

A glossary of grammar terminology

Common noun	The name of an object e.g tree
Proper noun	The name of a place, person, day of the week, month etc. Needs a capital letter e.g Benington
Collective noun	The name of a group of things e.g a shoal of fish
Abstract noun	The name of an emotion or feeling e.g joy
Adjective	Describes a noun e.g A fluffy cat.
Verb	A doing or action word e.g the verb to run .
Adverb	Describes how a verb is done e.g He ran quickly .
Adverbial phrase	A group of words that tell us how the verb was performed e.g He ran like the wind .
Fronted adverbial	The adverb or adverbial phrase placed at the front of the sentence e.g Quietly , she left
prefix	Added to the start of a word e.g mis, dis, re
suffix	Added to the end of a word e.g ful
Contracted form	Shortens the words and uses an apostrophe e.g do not becomes don't
pronoun	Stands in place of the noun to avoid repetition e.g he, me I, it, they etc
Relative pronoun	Link relative clauses to their nouns: who, whose, whom, which, that . E.g The man, who was in disguise , left the room.
Possessive pronoun	Identify belonging e.g his, mine, hers, theirs .
sentence	A group of words that make sense - must have a verb in.
Simple sentence	Expressing one idea made up of one clause e.g The man crossed over the road .
Compound sentence	Made up of clauses added to clauses. Each clause makes sense on its own and is of equal value, The clauses are linked by coordinating conjunctions e.g The burglar ran so I chased him .
Complex sentence	Made of main and subordinate clauses linked by conjunctions e.g The cat, who had not been fed, meowed for her dinner .
Conjunction	Join parts of the sentence together e.g and, because, so, however
Coordinating conjunction	Link together main clauses - usually for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so .
Subordinating conjunction	Conjunctions introducing a subordinate clause e.g I fed their cat, whilst they were away.
Preposition	Words that link parts of a sentence in time or space e.g in, on, under, through, behind / before, after
Phrase	Part of a sentence without a verb in like the noun phrase big, wooly jumper
Prepositional phrase	A group of words that tell us where or when e.g over the hedge
Clause	Part of a sentence which has a verb in it. May be a complete

	sentence on its own
Main clause	The part of the sentence which can stand on its own / make sense on its own.
Subordinate clause	Part of the sentence with a verb in that adds information but does not make sense on its own e.g The children, who didn't like the rain , sheltered in the bus stop.
Relative clause	Relative clauses are clauses starting with the relative pronouns who, that, which, whose, where, when. e.g yesterday was a day when everything went wrong .
Modal verb	A verb that expresses necessity or possibility. must, shall, will, should, would, can, could, may, and might .
Parenthesis	A word or phrase inserted into a passage of writing that makes sense without it. Usually indicated by commas, brackets or dashes e.g Uncle Tom (my father's brother) came to stay.
determiner	Introduces a noun e.g a dog, the dog, every dog, all dogs, two dogs,
article	The most common of the determiners: a, an the
Subject	The subject is the person / thing carrying out the verb in a sentence. E.g: The dog chased the ball.
Object	The object is the thing / person having the verb done to it e.g: The dog chased the ball .
synonym	A word with a similar meaning to another word e.g: angry / furious
antonym	A word with the opposite meaning to another word e.g: happy / sad
Active voice	Two different ways of saying the same thing e.g: Active - The teacher praised the class.
Passive voice	Passive - The class were praised by the teacher. Or just The class were praised.
Expanded noun phrase	A noun with extra information added to it e.g dog is a noun.... the dog in the shiny new collar is an expanded noun phrase.
The subjunctive form	Expressing a wishful mood which might not happen e.g If I were you I would order the fish.
The past progressive	Progressive tenses tell you that a verb was ongoing at the time either now or in the past e.g The dog is barking. (present progressive) The dog was barking. (past progressive)
The present perfect	Formed by placing the verb to have before the past tense of the main verb e.g I have walked .