★ Word classes – Nouns and pronouns

Nouns are naming words

Common nouns name people, places, things and ideas.

teacher town puppy love day car

My teacher does not live in the town.

Proper **nouns** name specific things and have a capital.

Mrs Tailby Limerick Lottie Friday Mary

Mrs Tailby lives in Limerick.

Collective nouns name groups of people, animals or things.

a **choir** of singers a **flock** of sheep an **anthology** of poems

The choir are singing a concert next week.

Pronouns can be used instead of nouns.

Personal pronouns replace people or things.

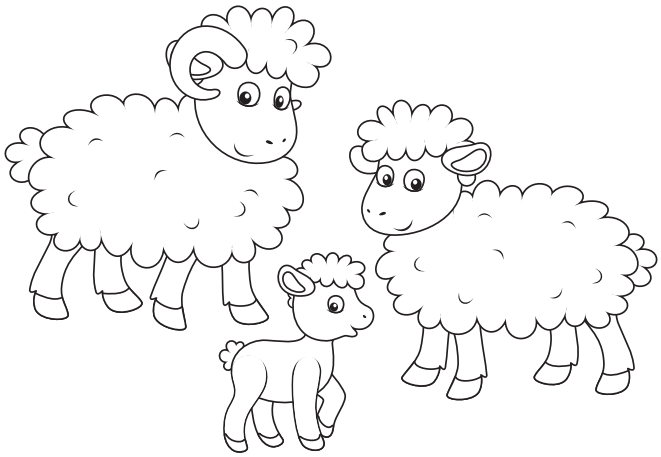
I you he him she her it we us they them

Possessive pronouns show ownership.

mine yours his hers its ours theirs

Lisa's favourite dress is green. She wears it every Saturday.

Tip!
Possessive pronouns do not need an apostrophe.



Word classes: Verbs

Verbs name an action.

They are doing or being words.

Dad **poured** the coffee. It **was** hot.

Verbs sometimes have **helping verbs.**

The superhero **can fly**.

I **was talking**.

Verb **tenses** show **when** something happened.

Verbs can be written in the **past**, **present** or **future** tense.

Past tense: He ran.

Present tense: He runs.

Future tense: He will run.

The **present continuous tense** describes something that is still happening:

He is running.

The **past continuous tense** describes an action ongoing in the past:

He was running.

Bossy verbs tell us what to do.

stop mash make

Word classes: Adjectives and adverbs

Adjectives describe nouns.

tall man **sweet** apple **slow** train

The tall man ate his sweet apple on the slow train.

Comparative adjectives compare two of the same noun and are often formed by adding **er**.

taller sweeter slower

The strawberries are **sweeter** than the oranges.

Superlative adjectives compare more than two of the same noun and are often formed by adding **est**.

tallest sweetest slowest

Of all the fruits, the raspberries are **sweetest**.

Adverbs tell us more about verbs.
Many adverbs end in **ly**.

The monkey screeched **harshly**.

Adverbs of manner describe **how** something happens.

He ate **greedily**.

Adverbs of time show **when** something happens.

I went home **yesterday**.

Adverbs of place say **where** something happens.

We played **outside**.

★ Word classes: Conjunctions, prepositions and time connectives

Conjunctions are joining words.
They link words, phrases and sentences.

if but or because so while

I will come **if** there is a bus.

Prepositions show the position of a noun in relation to something else.

