Your notes

KS3 English: revision notes

Grammar and word classes

Contents

1. Word classes
2. Sentences and clauses
3. Tense, agreement and voice
4. Key terms
5. Quick questions
6. What to do next

Word classes

- **Noun**: a person, place, thing or idea (a proper **noun** names a particular one and has a capital letter: Guernsey). **Verb**: an action or state (run, is). Adjective: describes a noun (tall). Adverb: describes a verb, adjective or another adverb, often ending in -ly (quickly).
- **Pronoun**: replaces a **noun** (he, she, it, they). **Preposition**: shows position or time (under, before). Conjunction: joins words or clauses (and, but, because, although). Determiner: comes before a noun (the, a, some, this).

Sentences and clauses

- A **main clause** makes sense on its own. A **subordinate clause** doesn't: "because it was late".
- A simple sentence has one **main clause**. A compound sentence joins two **main clauses** with and, but, or or so. A **complex sentence** has a main clause and a subordinate clause: "Although it was raining, we played outside."

Tense, agreement and voice

- Keep the tense consistent. The subject and **verb** must agree: "The dogs are barking", not "The dogs is barking".
- Active voice: "The cat chased the mouse." **Passive voice**: "The mouse was chased by the cat." The passive puts the focus on what happened, not who did it.
- **Standard English**: "we were", not "we was"; "I did it", not "I done it".

Key terms

Noun	A word for a person, place, thing or idea.
Verb	A word for an action or state.
Adjective	A word that describes a noun.

Adverb	A word that describes a verb, adjective or another adverb.
Pronoun	A word that replaces a noun, such as "she".
Preposition	A word that shows position or time, such as "under".
Conjunction	A word that joins words or clauses, such as "because".
Main clause	A clause that makes sense on its own.
Subordinate clause	A clause that doesn't make sense on its own.
Complex sentence	A sentence with a main clause and a subordinate clause.
Passive voice	A sentence where the subject has the action done to it.
Standard English	The formal, correct form of English.

Your notes

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. What type of word is "quickly"?
2. What type of word is "happiness"?
3. Which of these words is a preposition?
4. Which of these words is a conjunction?
5. What is a proper noun?
6. Which of these is a complex sentence?
7. What is a subordinate clause?
8. Which sentence is in the passive voice?

Answers

1. An adverb
2. A noun
3. Under
4. Because
5. The name of a particular person, place or thing, with a capital letter
6. Although it was raining, we played outside
7. A clause that doesn't make sense on its own
8. The window was broken by the ball

What to do next

Practise 14 questions on this topic

Try 4 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

Free revision for GCSE and KS3 at lycolearn.co.uk. Some notes are for one exam board only, and say so in brackets.