

Genre

Explanations

Explanations

Technician year 4

To use expanded noun phrases with the addition of modifying adjectives.

To use a subordinate clause in a sentence, using the conjunctions when, if, so and because

Explanations

Master year 3

To use a subordinate clause in a sentence, using the conjunctions when, if, so, because and although

To group information into paragraphs.

Explanations

Apprentice

To continue to use a wider range of conjunctions, when / if/ that/ because

Explanations

Technician year 3

Use a wide range of conjunctions including when, before, after, while and so

Use paragraphs to group ideas together.

radiant

adj. bright, brilliant, or glowing
like a very large and powerful light bulb

mrswordsmith.com

radiant

word pairs

- radiant glow
- radiant skin
- radiant beauty

adj.

bright, brilliant, or glowing
like a very large
and powerful light bulb

SYNONYMS

- gleaming
- glowing
- bright

Used in

13.5%
of stories

“

Her dark eyes widen, and her face is **radiant** with sunlight. It makes every strand of her thick, dark hair gleam orange like it's on fire.

Allegiant
by Veronica Roth

”

tell a story

Grit focused on the **radiant** glow and kept running...

Monday 31st January

L.O. To find the features of an explanation text.

Fluency of skills Wednesday
Adverbs

Underline the adverbs in these sentences.
Jane quickly went to line up.
The dog barked angrily at the rattling letterbox.
The rain tricked slowly down the window pane.

M and C

Fluency of skills Wednesday
Adverbs

Underline the adverb to complete each sentence.

- 1 The three pirates **quiet** / **quietly** made their way through the dense undergrowth.
- 2 Captain Starling **quickly** / **quick** cut her way through the jungle, but Stragglebeard and Barnaby **slowly** / **slow** followed behind.
- 3 Barnaby **foolishly** / **foolish** began to whistle as he **nervous** / **nervously** looked up into the trees above.
- 4 Captain Starling **firm** / **firmly** told him to stop making any silly noises.

3

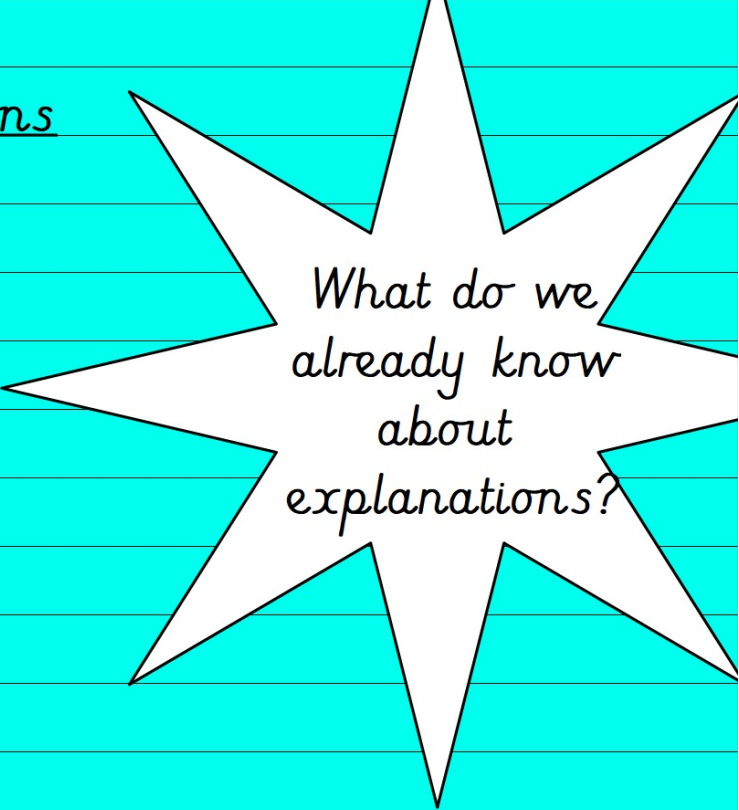
Fluency of skills Wednesday
Adverbs

Use your own adverbs to add more meaning to the verbs in these sentences.