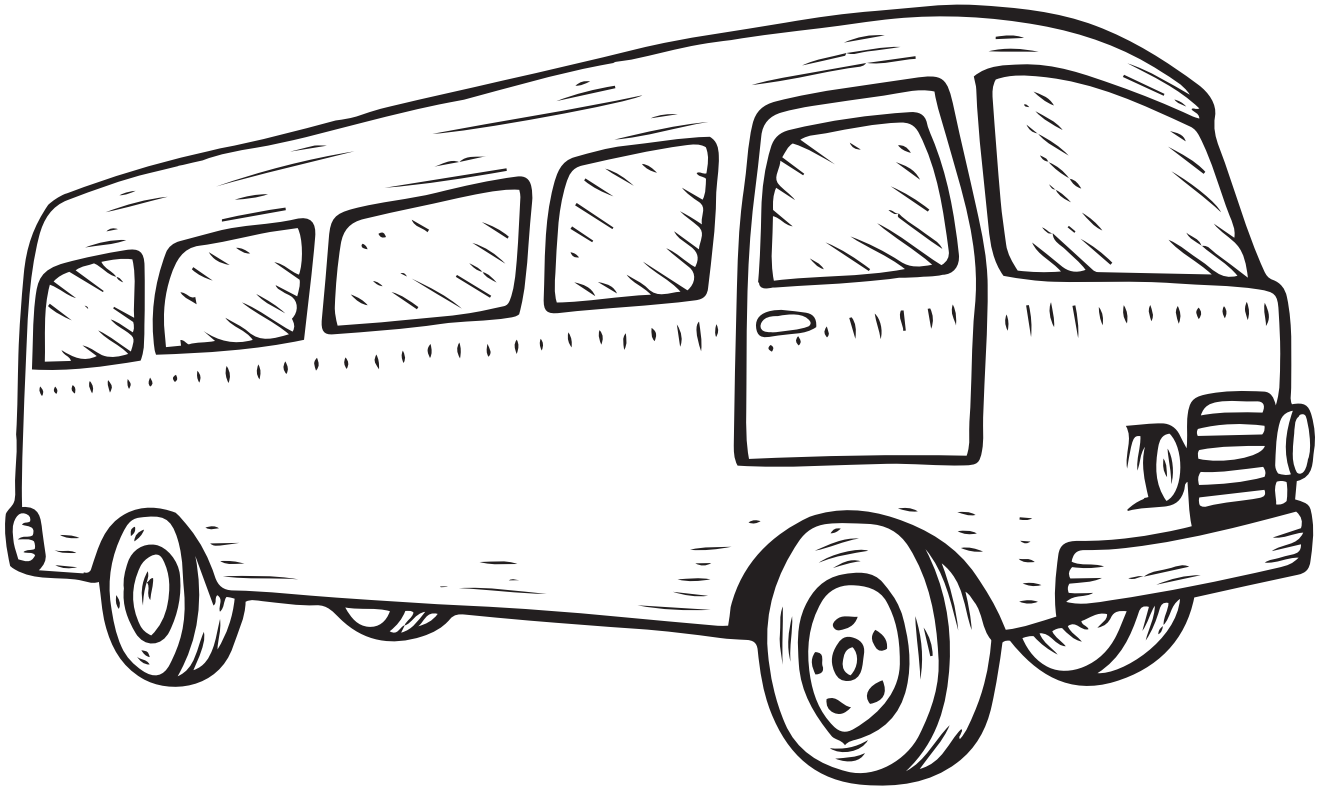
on under over behind down around

Hide **under** the bed or **behind** the door while the searcher hunts **around**.

Time words and phrases signal the order of events.

this morning soon after

This morning was cloudy but the sun **soon** came out and **after a while** we could play in the garden.



Some tricky words

Homographs have the same spelling but have different meanings and pronunciation.

A **lead** pencil

A dog's **lead**

Don't **tear** your jeans on the fence.

I had a **tear** in my eye.

Homonyms are spelled and sound alike but mean different things.

There is a **shed** in the garden.

The tree **shed** its leaves in autumn.

Homophones sound alike but are spelled differently and mean different things.

blue	blew
bare	bear
hear	here
know	no
or	oar
to	too

I **know** of **no** reason why she is late.

Antonyms and synonyms

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings.

agree	disagree
interesting	boring
near	far

The book was **interesting** but the film was **boring**.

Tip!
Sometimes adding a **prefix** turns a word into its antonym.

fair > unfair

like > dislike

Synonyms are words with the same or similar meanings.

