



The BH Basics

Level 1 & 2



NON-NEGOTIABLE

I can use paragraphs to organise ideas.

conjunctions

Coordinating conjunctions:
for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so

comma

Subordinating conjunctions:
although, as, after, when, while, if, even though, before, because, until, unless, since

Capital letters:

Mickey is going to Spain on Tuesday.
I go to Blackhorse Primary School.

Full stops:

The dog slept.
I go to school everyday.

Question marks:

What are you doing?
Have you eaten a good breakfast?

Exclamation marks:

Come here, now!
I feel really great today!

Commas for lists:

He wanted boots, a football, socks and a shirt for Christmas.

Apostrophes:

The girls' car wasn't working so they couldn't take it to Mike's party.

Correct verb forms & tense.(Y5):

progressive (-ing), perfect (has been/ is being), past (-ed) & present

Create atmosphere

Use **similes**, **metaphors**, **pathetic fallacy** & **personification** to describe:

- the settings - links between the place, weather, time; characters' reactions

The trees groaned as the wind howled between them. Leaves danced on the gnarled branches.

Angry clouds gathered above the house, after the happy sunshine went.

- the character - description; their actions, thoughts, motives, back story; others' reactions to them; how they speak

Cruella's eyes were like lava and her teeth were razor blades. Behind her skin, which was as white as snow, lay a heart of stone.



Dialogue to advance action

"Why are you carrying that?" he bellowed, as she burst through the door.

"I've just found it," she replied. "It was buried under the old, oak tree."

NON-NEGOTIABLE

I can use inverted commas:

Use accurate speech punctuation, e.g. "Come over here," she cried.

The man shouted, "Get out of the way!"

She was quoted in the newspaper: "I love socks!"



Range of cohesive devices

- Use pronouns

Rita loves playing the guitar. She finds it interesting.

- Use repetition for effect

If the alarm had gone off, if the bus had been on time, if the road was open, then she would have been on time.

- Use the same tense

- Make your writing flow - use time connectives, coordinating & subordinating conjunctions

Finally... At that very moment... As she walked through the door, ... When he had finished yelling, ...





Passive and modal verbs

Y5: I can use modal verbs.

will (will not/ won't), can (cannot/ can't)
would (would not/ wouldn't)
may (may not), might (might not/ mightn't)
shall (shall not/ shan't)
should (should not/ shouldn't)
must (must not/ mustn't)
ought (ought not/ oughtn't)

MV

Y6: I can use passive voice.

The boy was attacked by the snake.
The boy was attacked.

instead of The snake attacked the boy.

The mouse was being chased [by the cat].
The homework was finished [by Dani].

PV



Range of clause structures

Y5: Clause swap - Although he was terrified, Alex crept through the forest. can be swapped so, Alex crept through the forest, although he was terrified.

Y5: Relative clauses - who, which, where, when, that, whose

- It's a fine day that everyone will enjoy.
- Morgan, whose heart was now beating furiously, ran for his life.
- He lives in Bristol, which is near Bath.

Y5: Embedded clauses (with commas)

- Al knew, as she stared into the darkness, that she was in serious trouble.
- My mountain bike, which is very old, is broken.
- Henry VIII, whose second wife was beheaded, continued to marry four more times.

Y6: Multi-clauses

Because his dad taught him lots of tricks, Ranjit was good at football.

Last night, at the leisure centre, Ranjit was good at football because his dad - a football coach - taught him lots of tricks.

Adverbs, prepositional phrases & expanded noun phrases

Y5: I use expanded noun phrases

Jim wore a wide-brimmed, old, straw, hat.

The girl, wearing the brown hat with a wide, patterned brim, skipped along.

Long-bearded old man

The rusty car with yellow wheels

Prepositions

down, through, next to, under, over, in, between, as for, along with, in spite of

Adverbs: how, how often, when, where

beautifully, enthusiastically, finally, then, carefully, behind, often, usually ...

Y5: Adverbs for possibility

perhaps, surely, possibly, certainly, maybe, probably, definitely, undoubtedly, quite likely, obviously



Fronted adverbials

NON-NEGOTIABLE

Use fronted adverbials:

-ing: Smiling sweetly, she turned and walked away. Grabbing her bag, the woman stormed out.

simile: Like chocolates in a box, she vanished quickly. Like a predator stalking its prey, the robber approached the man.

preposition: Under the dark clouds, the lamppost gleamed. On top of the hill, the wolf stood and watched.

adverb: Hurriedly, he snatched the ticket and ran. Cautiously, the girl reached out to touch the creature.

conjunction: When he found the bone, the dog settled. Despite the weather, we walked the dog.

-ed: Petrified and unsure, the dog stood rooted to the spot unable to bark. Pleased with what he had done, he stood back and admired his work.

Commas for clarity

Y5: Use commas for complex sentences [to separate main & subordinate clauses]

Josie knew she was in trouble, as she stared in the darkness.
Crying bitterly, James ran into the dark.

• As an introductory phrase or clause:

Once upon a time, there was...
When Sai visited the garden, she...

• Working in pairs like brackets:

A fish, like, a zebra, can be stripy.

• Direct address:

Let's eat Grandma compared with writing
Let's eat, Grandma.

• Between adjectives:

The purple, sparkly, green-eyed fish...

Parenthesis

Y5: I use brackets, dashes or commas to show parenthesis.

Frankie knew (he wasn't sure how but he did) that he was in big trouble.

Matt knew - without a shadow of a doubt - that he was in trouble.

Y6:

Bart, the oldest child in the Simpson family, was caught fighting with his classmates - Ralph and Milhouse - at the local skate park (behind Springfield Elementary School).

PR

Semi-colons

Connect sentences that are closely linked:

- The young girl had never been so terrified; she backed away but there was no where to hide.
- May was really warm; it was pleasant.
- It was freezing; he was grateful for his coat.

Before certain adverbs:

however, therefore, consequently, nevertheless

June was hot; however, some cities were rainy.

In a long, detailed list:

The shopping was packed: free-range eggs for mum; tomatoes, beans and cheese for dad; bread with no crusts for gran; and lots of chocolate for me!

Colons

Emphasis:

He thinks about one thing: socks.

Explanations or answer first clause:

- They know her secret: she is obsessed with socks.
- The town library was closed: it was Sunday.

Lists (sentence first):

- Her socks have the following patterns: stripy, spotty and swirly.
- I needed many things: milk, apples fireworks, tea and rice.

Quotes:

Lady DaDa was quoted in the newspaper: "I love socks!"

Dashes

Extra information at the end of a sentence

- It was such a long wait - the longest I've ever had at that theme park.
- A toad's skin is dry and bumpy - not like the frog's smooth, wet skin.

For after thoughts

- My mum said the man was very kind and thoughtful - I don't know him.
- The film was informative - I learnt a great deal!

Extra information in the middle of a sentence:

- The usually trusty ship - which was already running late - had encountered another problem.
- Playing in Grandma's garden - which is huge - is always good fun!

Hyphens

Used to join two words.

mother-in-law, hot-headed, well-known, cold-hearted, mid-morning, bad-tempered

They clarify information & make phrases clear:

The need to re-serve a bad meal rather than reserve a table

a small-business man compared to a small business man (short man)

a man-eating shark rather than a man eating shark (man tucking into shark!)

three year-old children (3 x one year olds) with three-year old children (children that are 3!)

bird eating spider compared to a bird-eating spider (spider that eats birds!)

Spellings (Y3/4 and Y5/6)

Use your spelling dictionaries & use the Y3/4 and Y5/6 hot-words list!

Use these prefixes:

ab-, de-, im-, un-, over-, sub-, dis-, anti-, ex-, mid-, -re, self-, under-

Use these suffixes:

-able, -ible, -ate, -cy, -hood, -er, -ed, -ing, -ice, -ism, -less, -ly, -ment, -y

Handwriting

• Cursive (joined)

• Legible (clear to read)

AB CD EF GH IJ KL MN
OP QR ST UV WX YZ

a b c d e f g h i j k l
m n o p q r s t u v w
x y z

Vowels in red. Words starting with a vowel need 'an' before not just 'a'!

an apple, an elephant, an iceberg,
an orange, an umbrella