

Term Definition

Accent

The features of pronunciation which indicate the regional or the social identity of a speaker.

Active voice

The active voice shows that the action of the verb is directly linked to the person/thing carrying out the action.

E.g. The girl picked up a book.

Adjective

A word that describes someone or something. They can:

- Pre-modify a noun e.g. **big** book
- Be used on its own as a complement e.g. the book is **big**.
- Can be intensified e.g. the very **big** book.
- Can appear as a comparative e.g. the **bigger** book.
- Can appear as a superlative e.g. the **biggest** book.
- Can be modified into adverbs by adding -ly e.g. Sad - sadly, great - greatly

Adverb

Adds meaning to a verb. They can:

- Pre-modify a word, phrase or sentence e.g.:

You sounded **terribly anxious** (**adverb** + **adjective**)

You spoke **very anxiously** (**adverb** + **adverb**)

I spoke to **nearly everyone** (**adverb** + **pronoun**)

We had **quite a party** (**adverb** + **noun phrase**)

We **thoroughly enjoyed** our holiday (**adverb** + **verb**)

- There are 4 types of adverb:

1. How - slowly, happily, solemnly
2. Where - outside, upstairs, under
3. When - yesterday, afterwards
4. How often - regularly, yearly

Adverbials/adverbial phrases

A group of words that function in the same way as a single adverb e.g.:

The parcel arrived **a few days ago**.

After the play, the family went for a meal. (Fronted adverbial)

Alliteration

The repetition of consonant sounds - usually at the beginning of words, e.g.:

Silly **s**ausages **s**izzle **s**oundly

Antonym

A word which means the opposite to another, e.g.:

Hot - cold

Big - small/little/tiny

Articles

A word that specifies whether a noun is definite or indefinite

E.G - the, a, an

'The' is the *definite article*.

Assonance

The repetition of vowel sounds, e.g.:

- The crumbling thunder of seas
- Hear the lark and harken to the barking of the dark fox gone to ground

Auxiliary verb

It is a supporting or helpful verb that supports, e.g.:

- I **can** go
- I **have** gone

Clauses

A structural unit of language which contains a finite verb, e.g.:

- It is raining, even though it's summertime.

"It is raining" is INDEPENDENT CLAUSE (main)

"even though it's summertime" is DEPENDENT CLAUSE (subordinate)

Cliché

A word or phrase that has been used so much that it loses its impact, e.g.:

- As sick as a parrot
- At this moment in time

Collective nouns

Refers to a group of things.

E.g.: **herd** of cows, the **clergy**, the **jury**, the **class**

Comma splice

Where a comma is used **incorrectly** in place of a full stop. E.g.:

- The man walked slowly to the station, he was early for the train.

(Should read - 'The man walked slowly to the station. He was early for the train.' / 'The man walked slowly to the station because he was early for the train').

Complex sentence

A sentence with a **main clause** and at least one **subordinate clause**, e.g.:

- When it began to rain, the children came in from the playground.

(**subordinate clause** **main clause**)

The children went out at break time, even though it was very cold.

(**main clause** **subordinate clause**)

Compound word

A word made up of two other words, e.g.:

rain + bow = rainbow

fire + man = fireman

some + where = somewhere

Conditional

A sentence in which one thing depends on another. They often contain the conjunction *if*. E.g.:

- I'll help you **if** I can
- **If** the weather is good, we will go to the beach.
- What would you do **if** you were in my position?

Conjunction

A word that links clauses within a sentence. E.g.:

- If was raining **but** it wasn't cold.
- We won't go out **if** the weather is bad.

(Also see connective)

Connective

A word or phrase that joins ideas together. There are different types of connectives with different functions:

- Addition *also, furthermore, moreover*
- Opposition *however, nevertheless, on the other hand, but, instead, in contrast, looking at it another way*
- Reinforcing *besides, anyway, after all*
- Explaining *for example, in other words*
- Listing *first of all, secondly, finally*
- Indicating result *therefore, consequently, as a result, thanks to this, because of this*
- Time/Subsequent *just then, next, in due course, in the end, after that, later, finally, eventually*
- Prior *at first, before, in the beginning, until then, up to that time*
 - Concurrent *in the meantime, simultaneously, concurrently, meanwhile*

NB. Connectives do not have to open sentences

E.g. **However** he was not satisfied

He was, **however**, not satisfied

Determiners

Used with nouns they limit the reference of the noun in some way. There are a number of different types:

- Articles: a, an, the
- Demonstratives: this, that, these, those
- Possessives: my, your, his, her, its, our, their
- Quantifiers: some, any, no, many, much, few, little, both, all, either, neither, each, every, enough
- Numbers: three, fifty, three thousand
- Question words: which, what, whose

When they are used, they are followed by a **noun** (although not necessarily immediately) e.g. **this** book is yours; **some** new **houses**, **which** colour do you prefer?

