
GLOSSARY

- **Adjective** An adjective gives a description of a noun.

It's a *tall* tree.

He's an *old* man.

My neighbors are *nice*.

- **Adverb** An adverb describes the action of a sentence or an adjective or another adverb.

She speaks English *fluently*.

I drive *carefully*.

She speaks English *extremely* well. She is *very* intelligent.

- **Adverb of Frequency** An adverb of frequency tells how often an action happens.

I *never* drink coffee.

They *usually* take the bus.

- **Affirmative** *Affirmative* means "yes."

They *live* in Miami.

- **Apostrophe** ' We use the apostrophe for possession and contractions.

My *sister's* friend is beautiful. (possession)

Today *isn't* Sunday. (contraction)

- **Article** An article comes before a noun. It tells if the noun is definite or indefinite. The indefinite articles are *a* and *an*. The definite article is *the*.

I have *a* cat.

I ate *an* apple.

The teacher came late.

- **Auxiliary Verb** An auxiliary verb is used in forming tense, mood, or aspect of the verb that follows it. Some verbs have two parts: an auxiliary verb and a main verb.

You *didn't* eat lunch.

He *can't* study.

We *will* return.

- **Base Form** The base form of the verb has no tense. It has no ending (*-s*, *-ed*, or *-ing*): *be*, *go*, *eat*, *take*, *write*.

I didn't *go*.

We don't *know* you.

He can't *drive*.

- **Capital Letter** A B C D E F G . . .

- **Clause** A clause is a group of words that has a subject and a verb. Some sentences have only one clause.

She speaks Spanish.

Some sentences have a **main clause** and a **dependent clause**.

MAIN CLAUSE

She found a good job

DEPENDENT CLAUSE (reason clause)

because she has computer skills.

MAIN CLAUSE

She'll turn off the light

DEPENDENT CLAUSE (time clause)

before she goes to bed.

MAIN CLAUSE

I'll take you to the doctor

DEPENDENT CLAUSE (if clause)

if you don't have your car on Saturday.

- **Colon** :

- **Comma** ,

- **Comparative** The comparative form of an adjective or adverb is used to compare two things.

My house is *bigger* than your house.

Her husband drives *faster* than she does.

My children speak English *more fluently* than I do.

- **Consonant** The following letters are consonants: *b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, z.*

NOTE: *Y* is sometimes considered a vowel, as in the word *syllable*.

- **Contraction** A contraction is two words joined with an apostrophe.

He's my brother.

You're late.

They *won't* talk to me.

(*He's* = *He is*)

(*You're* = *You are*)

(*won't* = *will not*)

- **Count Noun** Count nouns are nouns that we can count. They have a singular and a plural form.

1 *pen*–3 *pens*

1 *table*–4 *tables*

- **Dependent Clause** See **Clause**.

- **Exclamation Mark !**

- **Frequency Word** Frequency words (*always, usually, generally, often, sometimes, rarely, seldom, hardly ever, never*) tell how often an action happens.

I *never* drink coffee.

We *always* do our homework.

- **Hyphen -**

- **Imperative** An imperative sentence gives a command or instruction. An imperative sentence omits the subject pronoun *you*.

Come here.

Don't be late.

Please *help* me.

- **Infinitive** An infinitive is *to* + the base form.

I want *to leave*.

You need *to be* here on time.

- **Linking Verb** A linking verb is a verb that links the subject to the noun, adjective, or adverb after it. Linking verbs include *be, seem, feel, smell, sound, look, appear, and taste*.

She *is* a doctor.

She *looks* tired.

You *are* late.

- **Main Clause** See **Clause**.

- **Modal** The modal verbs are *can, could, shall, should, will, would, may, might, and must*.

They *should* leave.

I *must* go.

- **Negative** *Negative* means "no."

She *doesn't speak* Spanish.

- **Nonaction Verb** A nonaction verb has no action. We do not use a continuous tense (*be* + verb *-ing*) with a nonaction verb. Nonaction verbs include: *believe, cost, care, have, hear, know, like, love, matter, mean, need, own, prefer, remember, see, seem, think, understand, want, and sense-perception verbs*.

She *has* a laptop.

We *love* our mother.

You *look* great.

- **Noncount Noun** A noncount noun is a noun that we don't count. It has no plural form.

She drank some *water*.

He prepared some *rice*.

