# Key Stage 2 English puzzles

Take a break from the books and drills, and revise Key Stage 2 English in a fun and engaging way! Each of the puzzles in this pack will help strengthen your child's knowledge of grammar and spelling, but turning these common classroom concepts into puzzles will present the information in a new, engaging way.

The pack includes a combination of puzzles, from wordsearches and crosswords to fill-in-the-blank, cipher and 'spot the problem' worksheets. These are some of the topics covered…

## Adjectives

Adjectives are modifiers – they join up with nouns and pronouns to describe them in more detail. Giving an object's colour, size, location and feel all involve using adjectives. They help make text more interesting to read, and usually come before the noun or pronoun that they refer to.

## Adverbs

What adjectives do for nouns, adverbs do for verbs. They allow us to describe how something happened. How was the statement said – cheerfully or sarcastically? How was the over-full teapot carried to the table – quickly or carefully? Add more description to text by giving the action more impact with a well-chosen adverb.

## Apostrophes

Learning where apostrophes go is sometimes seen as one of the most difficult parts of English grammar, but practice can make perfect! Apostrophes are used in contractions (such as don't and hasn't), and to show possession (such as Tina's and Eric's). They aren't used to show plural – more than one item – but they are used to show that a plural noun possesses something (such as students' schedules).

We've included some practice sheets that test your child's knowledge of the apostrophe rules. For more, have a look through the free English grammar worksheets available to download on TheSchoolRun.

## Comparatives and superlatives

Each adjective can be transformed into a comparative or superlative in one of two ways – some words change slightly with the addition of the suffixes -er or -est at the end, and other words require more or most to be added. For instance, pretty becomes prettier if you are comparing a few things to show that something has slightly more of this quality than something else, or you can turn the word into prettiest to show that nothing else compares. Likewise, the comparative of wonderful is more wonderful, and the superlative is most wonderful.

## High frequency words

Throughout your child's primary education, they'll learn how to say and spell an expanding list of high frequency words. These are words that are commonly used in the English language, but that may not always follow the phonetic rules students learned in Reception. We have included puzzles in this pack that include high frequency words from the list your child will learn in KS2.

## Nouns

Nouns are a part of speech that refer to a person, place or thing. They can be proper or common, meaning specific or general people, places or things. Proper nouns include a person's name (Harry), titles (Dr. Johnson), events (Olympic Games), rivers and mountains (Pennines), plus shops, schools, books and more. Common nouns are the general categories that proper nouns fall into; for instance, the Thames is a river (Thames is a proper noun, river is a common noun) and Marie is Billy's sister (Marie and Billy are proper nouns, sister is a common noun).

## Past and present tense

We've focused heavily on verb conjugation, which means understanding the way a verb changes when used to refer to events in the past, present and future and to one or more people.

There are standard rules that your child will learn in class, such as adding -ed to the end of a verb in order to make it past tense (shout becomes shouted), but there's a long list of verbs that don't follow the rules (go becoming went, for instance). These are known as irregular verbs, and must be memorised.

## Prefixes and suffixes

Words can take on different meanings – and even different parts of speech – when prefixes are added to the front, or when suffixes are added to the end. Adding re- onto the front of the verb solve turns it into resolve, which can be used as a noun or a verb. Adding a suffix onto the verb agree can make it agreement, which is a noun.

In this pack, your child can work on prefix and suffix matching games to help them remember which ones can go with which words.

## Similes

Another descriptive tool we have in the English language is the simile. Similes are preceded by like or as: "The rain fell down as sheets of water", or "The headache pounded like a drum". Some similes have become well-known expressions; for instance, 'cool as a cucumber' and 'plain as day' may not be the first comparisons that spring to mind if someone searching for their own simile, but the phrases are common enough that people generally know what they mean.

## Synonyms and antonyms

English is full of synonyms, which are words that have similar meanings. For instance, cosy can also mean comfortable, snug and warm. Knowing which words are synonyms of each other can help your child become a better writer, as they won't need to keep using the same word over again to express similar thoughts.

Conversely, antonyms are words that mean the opposite of each other. Cold is the antonym of hot, and joyful is the antonym of sorrowful.

## Using ~~connectives~~ conjunctions

Connectives (or conjunctions) are words that link – they can join other words, whole phrases or sentences to make text flow better. They can also be at the start of a sentence or follow a semicolon in the middle of a sentence to show continuation of thought, and this is what your child will work on in Key Stage 2.

Connectives are taught in Key Stage 1, but in Key Stage 2 they're used in storytelling, explaining a process, formulating ideas and writing more informed pieces of text. Your child will learn about a group of connectives called time connectives, which describe when something might have happened in a given sequence. Examples of these include: **in the beginning**, **meanwhile**, **then** and **finally**.

# Spot the nouns, part 1

**Read through the story below, and circle all the nouns you find. Each noun is hidden once in the wordsearch on the next page. Can you find them all? One has been done for you.**
**Hint: there are 35 more nouns to find!**

Anna walked into her room and sighed. Her mum had asked her to tidy it up, but it was so messy! Anna's mum had said she could play with her friend Gina when she was finished, so she closed her eyes and pointed to a spot in the room. That was where she'd start.