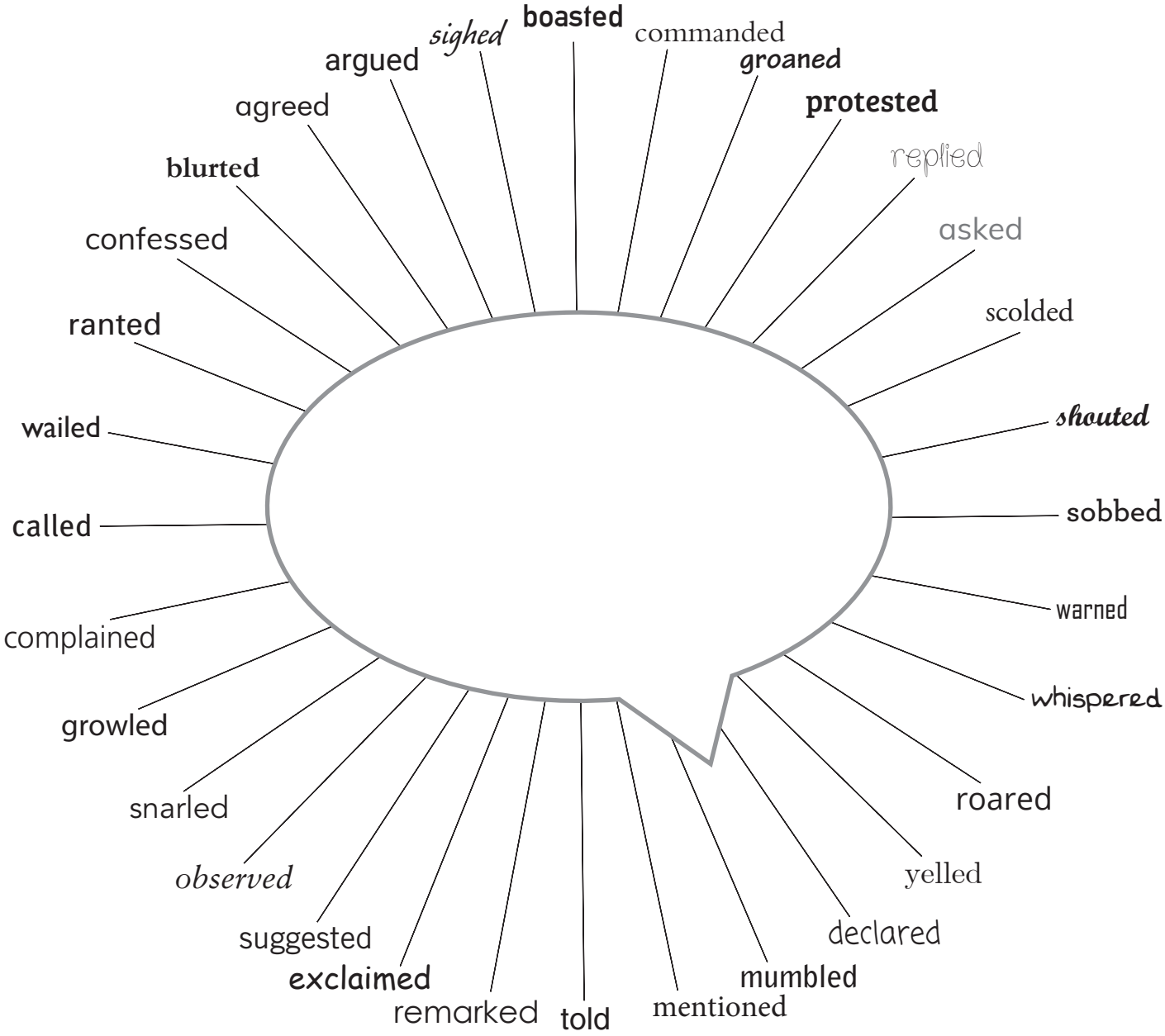
rich	wealthy
funny	hilarious
enormous	gigantic

That TV show was so **funny**. I thought it was **hilarious**!

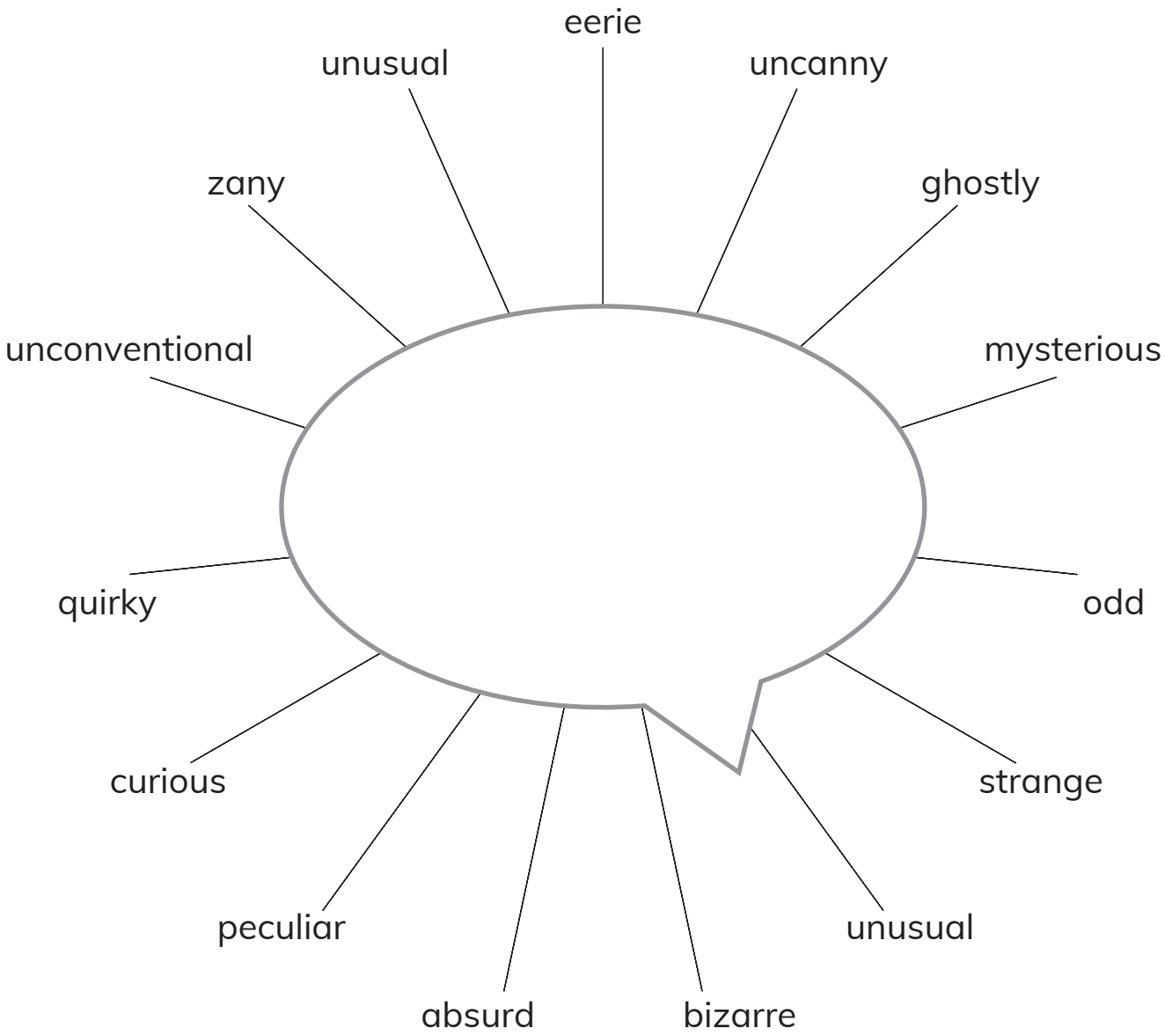
Tip!
You can use a **thesaurus** to look up synonyms. Using different words can make your writing more varied and interesting.

