied the students.

**Punctuation**

**. Full stop** – marks the end of a sentence.

**, Comma** – Separates items in a list or clauses in a complex sentence.

**’ Apostrophe** – Shows possession or missing letters in words like don’t and can’t.

**“ ” Speech marks** – indicates speech, the exact words spoken or quoted.

**? Question mark** – Ends a question.

**! Exclamation mark** – Ends a dramatic sentence to show surprise or shock.

**: Colon** – Joins two related clauses where one clause cannot stand alone.

**; Semicolon** – Joins two equal clauses that are closely related but could also stand alone.

**Common Homophones**

Affect (verb) / Effect (noun)

Brake / Break

Know / No

One / Won

Sight / Site

To / Too / Two

Practice (noun) / Practise (verb)

Weak / Week

Hour / Our

Peace / Piece

**Common Grammar Errors**

**Be careful with the following:**

We would have been late.

**NOT:** We would of been late

We were going to the cinema.

**NOT**: We was going to the cinema.

I was going to the cinema.

**NOT**: I were going to the cinema.

**Special Care must be taken over the use of there, their and they’re as they sound the same but are used quite differently:**

**There** shows ‘position’ e.g. **Your** seat is over there.

**Their** shows ‘belonging’ e.g. **Their** jumpers are navy.

**They’re** is short for they are e.g. **They’re** revising for a test.

**Special care must also be taken over the use of your and you’re:**

**Your** shows ownership e.g. **Your** pen

**You’re** is short for you are e.g. **You’re** doing well in school.

**Snazzy Sentence Starters**

**Verbs (-ing)**

Giggling and laughing they ran down the street.

**Adverbs (-ly)**

Suddenly, the door flew open.

**Similes**

Like a lion, he faced the giant.

**Nouns**

Rain pelted him from above

**Adjectives**

Upset by all he endured, he stomped towards home.

**Interjections**

Oh, you may be wondering…

**Terrific Techniques**

**To describe**

* ***Metaphor*** – describing a place, subject or object as something unlikely.
* ***Simile*** – comparing two things by using the words ‘like’ or ‘as’.
* ***Adjectives*** – describing words.
* ***Adverbs*** – words that end in –ly.
* ***Onomatopoeia*** – a word, which imitates the natural sounds of a thing.

**To argue/persuade**

* ***Tripling*** – Three phrases or describing words to emphasise a point.
* ***Personal and collective pronouns*** – using words like ‘we’, ‘us’ and ‘you’
* ***Imperatives*** – language that expresses a command
* ***Superlatives*** – Adjectives that imply the highest or lowest quality.
* ***Hyperbole*** – Exaggerating to get your point across.
* ***Emotive language*** - the deliberate choice of words to elicit emotion.
* ***Flattery*** – complimenting the reader to get them on your side.
* ***Repetition*** – saying the same word or phrase more than once for emphasis.
* ***Rhetorical question*** – a question designed to make the reader think; it doesn’t require an answer.

**Clever Connectives**

* Furthermore
* Nevertheless
* Moreover
* Therefore
* Consequently
* Additionally
* But
* Yet
* However
* Although
* Whereas
* Alternatively