

## Glossary of literacy terminology:

**Active to passive** – change in the focus of the sentence, used as a stylistic tool. For example, *the hunter saw the deer* becomes *the deer was seen by the hunter* or *the dog bit the postman* to *the postman was bitten by the dog*.

**Adjectives** – describing words.

**Adverbs** – alter the meaning of the verb, by manner, time or place (gently, now, here)

**Antonyms** - words with opposite meanings (wet-dry, buy-sell)

**Clause** – a main clause makes sense standing alone but some clauses are dependent on others (subordinate clause).

**Comparative** – adjective which compares to something else (smaller, larger)

**Compound sentence** – two main clauses joined with a conjunction (and, or)

**Context** – the parts of language which clarify meaning.

**Digraph** – two graphemes (letters) making a single phoneme (sound). For example, sh or ai. A split digraph is when graphemes are separated but they create a single sound. For example, game.

**Exclamation** – a sudden cry or remark expressing surprise, strong emotion or pain.

**Grapheme** – a letter, but multiple graphemes can create 1 sound. For example, ship has four graphemes (s-h-i-p), but it only has 3 sounds (phonemes) sh-i-p.

**Homographs** – two or more words with the same spelling but not necessarily pronounced in the same and have different meanings and origins.

**Homophones** – two or more words with the same sound but different meanings, origins or spellings.

**Homonyms** – two or more words which have the same spelling, but a different pronunciation having one vowel sound, with or without surrounding consonants different meaning.

**Imperatives** – the form of verb to make an instruction, sometimes called ‘bossy verbs’.

**Infer** - to find something out, even though it is not said directly.

**Onomatopoeia** – a word that sounds like its meaning.

**Phoneme** – a single sound made by one or a combination of letters.

**Phrase** – a group of words, rather than a solitary word (instead of jug – a large jug of water).

**Plural** – more than one of something.

**Prefix** – letters or numbers put at the start of a word to adjust its meaning – funny/unfunny

**Preposition** – a word which (normally) comes before a noun or pronoun – on the platform, across the floor.

**Simile** – figurative language to compare something. For example, as brave as a lion.

**Subordination** – a clause, typically introduced by a connective, (e.g. ‘when it rang’ in ‘she answered the phone when it rang’). Often used as a reason or adding extra information.

**Suffix** – letters added to the end of a word – quick/quickly/quicker

**Superlatives** – used to compare to the extreme – smallest, greatest, most exciting, most fiercely

**Syllables** – unit of pronunciation having one vowel sound, with or without surrounding consonants – water has two syllables wa-ter.

**Synonyms** – words with similar meanings – happy, content, pleased, cheerful

**Syntax** – the order of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences.