Grammar

pronouns

A **pronoun** can be used instead of a noun. Using a pronoun avoids repeating the noun again and again.

The bird pecked the apple and ate **it** as **he** sat on a branch.

The pronoun **it** replaces the words 'the apple'.

The pronoun **he** replaces the words 'the bird'.

Possessive pronouns tell you who something belongs to.

This apple is **mine**!

The pronoun **mine** shows the apple belongs to the bird.

For possessive determiners, see page 14.

More possessive pronouns:

mine　　yours　　his　　hers　　ours　　theirs

Relative pronouns introduce more information about the noun.

The bird **that** sat on the branch was eating an apple.

The relative pronoun **that** introduces more information about the bird.

WATCH OUT!

You can leave out the relative pronoun **that** from some sentences, but not others.

See page 19 for more on relative clauses.

✔ The apple the bird was eating was juicy.
This means the same as: The apple **that** the bird was eating was juicy.

✘ The bird was eating the apple flew away.
This should be: The bird **that** was eating the apple flew away.

More relative pronouns: who   whom   whose   which

Pupils **whose** names are called out must stand up.
The words **where** and **when** are sometimes used as relative pronouns.
This is the house **where** I grew up.

A **conjunction** links words or groups of words within a sentence.

Later, a cat crept up the tree **as** the bird pecked the apple **and** ate it noisily.
The cat watched the bird quietly **because** he didn't want to scare it away.

And joins groups of words which are of the same importance in the sentence – it is called a **co-ordinating conjunction**.

Because joins words or groups of words which are not as important as the rest of the sentence – it is called a **subordinating conjunction**.

Examples of conjunctions:

co-ordinating conjunctions:	and	but	or	
subordinating conjunctions:	after	although	as	because
	before	if	since	
	when	while		