Choose more interesting words

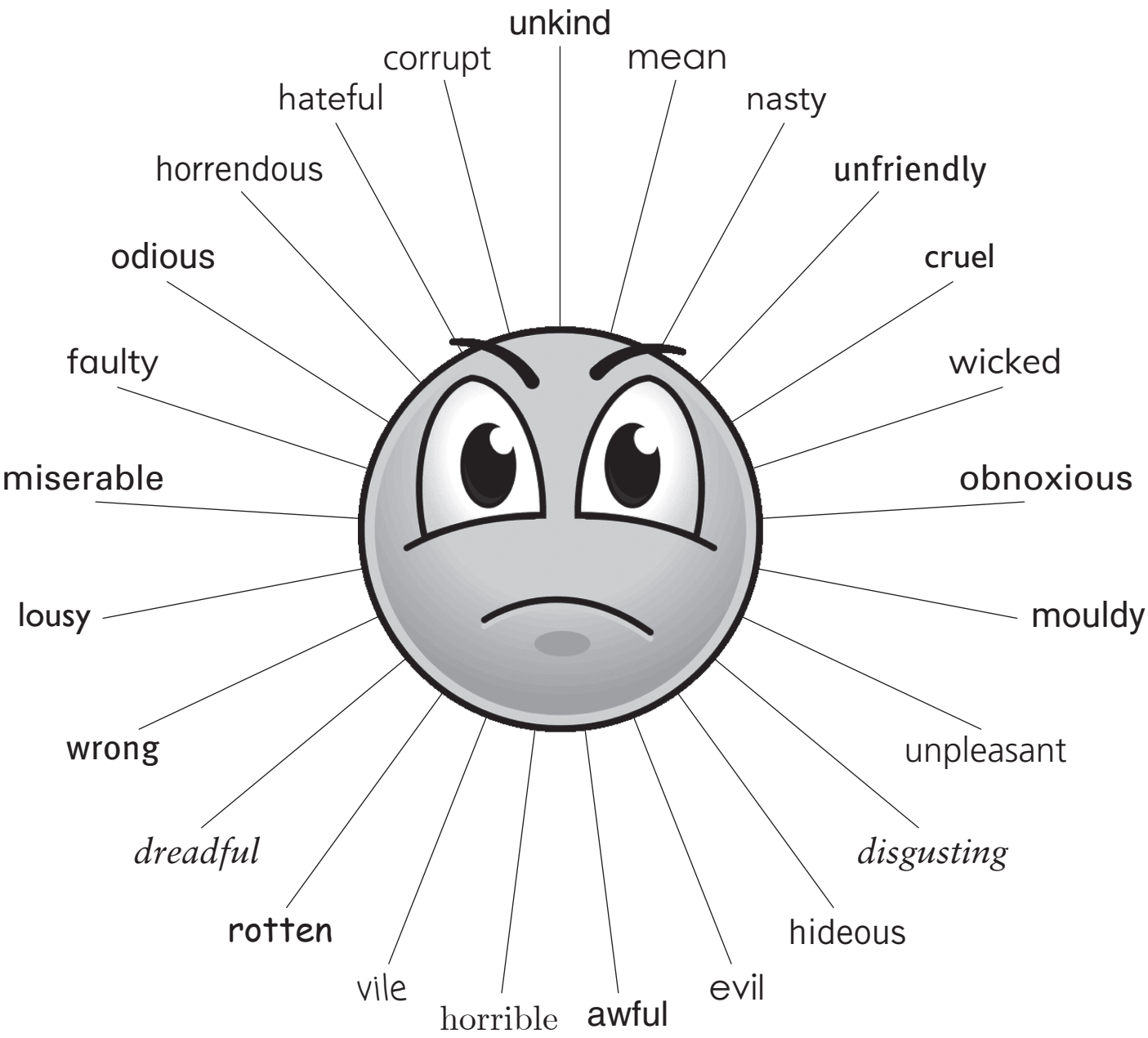
Synonyms for 'said'