- 1 Pip gathered up any armour that would fit him.
- 2 Next he chose a sword and a shield.
- 3 Then he ran to the castle stables to choose a horse for his quest.
- 4 Most of the horses were far too big for Pip to ride

4

Prior Knowledge - Explanations



What do we
already know
about
explanations?

Can you spot the features?

Features of an explanation	
Title	
Pictures / diagrams	
Chronological order/ following a process.	
Paragraphs	
Subordinate clauses	
Apostrophe to show possession	
Fronted adverbials (time)	
Conjunctions	

How do plants grow?



Everywhere you look, you will see many plants of all shapes, sizes and colours, but do you know how they grow? The lifecycle of a plant is very simple to understand. Each part of a plant has a job that will help it to grow. Read on to find out more.

Most plants start as seeds or bulbs. First, the seed will grow roots. The roots grow downwards into the soil because this helps to secure the plant in the



ground. The roots' job is also to **absorb** water and food from the soil. This food is important because it helps the plants to grow.

absorb:

to suck up or to soak up

At the same time, the seed's shoots will grow upwards and then it will grow leaves above the ground. The shoots form a stem.

After about a week, the seed becomes a seedling. It will grow taller and the leaves will become bigger. The stem carries food from the leaves to the rest of the plant so the flowers can grow. New seeds are made when flowers form! When the new seeds are pollinated, new plants might be able to grow.

When the weather becomes colder, the plant starts to die.

The plant will quickly turn brown and the petals or the leaves will

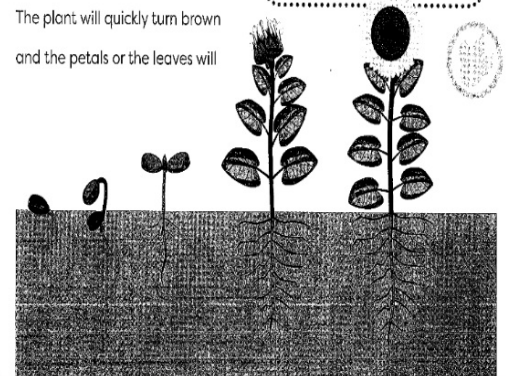
soon fall off. Following that, the seeds will fall out of the dead flower and onto the soil.

They will replant themselves and the cycle begins again.

We call this a lifecycle.

? Did you know that plants

- will only grow well in the right conditions? If the temperature is too hot or too cold, this may stop the plant from growing.



Plenary

Place the features of explanations on the working wall.

Tuesday 1st February

L.O. To orally rehearse and create a flow chart of the events of an erupting volcano.

Fluency of skills Thursday
Adverbs

Write a sentence which include the word slowly.

Fluency of skills Thursday
Adverbs

Write a sentence using one of these adverbs:

carefully **strongly** **silently** **cautiously** |

Fluency of skills Thursday
Adverbials

- ① Pip caught the bag awkwardly.

Awkwardly,

- ② He desperately scabbled after the pearls.

.....

Write them in your book.

Year
3

Year 4



overjoyed

adj. delighted and gleeful
like when you feel like partying
mrswordsmith.com

overjoyed

overjoyed reaction
overjoyed parent
overjoyed crowd

etymology
Overjoyed is translated from the Latin word *supergaudere*, which means "to rejoice over".

SYNONYMS
delighted
gleeful
elated

Used in **1.5%** of stories

tell a story
Bogart had never felt as overjoyed as he did when...

Watch this video about the process of an erupting volcano.

