

Grammar Definitions

Abstract noun

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

Active voice

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

Adjective

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

Adjective phrase

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

Adverb

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

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**.

Collective noun

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

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.

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.

Metaphor

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

Modal verbs

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

Noun

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

Object

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

Passive voice

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

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.

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**.

Preposition

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

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.

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**.

Pronoun

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

Proper noun

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

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.

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**.

Simile

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



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.

Subjunctive verb

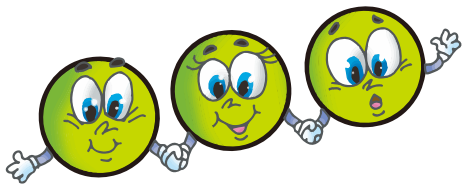
Used in a sentence that recommends or suggests, and often uses the verb *were* to sound more formal e.g. **She wishes she were** still on holiday. **If I were you** I wouldn't open that box.

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.

Verb

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



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.

Colon

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



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.

Ellipses

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



Exclamation mark

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

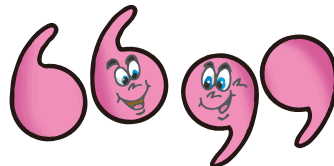
Full stop

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



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.



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.

Speech marks

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

Question mark

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