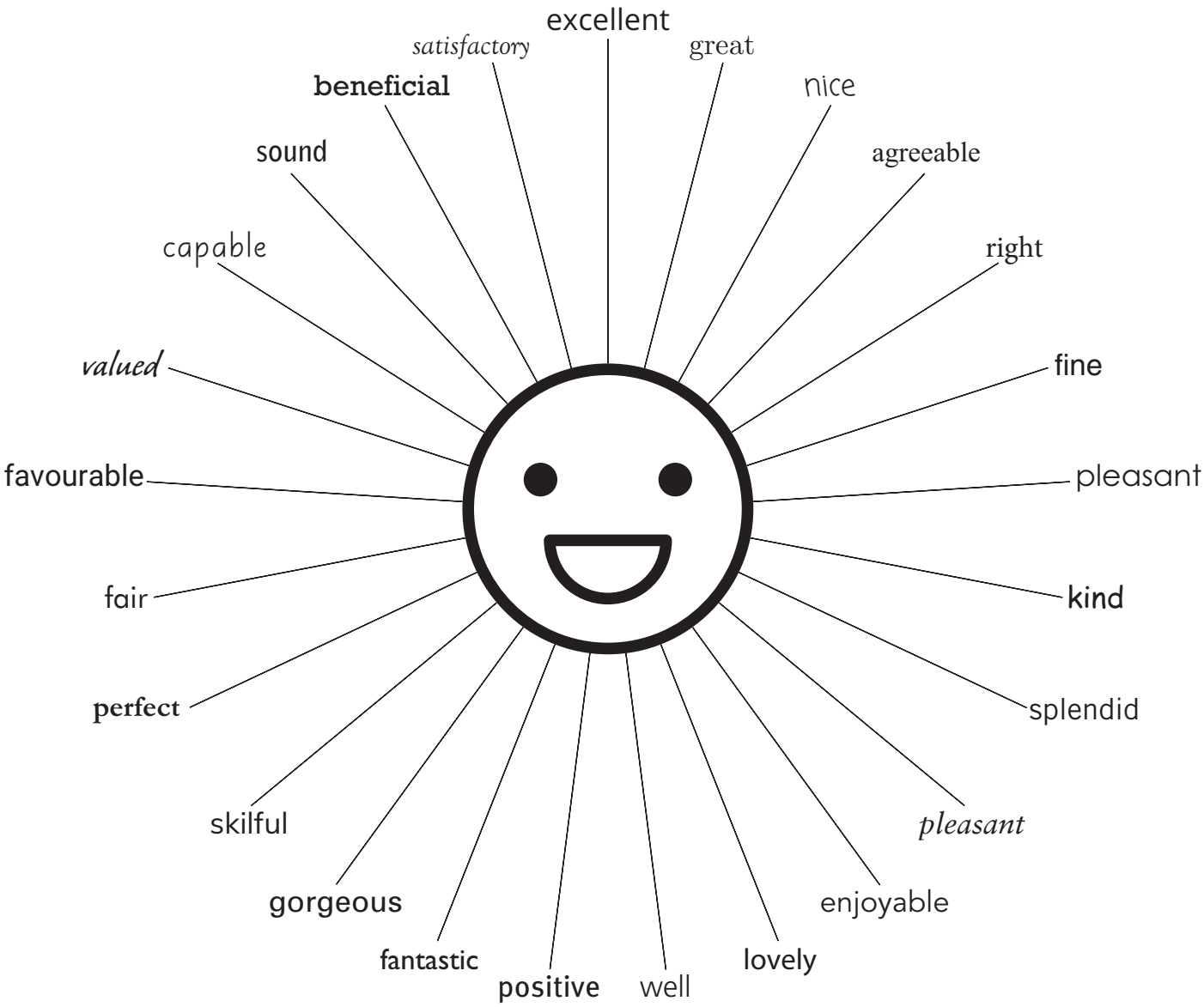
Synonyms for 'weird'