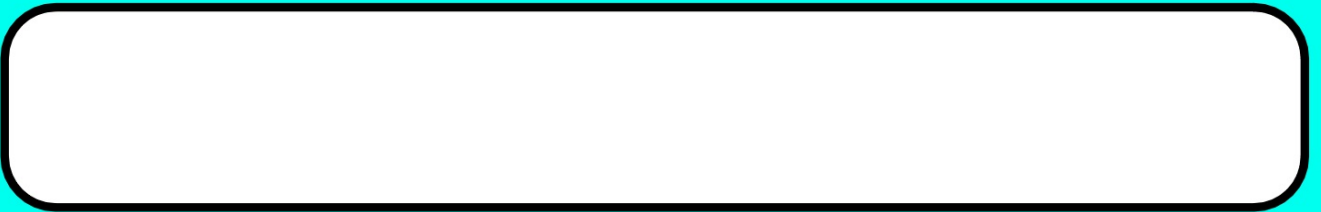


What are volcanoes and how are they formed? - YouTube

Now, you need to orally rehearse explaining how a volcano is formed.

Now, we need to create a flow chart of the the process of how a volcano is formed.





Plenary

Do you think you have included all the steps of how a volcano is formed?

Read it to a partner to check.

Thursday 3rd February

L.O. To understand the structure of multiclaue sente

Fluency of skills Friday
Conjunctions

Can you add a conjunction to each of these sentences? Each one needs a different conjunction.

I wanted to go out to play _____ it's raining.

It's lovely and warm today _____ it's sunny.

Fluency of skills Friday
Conjunctions

Choose a conjunction from the brackets to complete each sentence.

- 1 They didn't understand what Mister P was saying they understood that he was being rude. (and / but)
 - 2 The tribesmen ran towards the bushes they wanted to see who was making all the noise. (but / because)
- Meanwhile, Captain Starling was hiding in the bushes on the other side of the village.



Year 3

Fluency of skills Friday
Conjunctions

Choose a conjunction from the brackets to complete the sentences.

- 1 Pip has been Sir Ansell's squire for just over a month he became fourteen. (since / although)
- 2 He is very proud to be a squire Sir Ansell can be very demanding at times. (because / although)
- 3 He enjoys most of his duties he does not like mucking out the horses. (but / because)



Year 4



wistful

adj. sad, longing, or nostalgic
like the sad feeling you get from some memories

mrswordsmith.com

word pairs

- wistful sigh
- wistful smile
- wistful memory

adj.

sad, longing, or nostalgic
like the sad feeling you get from some memories

SYNONYMS

- longing
- nostalgic
- sad

etymology

Wistful is thought to be closely related to "wishful".

Used in

8.7%
of stories

tell a story

Shang High clutched his childhood teddy bear and let out a wistful sigh...

wistful

www.dreamstime.com

Quick re-cap: What are conjunctions?

Connect ideas within a sentence and they make one short sentence into a two clause sentence.

The green car caused a crash because
he was too close to the red car



The torch will shine brightly as it has
had new batteries.



What is a clause?



A clause is a group of words that includes a subject and a verb.

There are two types of clauses,

independent clauses and **subordinate clauses**.

The **independent clause** makes sense on its own because it is a complete thought.

For example:
I went to town.
It was red.

A **subordinate clause** supports the independent clause. The opening words of subordinate clauses show that they are dependent on the independent clause.

For example:
after the storm cleared
because he didn't like chocolate

The Subordinate Clause



A subordinate clause can come at various points in a sentence.

You might use one at the **front** of a sentence.
For example, a fronted adverbial can be a type of subordinate clause:

Like a bullet speeding through the air, he ran through the door.

You might want to use one at the **end** of the sentence:

She went straight home after school because she needed an early tea.

Sometimes they even come in the **middle** of sentences:

My brother Richard, who lives in Australia,
is coming home for Christmas.

When to Use a Comma



Sometimes you will need to use a comma to mark where your subordinate clause is. Here are some general rules to help you know when to use commas.

If the subordinate clause starts the sentence, use a comma after it. If it ends the sentence do not use a comma.

Before we go swimming, we have to go to school.
We have to go to school before we go swimming.

If the subordinate clause is adding additional information in the middle of your sentence, put commas before and after it. If you could put parentheses () around your clause, it needs commas.

Tomorrow morning, when the clock strikes nine, school will begin.