Determiners can be used as pronouns (see below)

Dialect

A form of speech peculiar to a district, class or poem, e.g.:

- Typical 'Cockney' speech: The *th* in words like *think* or *this* is pronounced with a more forward consonant depending on the word: *thing* becomes "fing," *this* becomes "dis," and *mother* becomes "muhvah"

Diphthong

Two vowel characters representing the sound of a single vowel, e.g.:

- In most dialects of English, the words *eye*, *hay*, *boy*, *low*, and *cow* contain diphthongs

Ellipsis

The omission of words from a sentence, e.g.:

- The man looked above . . . all he could see were three black silhouettes against the bright blue sky

Etymology

Relating to the history or derivation of a word, e.g.:

- Shopaholic, chocoholic, workaholic all derived from alcoholic (meaning addicted to)

Expanded noun phrase

A group of words in a sentence that function like a noun. They expand the noun and give the information in a more economical way (they can contain adjectives), e.g.:

The *small black cat* with the *yellow eyes*

The *athletic footballer* in the *blue strip*

A *soaring, impressive tree* spread its *massive limbs* into the sky

Genre

Different types of writing, each with its own specific characteristics, e.g.:

- Science-fiction, romance, horror, crime, thriller

Grammar

The study of sentence structure, especially with reference to syntax and semantics.

Grammatical boundary

The edge of a grammatical unit (a sentence, clause or phrase) which, in writing may be indicated by a punctuation mark such as a comma, full stop, colon, semi-colon or dash.

Grammatical function

The syntactic relationships between words/the job that each word does in a sentence, phrase or clause.

E.g.: He gave the dog a massive bone this morning.

(Pronoun, verb, definite article, noun, indefinite article, adjective, noun, adverbial phrase)

Grapheme

The smallest unit in the writing system of a language, e.g.:

- In the English alphabet, the switch from *cat* to *bat* introduces a meaning change; therefore, *c* and *b* represent different graphemes

Homonyms

Words with the same spelling but with different meanings, e.g.:

- Train (to exercise)
- Train (the form of transport)

Homophone

Words that sound the same but are spelt differently and have different meanings e.g.:

- there/their/they're
- where/wear
- new/knew
- hair/hare
- allowed/aloud

Idiom

An expression that does not make sense if you take individual words literally, e.g.:

- You look a **bit under the weather** today.
- That will **cut no ice** with the manager.

Imperatives

These verbs are used to addressing commands or orders. E.g.:

- **Sit** in the seat!

Intonation

The use of pitch in speech to create contrast and variation.

Inflected endings

Words where the ending has been changed to indicate tense, number etc.

E.g.: Walk - walk**s**, walk**ed**, walking **was** walking

Funny - fun**nier**, fun**niest**

Lexis

The vocabulary of language, especially in dictionary form.

Lexical words

Words that carry information - also known as content words.

Rationing was introduced in 1940 to ensure **fair division** of food.

Coupons were issued which had to be presented when buying items.

Metaphor

When one thing is directly compared to another, e.g.:

- My mum is my rock.
- The shop was a little gold mine.

Modal verb

The modal verbs are:

- can/could
- will/would
- shall/should
- may/might
- must/ought

They are also called auxiliary verbs and are used to help the **main verb**.

E.g.: I **could** go to the beach this afternoon. You **must** **finish** your homework before bed.

Morphemes

The smallest unit of meaning in a word. Suffixes and prefixes are also morphemes.

1 morph. 2 morphs.

E.g. house _ houses

There may be more than one morpheme in a word

3 morphs.

E.g. Unhelpful Un _ help _ ful

Morphology

A branch of grammar which studies the structure of words.

Noun

A word that denotes somebody or something. E.g. table, sister, money.