Synonyms for 'bad'



Synonyms for 'good'



Make new words

Prefixes are letters placed at the beginning of a word to make a new word. A prefix can turn a word into its antonym.

unusual **dis**place **mis**hear **extra**terrestrial

Suffixes are letters added to the end of words to change them.

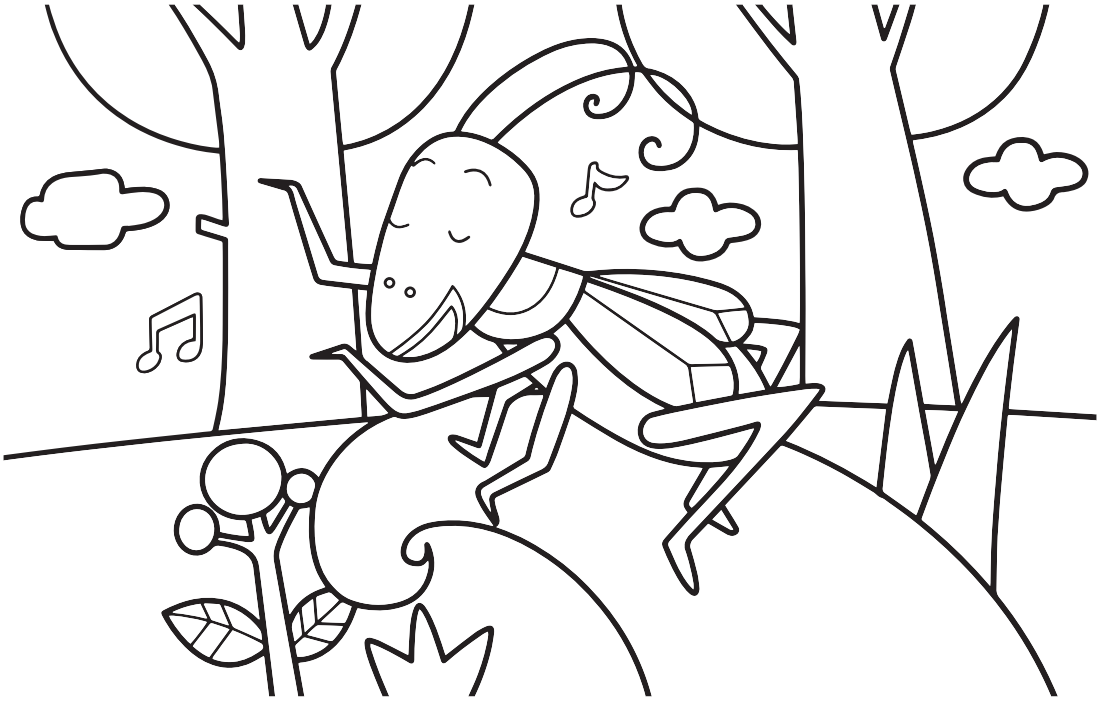
home**less** joy**ous** refer**ence**

Compound words are two words joined together to make a new word.

eye + sore = eyesore

grass + hopper = grasshopper

roof + tops = rooftops



Capital letters

Capital letters are used for:

The start of a sentence

One day Ella and Ronnie went for a drive to Limerick.

People's names and pets' names

Ella Ronnie

Names of places

Limerick

Months of the year

July

Days of the week

Saturday

Special days or occasions

Halloween

Titles for people

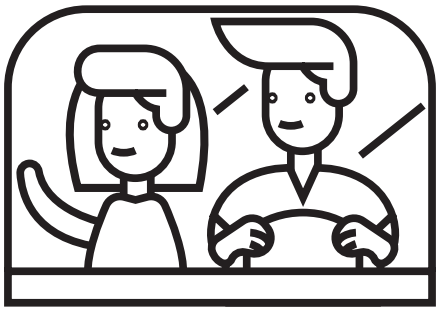
Reverend

The main words in the titles of books, films and plays

Voyage to Victory

Countries and nationalities

Belgium



Sentences and paragraphs

Sentences and clauses

A **sentence** is a unit of meaning. It begins with a capital letter and ends with a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark.