She'd pointed to a big pile of clothes on the floor in one corner of the room. She found her favourite jumper, and put away a green top, black trousers and lots of socks.

Then, she saw that her crayons had spilled out of their box. She put them back, then placed the box on a shelf with some coloured paper, glue, notebooks, stickers and buttons.

Anna had received some new books for her birthday, which was on the previous Saturday. She put them in her bookcase, and paused to read one about dog that lived on a farm. The farm had cows, sheep, pigs, horses and chickens. Anna lived in a flat, and there wouldn't be room for all those animals.

Lastly, Anna made her bed. Her mum came in and smiled when she saw how tidy Anna's room was now! She ran outside to join Gina in a game of hopscotch.

# Spot the nouns, part 2

**Now, try to find each noun in the wordsearch below...**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | S | U | X | Z | S | F | M | S | O | C | K | S | U | S | R | S |
| M | T | O | C | Z | Q | Z | B | O | O | K | C | A | S | E | E | R |
| B | I | H | O | P | S | C | O | T | C | H | D | V | P | S | P | O |
| U | C | H | T | J | B | D | S | N | L | G | J | A | R | J | I | U |
| T | K | D | K | B | N | L | Y | A | O | Z | P | O | A | R | G | T |
| T | E | C | T | E | A | A | D | Z | T | H | H | N | E | Y | S | S |
| O | R | P | I | M | D | A | T | U | H | D | I | N | A | P | S | I |
| N | S | R | I | H | F | T | K | P | E | G | R | D | W | T | O | D |
| S | F | N | T | T | A | R | X | I | S | O | R | E | W | C | O | E |
| W | A | R | J | G | R | Y | I | L | C | U | J | O | J | R | C | P |
| S | I | Y | J | K | M | O | S | E | T | R | B | D | H | Q | K | J |
| B | S | A | Q | L | M | W | O | A | C | R | A | Y | O | N | S | W |
| Q | B | B | N | P | O | A | S | M | S | H | E | L | F | G | F | G |
| S | N | O | E | C | H | I | C | K | E | N | S | J | K | F | L | L |
| R | P | E | X | D | T | R | O | U | S | E | R | S | R | A | A | U |
| K | H | O | J | U | M | P | E | R | K | A | N | N | A | N | T | E |
| S | N | O | T | E | B | O | O | K | S | R | B | B | T | M | U | M |

## Solution:

## Nouns:

Animals
Anna
Bed
Birthday
Bookcase
Box
Buttons
Chickens
Clothes
Corner
Cows
Crayons
Dog
Farm
Flat
Friend
Gina
Glue
Hopscotch
Horses
Jumper
Mum
Notebooks
Outside
Paper
Pigs
Pile
Room
Saturday
Sheep
Shelf
Socks
Spot
Stickers
Top
Trousers

# Past to present

**Each clue is missing a past tense verb. Can you figure out what the verb is, and find its present tense in the wordsearch?**

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | A | T | C | H | P | L | A | Y | G | B |
| L | A | U | G | H | N | R | P | D | K | A |
| C | V | I | S | I | T | N | H | L | G | K |
| L | D | T | I | Q | Y | C | A | A | L | E |
| E | I | P | X | B | U | T | N | T | E | Q |
| A | E | S | O | O | W | A | L | K | A | Q |
| N | Z | C | T | U | B | C | R | N | R | Y |
| J | F | I | X | E | R | R | E | K | N | A |
| U | W | A | S | H | N | P | U | A | R | W |
| M | T | D | L | O | O | K | F | S | Y | N |
| P | I | N | V | I | T | E | A | J | H | D |

**Words to choose from:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **cooled** | **laughed** |
| **baked** | **played** |
| **studied** | **fried** |
| **walked** | **visited** |
| **fixed** | **dressed** |
| **designed** | **jumped** |
| **cleaned** | **scrubbed** |
| **pushed** | **yawned** |
| **looked** | **talked** |
| **destroyed** | **ignored** |
| **washed** | **touched** |
| **brushed** | **listened** |
| **watched** | **invited** |
| **completed** | **turned** |
| **opened** | **tested** |
| **investigated** | **poured** |
| **wrapped** | **learned** |

**1.** We --- Gran at the weekend, and she made my favourite biscuits.

**2.** Mum and I --- my favourite cake – chocolate with lots of vanilla icing.

**3.** I --- the door to the classroom, and sat down at my desk.

**4.** We --- to the corner shop to buy some bread.

**5.** Dad --- the wheel on my bicycle so I could ride it again.

**6.** Hayley --- her teeth before leaving for school.

**7.** I --- over the puddles so my feet wouldn't get wet.

**8.** Mum said I should go to bed after I --- during the film we were watching.

**9.** He --- milk over his favourite cereal, then sat down to eat breakfast.

**10.** I --- at the really funny joke Evie told.

**11.** After we --- the dishes, we played a board game.

**12.** I --- to my uncle on the phone when he rang last night.

**13.** We --- very closely to the strange noise coming from the next room – it was my older brother practising the guitar.

