

Teachers' notes

Getting to grips with grammar

The **Poster**, 'Grammar safari park' is an ideal resource for improving children's understanding of nouns, verbs and adjectives. Display it somewhere prominent and refresh it with noun, verb and adjective labels frequently. As well as using the resources provided, understanding word class depends on understanding their sentence function, so encourage your class to use words in oral sentences as often as possible. The **Interactive resource**, 'Grammar safari park' is ideal to use with the activities below.

Activities

1. Safari signs

On the park's opening day, the animals demand signs for their areas. Ask the children to help by writing one-word signs ('Deer', 'Elephants', 'Lions', for example). Place these sign labels on the poster. Ask: *What is the term for a name?* (Noun) *Can you explain what a 'noun' is to a partner?* Test the labels against **Photocopiable 2**, 'Grammar definition cards – What is a noun?'. Next, challenge the children to a game of 'Name it!'. In teams, they must try to identify as many nouns as they can see in the park. There are examples on **Photocopiable 5**, 'Safari park grammar'.

2. Animal advertising

The animals are now demanding that their signs advertise what they do. Ask: *What type of word is needed?* (Verb) *Can you explain what a verb is to a partner?* Compare the children's answers with **Photocopiable 3**, 'Grammar definition cards – What is a verb?'. Ask the children to write verb signs for the animals ('Lions roar', 'Crocodiles swim', for example.)

3. Alliterative animals

Ask the children to add an alliterative adjective to their verb signs ('Creepy crocodiles swim' for example). Compare results, choosing some for the poster. Discuss the final signs – which ones will intrigue visitors or please the animals?

4. Are you noisy?

Draw the children's attention to the 'Watch out for...' advice on **Photocopiable 4**, 'Grammar definition

cards – What is an adjective?'. Using the following sentences, get the children to add the correct ending, '-er' or '-est', to each of the adjectives (in brackets):

- The zoo was ___ than it used to be. (Noisy)
- One monkey was the ___ problem of all. (Big)
- His tricks were a ___ nuisance than they used to be. (Great)
- At first, visitors thought he was the ___ animal in the park. (Funny)

Point out that when an adjective ends in 'y', it is changed to an 'i' when adding these endings. Introduce the terms 'comparative' (noisier) and 'superlative' (noisiest) and ask: *How did you choose your answers?*

5. I'm in charge!

A notice has appeared from the bossy safari park keeper that reads 'Remove litter!'. Help the children to identify 'Remove' as a verb – an imperative verb giving a command. What ten signs, all beginning with an imperative, would the children write if they were in charge for a day?

6. Time travel

Present the scenario: the children travel back and forward in time as they tell a story, a sentence at a time, about the safari park and its inhabitants. The tense of someone's sentence depends on whether they have been told by the person before to travel in the past, present or future. If they use an appropriate tense verb, the time machine keeps working and they pass the control (ball or beanbag) to someone else and announce the next time direction. If wrong, the machine stops, only to be re-started by the teacher with a new story. What is the longest, uninterrupted journey the class can manage? Useful sentence starters include: 'Nowadays', 'In the future', 'Tomorrow', 'Today', 'Formerly' and 'Long ago'. Ideas from this activity could lead on to some creative literacy work, where the children write creation stories about why animals look the way they do.

7. Amazing adventures

Ask the children to write a single-paragraph story about the inhabitants of the safari park. They can then highlight the nouns, verbs and adjectives using different colours.

Grammar definition cards

What is a NOUN?

A noun is a name.

.....

A noun can be:

Somebody – A **teacher** is driving the mini bus.

Something – Here is the **ball**.

Somewhere – The **café** is full.

.....

Watch out for...

- A noun that names an invisible idea or feeling:
There was **excitement** on the school bus.
 - A **proper noun** that is a proper name and begins with a capital letter:
Harry was pleased that it was **Friday**.
 - A **collective noun** that names a set of things:
There was a **pack** of wild dogs in the park.
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Top tip

You can remember what **noun** means by looking at its first letter. It will remind you of **name**.

Grammar definition cards

What is a VERB?

Every sentence needs a verb.

A verb expresses an **action**, a **happening**, a **process** or a **state**.