Conjunctions



Conjunctions are used to start subordinate clauses.
Here is a collection of conjunctions.

Can you use the conjunctions to make subordinate clauses
for this sentence?

She walked for an hour.



Have a go!

Test yourselves - can you underline the main clauses and subordinate clauses in these sentences?

Have a go!



How do rocket shoes work?

Rocket shoes have been invented to make walking safer and more fun. But how do they work?

Each shoe has six rockets on the bottom. When you put your feet inside the shoe, it will touch the switch. The rocket shoes are solar-powered, which means they need to be left outside in order to charge. If you don't charge the rocket shoes, they won't work to their best ability.

Because rocket shoes stop when there are objects in the way, they are extremely safe. Surprisingly, rocket shoes are great for children and elderly people. Additionally, as they are solar-powered, they save energy.

Main clauses

Subordinate clauses

Match the main clause to the appropriate subordinate clause.

We will go to the fair	if there is enough.
Put on your coat	before it's too late.
I'd love a slice of cake	because I'm bored.
I'm going into town	unless I say otherwise.
You should sit down	so that you stay dry.
Put a tick next to it	until we get tired.
It should be fine	whenever you feel like it.

Complete these sentences so that they make sense.

When the game finished, _____

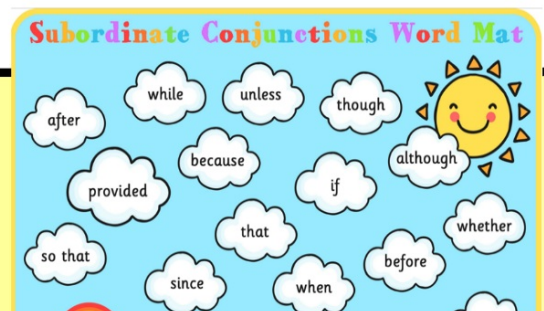
Because I love cats, _____

_____, if you behave nicely.

Although I am good at maths, _____

Before the day is over, _____

Now, you need to write some multi clause sentences of your own using the words on your word mat.



Tuesday 8th February

L.O. To design and plan a helpful robot with technical vocabulary

Fluency of skills

Adverbs

Write 'ly' at the end of each adjective to make adverbs.

careful..... careless..... kind..... loud.....
neat..... polite..... quick..... quiet.....

Fluency of skills

Adverbs

Write a sentence using one of these adverbs:

carefully strongly silently cautiously

Fluency of skills

Adverbs not ending in -ly

Underline the adverbs in these sentences.

- 1 The serpent almost sank its fangs into the Black Knight.
- 2 Pip needed to move fast to save the Black Knight from the beast.
- 3 Without hesitation Pip ran straight at the beast, his sword at the ready.



inhale

v. to breathe in or eat quickly
like sucking up your food in one breath

mrswordsmith.com

word pairs

- inhale food
- inhale gas
- inhale fumes

to breathe in or eat quickly
like sucking up your food
in one breath

SYNONYMS

- breathe in
- eat quickly
- gulp

Used in
8.5%
of stories

“

“We better take it slow on that stew. Remember the first night on the train? The rich food made me sick and I wasn't even starving then.” “You're right. And I could just **inhale** the whole thing!” I say regretfully. But don't. We are quite sensible.

The Hunger Games
by Suzanne Collins

”