**14.** Henry --- his favourite TV programme when he got home.

**15.** In class today, we --- about how plants grow.

**16.** I --- everyone in my year to my birthday party.

**17.** We --- football with the children who live next door.

**18.** I --- the dog's shaggy fur, and felt how soft it is.

**19.** My brother and I --- up the garden to earn some pocket money.

**20.** I --- outside to see if the ice cream van was there yet.

# Past to present: solution

1. visited / visit
2. baked / bake
3. opened / open
4. walked / walk
5. fixed / fix
6. brushed / brush
7. jumped / jump
8. yawned / yawn
9. poured / pour
10. laughed / laugh
11. washed / wash
12. talked / talk
13. listened / listen
14. watched / watch
15. learned / learn
16. invited / invite
17. played / play
18. touched / touch
19. cleaned / clean
20. looked / look

# All about apostrophes

Think you know about apostrophes? Test your knoweldge by correcting the mistakes in these sentences. Put a cross through incorrect apostrophes in one colour, and write in missing apostrophes in another colour.
Hint: only one sentence is completely correct!

1. My brother William just turned three year's old.

2. Mum bought apple's, flour, butter, sugar and cinnamon at the supermarket so she could make apple pie for dessert.

3. Jessicas rucksack is purple with pink trim and white letters.

4. The new childrens playground by my house has a swingset, roundabout, slide and climbing frame.

5. I like orange's more than pears, and Isaac likes apple's more than grapes.

6. If Helen doesnt do all her homework, she wont get all of her weekly pocket money.

7. Youre not going to eat all of those sweet's, are you?

8. Hasn't Jenny got my copy of *James and the Giant Peach*? I think I let her borrow it last month.

9. Its just one week before half-term!

10. Dad is driving me to Ella's party first, then going to pick up my sister from her violin lesson's.

11. That jigsaw puzzle is missing it's top left corner piece.

12. Whats the name of the new teacher at Vickys school?

**What's the secret number?**
Subtract the number of apostrophes you had to take away from the number of apostrophes you had to add in....

# All about apostrophes: solution

1. My brother William just turned three years old.

2. Mum bought apples, flour, butter, sugar and cinnamon at the supermarket so she could make apple pie for dessert.

3. Jessica's rucksack is purple with pink trim and white letters.

4. The new children's playground by my house has a swingset, roundabout, slide and climbing frame.

5. I like oranges more than pears, and Isaac likes apples more than grapes.

6. If Helen doesn't do all her homework, she won't get all of her weekly pocket money.

7. You're not going to eat all of those sweets, are you?

8. Hasn't Jenny got my copy of *James and the Giant Peach*? I think I let her borrow it last month. (correct)

9. It's just one week before half-term!

10. Dad is driving me to Ella's party first, then going to pick up my sister from her violin lessons.

11. That jigsaw puzzle is missing its top left corner piece.

12. What's the name of the new teacher at Vicky's school?

**Secret number: 1**

# Another way to say it

A synonym for each of the words below is hidden in this wordsearch. Write the words you find with their synonyms, choosing from the list below. We've done the first one for you.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | E | A | F | E | N | I | N | G | C | M | O | D |
| E | M | B | A | R | R | A | S | S | E | D | I | X |
| N | B | E | A | U | T | I | F | U | L | V | C | S |
| O | G | E | I | U | Y | S | E | L | I | S | S | P |
| R | H | L | P | N | U | L | D | L | U | E | L | Z |
| M | B | R | N | O | G | E | R | O | L | F | E | B |
| O | Y | I | Y | G | H | Q | I | T | B | R | E | A |
| U | K | O | I | S | D | C | H | D | S | O | P | S |
| S | J | G | I | E | I | G | L | Y | D | Z | Y | H |
| D | H | M | R | L | U | O | K | E | X | E | U | F |
| C | A | A | E | O | T | S | T | I | V | N | O | U |
| F | C | D | H | O | L | L | O | W | N | E | L | L |
| S | B | T | S | W | I | F | T | O | Y | D | R | T |

joyous
delicious
exhausted
told
sleepy
upset
hollow
quick
swift
famished
tiny
bashful
livid
thoughtless
clever
embarrassed
frozen
skinny
enormous
beautiful
deafening
priceless
giggle
kind

afraid ....scared.... mortified .....
hungry ..... happy .....
cold ..... big .....
gorgeous ..... tasty .....
said ..... loud .....
laugh ..... empty .....
tired ..... thin .....
nice ..... smart .....
angry ..... selfish .....
shy ..... fast .....

# Another way to say it: solution

afraid / scared

hungry / famished

cold / frozen

gorgeous / beautiful

said / told

laugh / giggle

tired / sleepy

nice / kind

angry / livid

shy / bashful

mortified / embarrassed

happy / joyous

big / enormous

tasty / delicious

loud / deafening

empty / hollow

thin / skinny

smart / clever

selfish / thoughtless

fast / swift