- The monkey **snatched** the crisps. (Action and happening)
- The monkey **had** lunch. (Process)
- The monkey **was** greedy. (State)

A verb can be a single word (**play**) or a chain of words (**are playing, will be playing**).

Watch out for...

- The tense of a verb – it tells you when the action happens:
Past tense: I scored a goal last week.
Present tense: I score a goal in most matches.
Future tense: I will score hat tricks next season!

Top tip

Regular past tense verbs end in **-ed**, but watch out for tricky, irregular ones. A dictionary will help you out.

Grammar definition cards

What is an ADJECTIVE?

An adjective adds information about a noun.

An adjective is a word that **describes** somebody or something.

An adjective may come before a noun:

- There are **playful** monkeys.

An adjective may come after a verb:

- The lion looks **sleepy**.

Watch out for...

- Adjectives that compare – these adjectives usually end in **-er** and **-est**:

The lions are **noisier** than the deer.

Are they the **noisiest** animals in the park?

Top tip

Check if a word is an adjective by asking yourself: *Who or what in the sentence does it describe?*

Safari park grammar

These are some of the different nouns, verbs and adjectives that you can discover in the safari park .

	Nouns	Verbs	Adjectives
Monkey den	Monkeys Bars Tyre	Swing Hang Balance	Skilful Mischievous Acrobatic
Ostrich section	Feathers Ostriches	Stare Watch	Observant Watchful
Zebra section	Zebras	Munch Graze	Striped
Lion enclosure	Lions Cubs Group	Laze Gaze Doze	Protective
Elephant park	Family Elephants Trunk	Tear Eat Pull	Strong Powerful
Giraffe section	Giraffes Height Fence	Crane Stretch Reach	Tall Lanky Awkward
Pond area	Rock Crocodiles Tortoises	Bask Bathe Creep	Lazy Ugly Scaly
Reptile house	Snakes Branch	Slither Coil	Smooth Long
Picnic area and café	Awning Shade Table	Carry Eat Chat	Hungry Weary Thirsty
Peacocks	Peacocks Feathers	Hope Wait Eat	Proud Colourful Hopeful
Road	Vehicle Visitors Public	Drive Meander Look	Full Busy Meandering
Trees	Leaves Branches Trunk	Sway Rustle	Shady Tall Bare
Birds	Seagulls	Soar Fly	Graceful Swift
Deer	Deer	Wander Roam	Docile Harmless

Name _____

Safari sentences

Use the safari park poster to help you fill in the missing nouns, verbs and adjectives. There are three difficulty levels to choose from. You can choose whichever nouns, verbs and adjectives you think best describe the safari park.

	Easy	Medium	Hard
NOUNS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is full of animals. Six stand in one section. "Don't drive into that!" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cools off in the pond. That is hanging by its tail "Fancy a lying on a table!" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> have to stay inside their vehicles. I want a in that pool! It was the manager's to have awning.
VERBS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animals in this happy safari park. The monkeys on a frame. The deer everywhere. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually, the lions in their section. Last week one cub off the wall. Next week, the wall higher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have you that tree? It its leaves. By next week, there..... none left.
ADJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tigers will arrive next week. The park will have even animals. Will a section be built? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alligators will join the crocodiles. The crocodiles do not seem Will visitors be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overnight, the giraffes changed their skins! Their personalities became Visitors were rather

Safari sentences – possible answers

Here are some possible answers to the blank sentences. Did any of your class get the same answers? Discuss any alternative suggestions your class made.

	Easy	Medium	Hard
NOUNS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This park is full of animals. Six zebras stand in one section. “Don’t drive into that deer!” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A crocodile cools off in the pond. That monkey is hanging by its tail. “Fancy a lion lying on a table!” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People have to stay inside their cars. I want a dip in that pool! It was the manager’s idea to have awning.
VERBS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animals live in this happy safari park. The monkeys climb on a frame. The deer roam everywhere. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually, the lions stay in their section. Last week one cub fell off the wall. Next week, the wall will be made higher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have you noticed that tree? It is shedding its leaves. By next week, there will be none left.
ADJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some tigers will arrive next week. The park will have even more animals. Will a new section be built? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alligators will join the grumpy crocodiles. The crocodiles do not seem happy. Will visitors be pleased? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overnight, the giraffes changed their spotted skins! Their personalities became different. Visitors were rather bewildered.