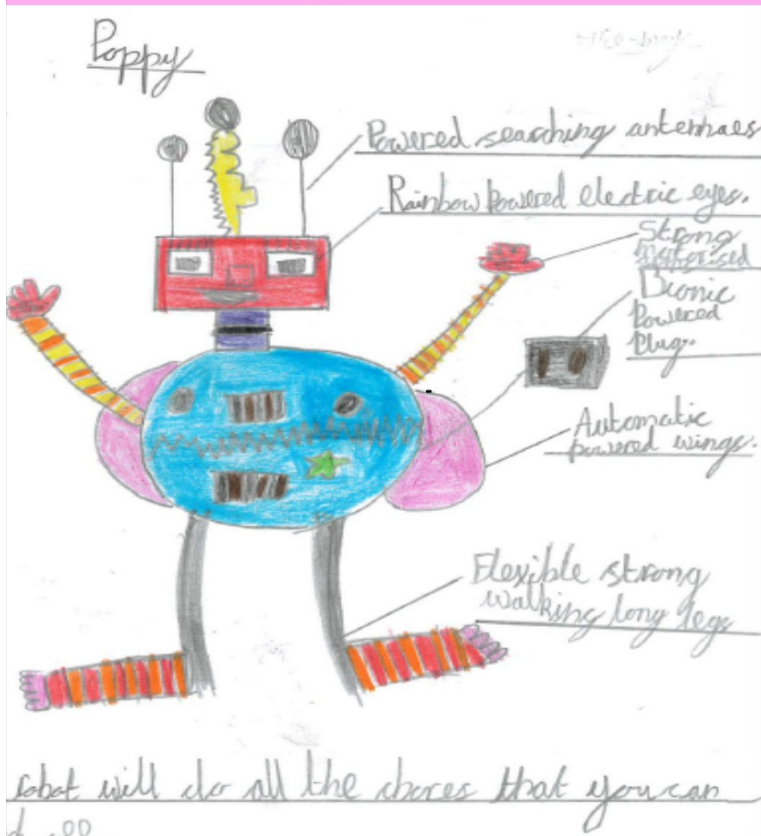
tell a story

“Do you have to **inhale** your food like that?” wailed Armie...

Watch the film about a man who has designed his own robot.



Now we need to think about a robot of our own to design. It could be helpful and help people to do different jobs like cutting the grass, **washing** the car or cooking food.



Remember to label your robot.

What will you call it?

Technical vocabulary

extendable	furnace
retractable	switch
power pack	electric eyes
mechanical	bionic
motorised	antennae
	automatic

Now, write some bullet points to explain what your robot will do to help.

Plenary

Now we need to explain how our robots work and what they do.

Listen to your partner's ideas. Have you got any questions to ask them?

Wednesday 9th February

I.O. To write sentences in the context of an explanation.

Fluency of skills
Progressive tense

Complete the sentences with the correct progressive tense.

- 1 Yesterday the cavemen hunting and now they eating the meat.
- 2 Today you running, but yesterday you walking.

Fluency of skills
Powerful Verbs

Rewrite the sentences, improving them by replacing the words in bold with words from the box below:

- 1 Captain Starling **stopped** to **look at** the map.
- 2 Monkeys **jumped** from the trees, **yelling** as they landed on the pirates.

study leapt shrieking paused

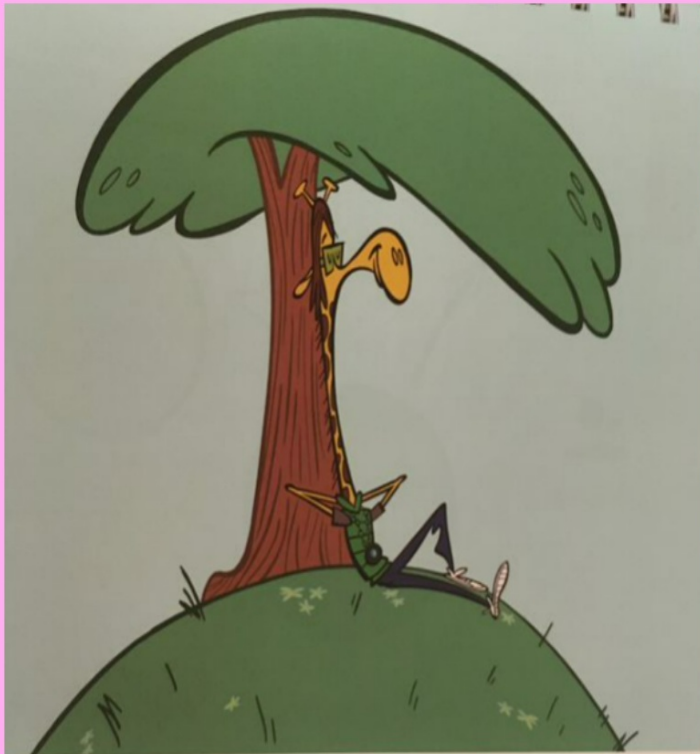
Fluency of skills
Past progressive tense

We often use the **past progressive tense** (sometimes called the **past continuous tense**) to show that a longer action in the past was interrupted by a shorter action.

