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Primary Grammar Glossary

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Term	Definition
A	
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 or give extra information about a verb or clause e.g.: The parcel arrived **a few days ago**. **After the play**, the family went for a meal. (Fronted adverbial)

Term	Definition
Alliteration	The repetition of consonant sounds – usually at the beginning of words, e.g.: **S**illy **s**ausages **s**izzle **s**oundly
Antonym	A word which means the opposite to another, e.g.: Hot – cold Big – small/little/tiny
Apostrophe for possession or contraction/omission	An apostrophe for possession shows that something belongs to someone or something. Example: the girl's coat (singular); the girls' coats (plural). An apostrophe for contraction joins 2 or more words e.g. shall not – shan't, they will – they'll
Articles	A word that specifies whether a noun is definite or indefinite and shows the amount of things 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
B	
Brackets	Punctuation ( ) used to add extra information (parenthesis). Example: The trip (which was free) was exciting.
Bullet points	Symbols used to organise items in a list clearly and consistently.
C	
Clauses	A group of words built around a verb. A main clause can stand alone; a subordinate clause depends on a main clause. - 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
Co-ordinating conjunction	A conjunction that joins words, phrases or clauses of equal status. Examples: and, but, or. Example: I ran and she walked.
Collective nouns	Refers to a group of things. E.g.: **herd** of cows, the **clergy**, the **jury**, the **class**
Colon	A punctuation mark (:) used to introduce a list or explanation, or to separate two closely related main clauses. Example: Bring three things: a pencil, a ruler and a book.
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').

Term	Definition
Command	A sentence that tells someone to do something, often using an imperative verb or 'bossy' verb. Example: Close the door.
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 sentence	A sentence containing two or more main clauses, often joined by and, but or or. Example: It rained, but we played.
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
D	
Dash	A punctuation mark (—) that can mark parenthesis or introduce an explanation. Example: My brother — the youngest — won.

Term	Definition
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
Direct speech	The exact words spoken by someone, shown within inverted commas. Example: "Come here," said Sam.
E	
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)
Exclamation	A sentence expressing strong feeling, often beginning with what or how and containing a verb. Example: What a wonderful day it is!
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
F	
Formal language	Language suited to serious or official situations. Example: I would be grateful for your assistance.
Fronted adverbial	An adverbial placed at the beginning of a sentence, usually followed by a comma. Example: After lunch, we played outside.
G	
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 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)

Term	Definition
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
H	
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
Hyphen	A short punctuation mark (-) joining words or parts of words to avoid ambiguity. Example: re-cover (cover again) versus recover.
I	
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 give commands or orders. E.g.: - **Sit** in the seat!
Informal language	Relaxed language suited to familiar situations. Example: Can you give me a hand?
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**, walk**ing was** walk**ing** Funny – funn**ier**, funn**iest**
L	
Lexis	The vocabulary of language, especially in dictionary form.
I	
Inverted commas	Punctuation marks (“ ”) used to show direct speech or a quotation. Example: “Stop!” shouted Mia.
L	
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.
M	
Main clause	A clause that makes sense as a complete sentence. Example: The children cheered.

Term	Definition
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.
N	
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 (**M**rs **M**cCraith, **L**ondon)
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.
O	
Object	The person or thing affected by the verb. Example: In “Amir kicked the ball”, “the ball” is the object.
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
P	

Term	Definition
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
Parenthesis	Extra information inserted into a sentence and marked by commas, brackets or dashes. Example: The dog, which was tired, slept.
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.
Past progressive	A verb form describing an action continuing in the past, made with was/were + -ing. Example: They were reading.
Past tense	A verb form usually referring to the past. Example: She walked home.
Perfect tense	A verb form made with have/has/had and a past participle, linking an earlier action to another time. Example: I have finished.
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
Possessive determiner/pronoun	A determiner showing ownership before a noun. Examples: my, your, his, her, its, our, their.
Prefix	An affix added to the beginning of a word e.g.: - **Un**happy - **Dis**pleased

Term	Definition
Preposition	A word that governs and typically precedes a noun or pronoun, e.g.: - They walked across the field.
Present progressive	A verb form describing an action happening now, made with am/is/are + -ing. Example: She is reading.
Present tense	A verb form often referring to the present or a general truth. Example: He plays football.
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.
Q	
Question	A sentence that asks something and normally ends with a question mark. Example: Where are you going?
R	
Register	The level of formality of language chosen for an audience and purpose, such as formal or informal.
Relative clause	A subordinate clause that adds information about a noun, often beginning with who, which, that, whose or where. Example: The girl, who was smiling, waved.
Relative pronoun	A pronoun that introduces a relative clause. Examples: who, which, that, whose, whom.
Reported speech	A way of telling someone what was said without quoting the exact words. Example: Mia said that she was tired.
Rhetoric question	A question that is posed to an audience but not intended to be answered – it makes the reader think.
Root word	The basic form of a word to which prefixes or suffixes may be added. Example: help in helpful and unhelpful.
S	
Semantics	The study of linguistic meaning.
Semi-colon	A punctuation mark (;) that can link two closely related main clauses or separate complex list items. Example: It was late; we went home.
Sentence	A group of words expressing a complete thought, usually containing a main clause and ending with appropriate punctuation.
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.
Standard English	The variety of English used in formal writing and speech, including standard verb forms. Example: “We were” rather than “We was”.
Statement	A sentence that tells the reader something. Example: The playground is wet.

Term	Definition
Subject	The person or thing a clause is about, usually the one doing the action. Example: In “The bird sang”, “the bird” is the subject.
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 ….
Subordinate clause	A clause that depends on a main clause and cannot usually stand alone. Example: because it was raining.
Subordinating conjunction	A word introducing a subordinate clause, such as because, although, if, when or while. Example: We stayed in because it rained.
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
T	
Tense inflection	The ending of a verb which denotes its tense, e.g.: –ed -ing
V	
Verb	A word expressing an action, event or state. Examples: run, think, is, have.
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
W	
Word family	A group of words related by a common root. Example: sign, signal, signature.

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