Do you need any *money*?

We had a lot of *homework*.

- **Noun** A noun is a person, a place, or a thing. Nouns can be either count or noncount.

My *brother* lives in California.

My *sisters* live in New York.

I get *advice* from them.

I drink *coffee* every day.

- **Noun Modifier** A noun modifier makes a noun more specific.

fire department

Independence Day

can opener

- **Noun Phrase** A noun phrase is a group of words that form the subject or object of a sentence.

A very nice woman helped me. I bought *a big box of cereal*.

- **Object** The object of a sentence follows the verb. It receives the action of the verb.

He bought *a car*. I saw *a movie*. I met *your brother*.

- **Object Pronoun** We use object pronouns (*me, you, him, her, it, us, them*) after a verb or preposition.

He likes *her*. I saw the movie. Let's talk about *it*.

- **Paragraph** A paragraph is a group of sentences about one topic.

- **Parentheses ()**

- **Period .**

- **Phrasal Modal** Phrasal modals, such as *have to* and *be able to*, are made up of two or more words.

You *have got to* see the movie. We *have to* take a test.

- **Phrase** A group of words that go together.

Last month my sister came to visit. There is a strange car *in front of my house*.

- **Plural** *Plural* means "more than one." A plural noun usually ends with -s.

She has beautiful eyes. My *feet* are big.

- **Possessive Form** Possessive forms show ownership or relationship.

Mary's coat is in the closet. *My* brother lives in Miami.

- **Preposition** A preposition is a short connecting word. Some common prepositions are: *about, above, across, after, around, as, at, away, back, before, behind, below, by, down, for, from, in, into, like, of, off, on, out, over, to, under, up, and with*.

The book is *on* the table. She studies *with* her friends.

- **Present Participle** The present participle of a verb is the base form + *-ing*.

She is *sleeping*. They were *laughing*.

- **Pronoun** A pronoun takes the place of a noun.

John likes Mary, but *she* doesn't like *him*.

- **Punctuation** The use of specific marks, such as commas and periods, to make ideas within writing clear.

- **Question Mark ?**

- **Quotation Marks " "**

- **Regular Verb** A regular verb forms the simple past with *-ed*.

He *worked* yesterday. I *laughed* at the joke.

- **-s Form** A simple present verb that ends in -s or -es.

He *lives* in New York.

She *watches* TV a lot.

- **Sense-Perception Verb** A sense-perception verb has no action. It describes a sense. Some common sense-perception verbs are: *look*, *feel*, *taste*, *sound*, and *smell*.

She *feels* fine.

The coffee *smells* fresh.

The milk *tastes* sour.

- **Sentence** A sentence is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb and gives a complete thought.

SENTENCE: She came home.

NOT A SENTENCE: When she came home

- **Singular** *Singular* means "one."

She ate a *sandwich*.

I have one *television*.

- **Subject** The subject of the sentence tells who or what the sentence is about.

My sister got married last April. *The wedding* was beautiful.

- **Subject Pronoun** We use a subject pronoun (*I*, *you*, *he*, *she*, *it*, *we*, *you*, *they*) before a verb.

They speak Japanese.

We speak Spanish.

- **Superlative** The superlative form of an adjective or adverb shows the number one item in a group of three or more.

January is the *coldest* month of the year.

My brother speaks English the *best* in my family.

- **Syllable** A syllable is a part of a word. Each syllable has only one vowel sound. (Some words have only one syllable.)

change (one syllable)

after (af-ter = two syllables)

look (one syllable)

responsible (re-spon-si-ble = four syllables)

- **Tag Question** A tag question is a short question at the end of a sentence. It is used in conversation.

You speak Spanish, *don't you?*

He's not happy, *is he?*

- **Tense** Tense shows when the action of the sentence happened. Verbs have different tenses.

SIMPLE PRESENT: She usually *works* hard.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS: She *is working* now.

SIMPLE PAST: She *worked* yesterday.

FUTURE: She *will work* tomorrow.

- **Verb** A verb is the action of the sentence.

He *runs* fast.

I *speak* English.

Some verbs have no action. They are linking verbs. They connect the subject to the rest of the sentence.

He *is* tall.

She *looks* beautiful.

You *seem* tired.

- **Vowel** The following letters are vowels: *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*.

NOTE: *Y* is sometimes considered a vowel, as in the word *syllable*.