The squire **was serving** at the banquet when the king entered the hall.

While the knights **were sleeping**, the enemy attacked the castle.

The knightsup to the castle when the guards lowered the drawbridge.
(to ride)



tranquil

adj. peaceful or blissfully quiet
how you feel when you take a nap in the shade

mrswordsmith.com

word pairs

- tranquil surroundings
- tranquil garden
- tranquil atmosphere

etymology

Tranquil comes from the Latin word *tranquillus*, which means "still" or "quiet".

SYNONYMS

- calm
- serene
- peaceful

Used in

7.8%
of stories

tell a story

Shang High was enjoying the tranquil garden until...

adj.

peaceful or blissfully quiet
how you feel when you take a nap in the shade

Causal Conjunctions

because	since	even though	as
now that	so	yet	accordingly
consequently	therefore	hence	as a result

Causal Conjunctions

because	even though	as
so	now that	

We need to try and include some of these causal conjunctions in today's writing.

How a helpful robot works.

Have you ever wanted an amazing bionic robot to help you

around the house? **Even though** you can do the cleaning

yourself, you will no longer need to **because** the Solar 3000 Bio

Buddy does all the hard work for you. But how does it work?

Now write your own explanation

Causal
conjunctions

Continue your writing

How does it charge and switch on?

Plenary

Now you need to read through your work and edit it.

Use the black pen to make any corrections.

Have you checked your capital letters
and full stops?

Do your sentences make sense?

Have you checked your spellings?

Thursday 10th February

L.O. To continue to write an explanation

Fluency of skills
Direct Speech



".....", said Axel.

Fluency of skills
Direct Speech

Rewrite these sentences correctly using speech marks (inverted commas) and other punctuation. The speech has been written in bold to help you.

- 1 captain blackheart jeered **i knew that treasure was mine**

.....

- 2 helmsman horace asked **what has happened to the corner of the map**

.....

Fluency of skills
Direct speech

Write out the reported speech as direct speech placing the speech at the end of the sentence. (The first one has been started for you.)

- 1 Lord Balderdash said that he would not give in to the warlock's demands.

Lord Balderdash said, "I will not give in"

- 2 Lady Balderdash said that she would not have her daughter harmed.



torrential

adj. falling heavily or forcefully
like the rain in a violent storm

mrswordsmith.com

word pairs

- torrential rain
- torrential downpour
- torrential thunderstorm

etymology

Torrential comes from the Latin word *torrentem*, which means "a rushing stream".

adj.

falling heavily or forcefully
like the rain in a violent storm

SYNONYMS

- relentless
- heavy
- forceful

Used in **0.8%** of stories

tell a story

Brick was not prepared for the **torrential** downpour...

A smaller version of the illustration from the left page, showing a man being hit by a torrential rain falling from a cloud.

How does it clean the house?

What to do if something goes wrong

If your robot starts to malfunction, go to the back of the Strikebot 3000 and firmly hit the reset ^{button} and hold it down for 30 seconds.

As a result of this, the clever robot will reboot itself and it should start working properly again.

If this still hasn't fixed your problem, look in the instruction manual and that will guide you from there.

If these persist, send your robot back to us and we will try to repair it. If we can't, we will send you a replacement.

Read this example

Plenary

Do your sentences explain clearly what your robot does and what to do if it goes wrong?

Tuesday 15th February

L.O. To plan an explanation text.