A **clause** is a group of words that is part of a sentence or a whole sentence.

Different kinds of sentences

A **simple sentence** has one clause.

She read a book.

A **compound sentence** contains two simple sentences linked by a conjunction.

Sadie wanted to go to the park **but** Luke didn't want to go out.

A **complex sentence** contains one main clause and a less important clause that does not make sense by itself.

Although it was almost midnight, he continued writing.

Paragraphs

A **paragraph** is a group of sentences about the same topic or idea. Texts are often divided into paragraphs. A new paragraph:

- Marks a change of topic, time, place
- Is used in narrative when a new person is speaking.

Punctuating sentences

End punctuation

Exclamation marks end sentences expressing strong feeling.

That was shocking!

Question marks end sentences that ask questions.

Did you see the race at school?

Commas

Commas can separate items in a list. You don't need a comma before the 'and'.

Pine martens have long bodies, small heads, bushy tails and round ears.

Commas can separate lists of actions.

The cat climbed the tree, ran along a branch, leapt to another branch and jumped down.

Commas can combine two ideas in a single sentence.

When the eagle spots its prey, it swoops down.

Commas can also separate additional information in a sentence.

Jack, my cousin, is flying home today.

Punctuation – apostrophes

Apostrophes of possession

Apostrophes of possession show who owns something.

The lion's mane.

For one owner, put the apostrophe **before the s**.

Isobel's costume

For more than one owner, put the apostrophe **after the s**.

The performers' costumes

Apostrophes of contraction

Contractions are words or phrases that have been shortened by taking away some letters. Usually an apostrophe is put in place of the missing letters.

did + not = **didn't**

he + is = **he's**

Dialogue and speech marks

Dialogue is a conversation between two or more people. In writing, you can:

Use dialogue to show what characters are like.

Use verbs and adverbs to describe how characters speak.

Use direct speech to say the words directly spoken.

"Oh no! We're too late!" cried Ella disappointedly.

"Don't worry," reassured Hayley kindly.

Punctuating Speech

Speech marks are placed directly around the words someone says.

They are also called quotation marks.

"I saw a monster!" shrieked Mia.

I saw a monster!

Figurative language

Alliteration happens when words that appear close to each other begin with the same sound.

Sid the **s**lithering **s**nake

Idioms are expressions. They don't mean exactly what the words say.

Idiom: It was a piece of cake.

Meaning: It was easy.

Metaphors describe something as if it were something else. Metaphors do NOT use 'as' or 'like'.

You are a superhero!

Onomatopoeia is a word that mimics the sound or action to which it is referring.

crash, whistle, clatter

Rhyme: when words rhyme, their endings sound similar.

dressed impressed

joked poked

Similes compares two things by using 'as' or 'like'.

The plane flew like a silver bullet.

Help with spelling

Avoid some common spelling mistakes!

When you add the suffix **-able, drop the e**.

believe > believable

When a word ends in **ce** or **se**, use **ce for nouns** and **se for verbs**.

I try to practise the piano. Everyone needs lots of practice.

There are no clear rules for when double letters are used – you have to learn them! Here are some common examples to learn.

address corridor necessary immediately occasionally beginning

embarrassed commit

For most words add **s** to make a plural, but:
Words ending in **s**, **x**, **zz**, **sh**, **ch** and **ss** add **es**.

pitch > pitches

Words ending in a consonant followed by **y** add **ies**.

baby > babies

Words ending in **f** or **fe** change to **ves**.

calf > calves

The words **there/they're/their** are often confused. Use the meaning in the sentence to choose the right word.

They're is a contraction of 'they are'.

Their is used for something belonging to people.

There is a place, like 'here'.

They're going to see a film. I saw a cat over **there**. Is it **their** cat?

Story plan

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Problem

What happens to the characters?

Sequence of events

What happens?

People

Who are the characters?

Words to describe the characters

Place

Where is the story set?

