

Grammar and Punctuation Learning Resource

UoN University of Northampton

Grammar Definitions

Abstract noun

A feeling, thought or an idea e.g. She was **happy**.

Can I use?

Active voice

A sentence where the subject is doing the action e.g. The wind blew the trees over.

Can I use?

Adjective

A word that describes a noun e.g. My brother has very **smelly** socks.

Can I use?

Adjective phrase

A phrase that describes a noun e.g. The **hairy caterpillar** chewed the leaves.

Can I use?

Adverb

A word that adds to a verb and describes how, when and where e.g. The cat meowed **loudly**.

Can I use?

Adverbial phrase

A phrase that describes the verb. They tell you how, where, why or when. It can be at the start or end of a sentence e.g. **After a while**, the door started to open. The troll was waiting **under the bridge**.

Can I use?

Collective noun

A group e.g. a **flock** of birds or a **herd** of cows.

Can I use?

Coordinating conjunction

Joins two main clauses to make a sentence using *and*, *but*, or e.g. I went to the park *and* I played on the swing.

Can I use?

Determiner

It comes before a noun and tells you who, what or how many a sentence is about including *the*, *that*, *this*, *these*, *those*, *a*, *an*, *any*, *all*, *some*, *many* e.g. I don't like my pudding; I'd prefer **those** cakes instead.

Can I use?

Metaphor

Directly compares one thing to another e.g. Her bedroom was a pigsty.

Can I use?

Modal verbs

It is a word that indicates certainty and possibility e.g. I **will** go shopping today. I **might** go shopping today.

Can I use?

Noun

A noun is a person, place or thing e.g. This is a **brush**.

Can I use?

Object

The person or thing that something is being done to e.g. The giant stepped over **the house**.

Can I use?

Passive voice

A sentence where the action is being done to the subject e.g. The trees were blown over by the wind.

Can I use?

Past perfect tense

Describes one action that happened before another in the past and contains 2 parts: *had/hadn't* followed by the *past tense of the action* e.g. The bird **had eaten** its food.

Can I use?

Past progressive tense

An action that continued to happen in the past and contains 2 parts: the verb *to be* followed by a verb ending in *ing* e.g. She **was running** home. I **was reading**.

Can I use?

Present perfect tense

Describes an action that started in the past and continues to the present and contains 2 parts: *have/has/haven't/hasn't* followed by the past tense of the action

e.g. The bird **has eaten** its food.

Can I use?

Present progressive tense

An action that is continuing to happen in the present and contains 2 parts: the verb *to be* followed by a verb ending in *ing*

e.g. She **is running** home. I **am reading**.

Can I use?

Preposition

A word that describes where or when something is happening e.g. The troll lives **under** the bridge.

Can I use?

How many of these do you remember?.. Test yourself

Use the tick boxes to track your progress

This resource was developed in conjunction with the children in Year 5 and 6 at Overstone Primary School, 2017-18.



Pronoun

Replaces a noun using *I, you, he, she, it, we, us, they, them* e.g. **She** dropped the fork.

Can I use?

Proper noun

Place or person e.g. **London** it has to have a capital letter at the front.

Can I use?

Relative pronoun

Comes before a relative clause using *who, which, that, whose, whom* e.g. The jumper **that** I'm wearing is my favourite. This is the girl **who** won all of her races.

Can I use?

Relative clause

Adds more information about a noun or noun phrase by using a *relative pronoun* e.g. The jumper **that I'm wearing is my favourite**. This is the girl **who won all of her races**.

Can I use?

Simile

Describes something by comparing it to something else using *as* or *like* e.g. Snow was covering the floor **like** a blanket.

Can I use?

Subject

The person or thing that is doing the action. It is either a noun or a pronoun. Every sentence has to have a subject e.g. **The giant** stepped over the house. **He** looked very angry.

Can I use?

Subjunctive verb

Used in a sentence that recommends or suggests, and often uses the verb *were* to sound more formal e.g. **She wishes she were** still on holiday. **If I were you** I wouldn't open that box.

Can I use?

Subordinating conjunction

Joins a main clause with a subordinating clause using words such as *if, when, because, since, so, although, unless, after* e.g. I dropped my lunchbox **when** I was walking to school.

Can I use?

Verb

An action word within a sentence. Every sentence has to have a verb e.g. I like to **dance**.

Can I use?

Punctuation Definitions

Apostrophe

An apostrophe is used for possession e.g. They went to the boy's house. It can also be used for contraction to show where a letter is missing e.g. He didn't like his shoes.

Can I use?

Colon

Used for lists or instructions e.g. You will need: scissors, paper, glue and string.

Can I use?

Comma

Separates a clause or items in a list e.g. My car, which was very old, broke down yesterday. I went to the supermarket to buy milk, bread, ham and cheese.

Can I use?

Ellipses

Three dots that pause your sentence to create an impact e.g. She heard the footsteps getting nearer. She waited ...

Can I use?

Exclamation mark

A type of punctuation which ends a sentence but with emphasis. e.g. "What a save!"

Can I use?

Full stop

Ends a sentence e.g. I am 11 years old.

Can I use?

Hyphen

It is sometimes used to add a prefix, e.g. I **re-sent** the email. It can also be used to clarify meaning, e.g. He dived from the **two-metre** board.

Can I use?

Question mark

Ends a sentence that is a question e.g. What is your name? Are you ok?

Can I use?

Parenthesis

A punctuation mark that adds further information within a sentence. They can be brackets, dashes or commas e.g. Her sister (an Olympic champion) brought her medals into school. The rabbit - a fluffy breed - ran through her garden. The dog, which is brown, is eating.

Can I use?

Speech marks

Used when someone is saying something e.g. "Where are you going today?" asked Sam.

Can I use?

How many of these do you remember?.. Test yourself

Date	Key definitions to learn