Fluency of skills
Possessive apostrophe

Who do these items belong to? Find the owners in the box below and place in the sentences. Remember to add an apostrophe and an 's'.

mammoth pterosaur caveman Steg tiger T. rex

1 This is a sabre-tooth tooth.



2 Here is a tusk.



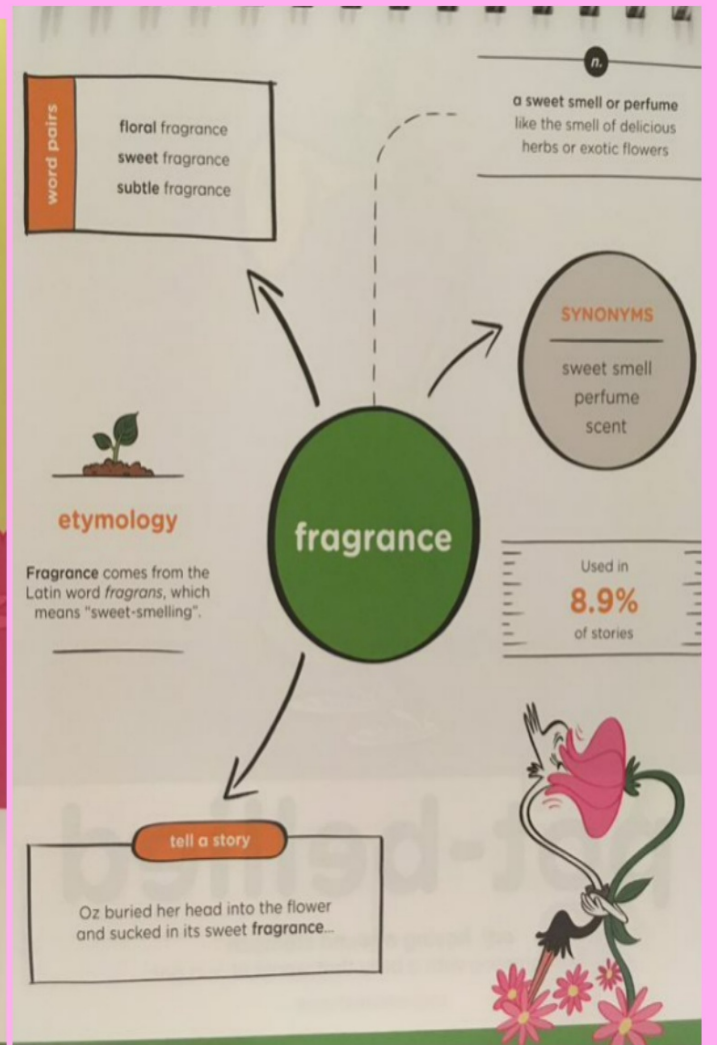
Fluency of skills Wednesday
Possessive apostrophe

- 1 They took the hook of Captain Blackheart. They took Captain Blackheart's hook......
- 2 They stole the belt of the first mate.
- 3 They took the earring of Skull.

Fluency of skills
Possessive apostrophe

Fill in the apostrophes where they are needed in these sentences. The words are in bold to help you.

- 1 Much to **Pips** surprise and delight the dragon winked at him as he flew past the window.
- 2 The **dragons** wings beat furiously in the night air, as it flew past.
- 3 Smoke filled the sky from all the **dragons** nostrils.
- 4 The walls of the towers echoed with the **dragons** roars.
- 5 A bolt of lightning from the **warlocks** trident shot through the black sky.



Listen to this story to design our own star catcher.



Read up to the part with the seagull.

We need to help the little boy! Your task is to plan and design a star-catching machine for the little boy to use.

Partner time to discuss ideas.



My final design for a star-catching machine:



Key questions for you to think a

How does your machine switch o

How does it charge?

How does it catch the star?

What happens to the star?