Words to describe the setting

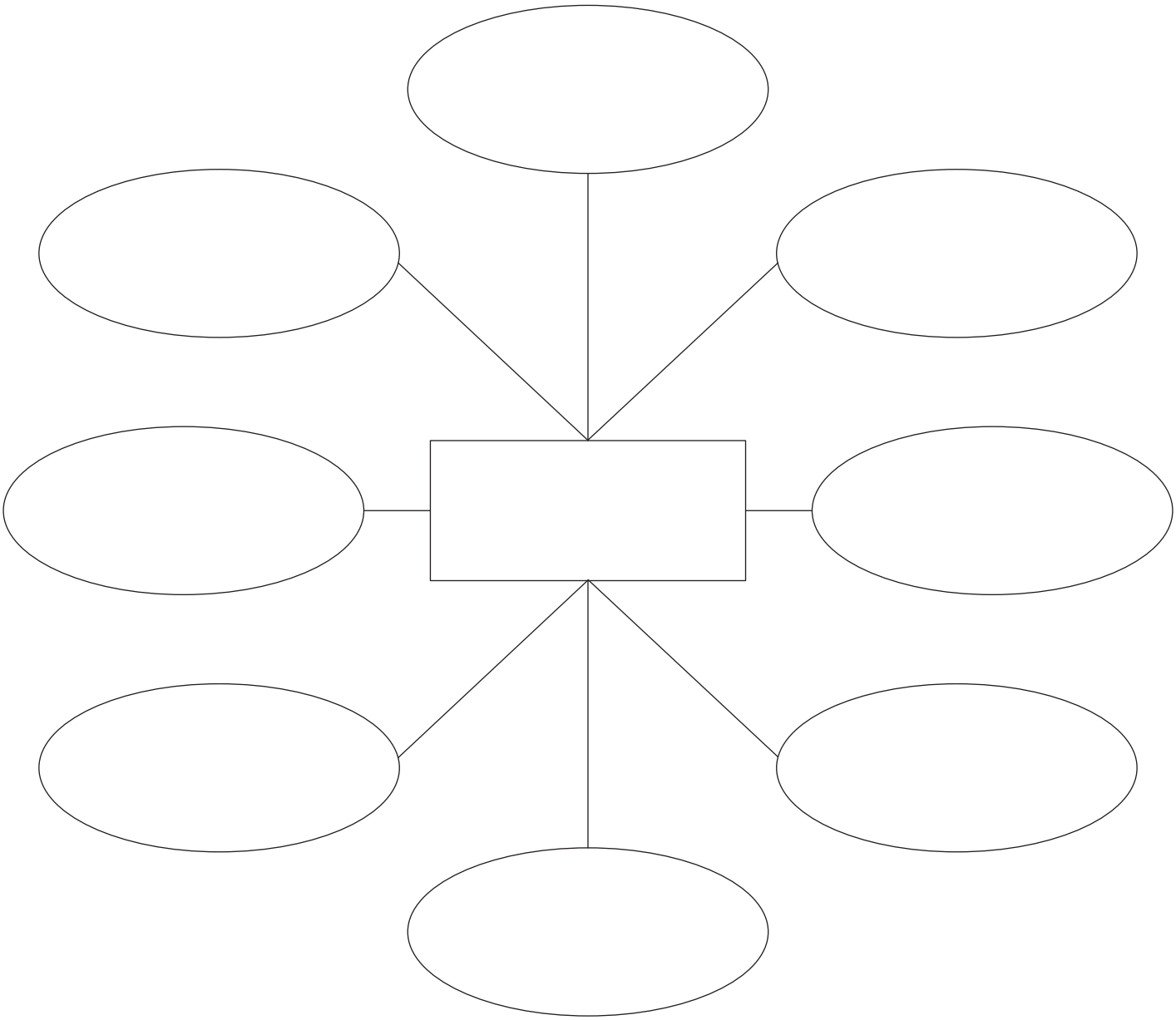
Mind map

Use this to organise your thoughts.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Write the subject in the centre.

Write ideas about it around the subject.



KWL chart

Use this to record your research goals and what you find out.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Topic

What I **K**now	What I **W**ant to Know	What I Have **L**earned

From planning to publishing

Use these steps for writing.

Plan

- What am I writing about?
- Purpose: Why am I writing?
- Audience: Who am I writing for?
- Research: Do I need to find things out?
- What kind of text is it?

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Draft

- Write a first copy.

↓

Edit

- Can I improve my draft?
- Can a partner make some suggestions?

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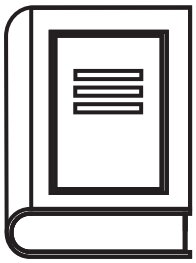
Redraft

- Write a second copy.
- Make all the improvements.



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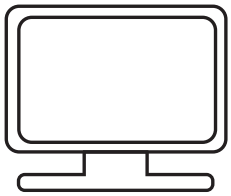
Proofread

- Check spelling.
- Check capital letters and punctuation.
- Correct any mistakes.



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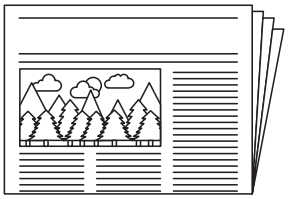
Publish

You could:

- Print out for others to read.
- Put on the school website.
- Display on a wall.