Proper nouns are for names of people, places and things and start with a capital letter

e.g. Dorset, November, Emma

Abstract noun = Refers to something you cannot see or touch (dream/hatred/happiness)

Collective noun = Name for a groups of things (herd of cows)

Common noun = Classifies things into types of general categories (car, dog flower)

Concrete noun = Refers to physical things (guitar, table, flowers)

Proper noun = Names of places of people that need capital letters (Miss Brown, London)

Noun phrase

These usually begin with a determiner and normally have a noun as the most important word. E.g.:

The baby is crawling over the grass.

Omission apostrophes

These apostrophes are used to replace a missing letter when contracting two or more words e.g.:

- It's = it is

- Shan't = shall not

Onomatopoeia

A word that sounds like the thing/s that it describes, e.g.:

- 'Bang', 'Crash'

Oxymoron

Two contradictory terms put together, e.g.:

- Hell's Angels

- The evil teddy bear

Paradox

A figure of speech in which an apparent contradiction contains the truth, e.g.:

- I'm nobody

- Be cruel to be kind

- The beginning of the end

- Deep down, you're really shallow

Paragraph

A section of a piece of writing. A new paragraph marks a change in focus, time, and place of change of speaking in dialogue.

It usually begins on a new line with a one-line gap separating it from the previous paragraph. Some paragraphs may be indented on the first line.

Parable

A story with a moral, e.g.:

- The story of the Good Samaritan

Participle

A word derived from a verb and used as an adjective or a noun, e.g.:

- 'He ate a *boiled* egg for breakfast.'
- 'I like to see *smiling* faces.'
- 'You are *singing* a good song.'
- 'I have *exercised*.'

Passive voice

The passive voice shows that the action was done *by* someone or something - the action is being done to something.

E.G. The window was broken *by* the robber.

Personification

When you add a human characteristic to an inanimate object, e.g.:

The tree *ate* my kite.

Phoneme

The smallest unit of sound that can be heard in a word e.g. ship has 3 phonemes sh-i-p

Phonetics

The study of the production, transmission, and reception of speech sounds

Phrase

A group of words, smaller than a clause, which forms a grammatical unit, e.g.:

- leaving behind the dog
- smashing into a fence
- before the first test
- after the devastation

Prefix

An affix added to the beginning of a word e.g.:

- *Un*happy
- *Dis*pleased

Preposition

A word that governs and typically precedes a noun or pronoun, e.g.:

- They walked *across* the field.

Pronoun

There are several kinds of pronoun which often replace a noun or noun phrase to avoid repetition.

- Personal pronouns: I, me, he, him, she, her, we, us, they, them, it
- Possessive pronouns: mine, yours, hers, ours, theirs, its
- Reflexive pronouns: myself, herself, themselves ...
- Indefinite pronouns: someone, anything, nobody, everything
- Interrogative pronouns: who, whom, whose, which, what
- Relative pronouns: who, whom, whose, which, that

NB: Determiners can also be used as pronouns - see determiners above.

Rhetoric question

A question that is posed to an audience but not intended to be answered - it makes the reader think.

Semantics

The study of linguistic meaning

Simile

When one thing is compared to another using 'as' or 'like', e.g.:

- She was as hot as fire.
- His hands were like ice.

Subjunctive

<http://www.englishpage.com/minitutorials/subjunctive.html>

The Subjunctive is used to emphasize urgency or importance. It is used after certain expressions, for example:

- I suggest that he **study**.
- Is it essential that we **be** there?
- I were to **be** Queen I would

Subordinating connective/subordinator

A connective introducing a subordinate clause in a sentence.

- Although
- That
- Because
- Until
- Before
- Whereas

E.g.: **Although** it was raining, the children went out to play

(**subordinate clause**) (main clause)

Because of the time, the man missed his breakfast to catch the train

(**subordinate clause**) (main clause)

Suffix

A morpheme which is added to the end of a root word.

E.g.: walk - walk**ing**, habit - habit**able**, propose - propos**ition**

Synonym

A word which means (almost) the same as the other, e.g.:

- Missed = overlooked / unused / lost / squandered

Syntax

The study of sentence structure, i.e. how words are used together in a sentence

Tense inflection

The ending of a verb which denotes its tense, e.g.:

-ed

-ing

Verb phrase

Two or more words that express an action or state of being

E.g.: I **am going** to the shops

I **have been** to the cinema

Miss S Brown - Elsenham primary school