If it runs out of charge, what h

Are there any other exciting fe

Explanation Text Plan

Structure and Tips	Examples
<p><i>Title</i></p> <p><i>Tell the reader what the explanation text is about.</i></p> <p><i>It is good to use a question here.</i></p>	<p><i>How do you catch a star?</i></p>
<p><i>What?</i></p> <p><i>This paragraph explains what it is a part of or what it belongs to.</i></p> <p><i>Introduce the reader to the subject of the explanation. End by repeating/rephrasing the question.</i></p>	<p>On a clear night, when you look up, you can see millions of <u>stars</u> but have you ever thought how you could catch a beautiful, sparkling star?</p>

<p><i>Parts</i></p> <p>Show the reader the different parts that make up the subject.</p> <p>This might be a diagram with key parts labelled.</p>	<p>What will your star catcher look like? Remember to include technical vocabulary!</p>
<p><i>Key Points</i></p> <p>Tell the reader how it works or what happens</p> <p>Select the important bits.</p> <p>Start a new paragraph for each section/stage of the process.</p> <p>Use sequencing words such as firstly, next etc.</p> <p>Remember to use technical vocabulary and causal conjunctions.</p>	<p>First, ...</p> <p>Next, ...</p> <p>After ..., ...</p> <p>When ..., ...</p> <p>Following that, ...</p> <p>because</p> <p>so</p> <p>As a result, ...</p> <p>What subheadings could you use?</p>

Key questions for you to think about:

- How does your machine switch on?
- How does it charge?
- How does it catch the star?
- What happens to the star?
- If it runs out of charge, what happens?
- Are there any other exciting features?

Handwriting practice area with a pink background and horizontal lines.

<p>Summary <i>Tell the reader something special or important about the subject.</i></p>	<p><i>Do you know what to do if the star catcher runs out of charge? If you launch the star catcher too quickly, it could use up too much electricity.</i></p>
--	--

Plenary

Can you explain to your table how your star cather works?

Wednesday 16th February

Independent writing

Assessed writing: explanation texts

Write an explanation text to how to catch a star.

My checklist:



lashing

adj. thrashing or beating
like heavy rain smacking you in the face

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word pairs

- lashing rain
- lashing wind
- lashing tail

adj.
thrashing or beating
like heavy rain smacking
you in the face

SYNONYMS

- thrashing
- beating
- battering


Used in
0.6%
of stories

lashing

“
As the children looked up, sheltering their eyes from the **lashing** raindrops, they saw an aircraft unlike any they'd seen before, ungainly, six-legged, dark, and totally silent.
The Amber Spyglass
by Philip Pullman
”

tell a story

Bogart refused to let the **lashing** rain ruin his holiday...



How to catch a star

Have you ever wanted to be the owner of your very own star? Now can be with the new Jet Pack Star Catcher Machine. You won't believe how amazing it is! It's a brand new machine, that carefully catches a star from Space. But how does it work?

What sub headings could you use to write a manual for your star catching machine?

1. How does it charge up and switch on?

Firstly, you must ensure that the Jet Pack is fully charged, by plugging it into the nearest electrical socket for three hours. The reason for this, is that it takes a great deal of energy to reach the stars. Next, step inside the machine and press the magical star mission button located in the middle of the control panel. This results in the loud jets firing up so that it's ready for action. After that, you must pull down the bright orange lever on the side. Consequently, an extendable arm will begin to launch into space.

Causal conjunctions

Time adverbials

Technical language

2. How does it catch the star?

Now, as the extendable arm reaches up, it will release the long bionic hook. It will use its amazing futuristic camera to make sure it's close to the beautiful bright star that you want to catch. When the hook latches onto it, the built in vacuum will quickly suck the star into the machine. The machine's sparkly glass box will keep the star safe for everyone to see. Now you are the proud owner of a bright, dazzling and magical star.

Time adverbial

Technical language

Causal conjunction

3. What happens if it runs out of charge?

Finally, by pressing the Mission Complete button the extendable arm will fold away. Therefore, it will be safe and ready for next. **REMEMBER!** You must be careful not to run out of charge, or you will be trapped inside the machine with no way out!

