

# Glossary of Grammar Terms

**Nouns** – naming words.

door, horse, David, Mr. Churchill.

**Common nouns** – naming words without a capital letter.

door, horse, wall, aeroplane.

**Proper nouns** – naming words with a capital letter (people's names, places, days, months, festivals, titles).

David, Mr. Churchill, Pacific Ocean, Tuesday, The Tower of London.

**Collective nouns** – naming words for a group or collection of things.

A flock of sheep, a herd of elephants, an army of soldiers.

**Abstract nouns** – naming words for feelings, qualities or times.

His happiness showed clearly; they were famous for heroism; the morning was frosty.

**Pronouns** – take the place of nouns.

She devoured an apple; he flew a kite; they shouted the loudest.

**Adjectives** – describing words.

A **colossal** statue, a **magnificent** house.

**Comparative adjectives** – adjectives that compare two nouns.

**Darker** or **heavier**.

**Superlative adjectives** – adjectives that compare three or more nouns.

**Darkest** or **heaviest**.

**Adjective phrases** – groups of words used to describe a noun.

The **angry, frightened old** man got off the bus; the cat **with the long tail** is called Tom.

**Verbs** – action or doing words which vary depending on tense.

**I walk, I am walking, I walked, I was walked, I have walked, I had walked, I shall walk.**

**Verb Phrase** – when a verb is more than one word.

You **have woken up** everyone in the area. Mary **saw the man through the window**.

**Adverbs** – tell us how, when or why something happens or is done.

He ran **quickly**, she arrived **late**.

**Adverb phrases** – groups of words without a proper verb, used to describe how, when or where something happens or is done.

**Before the sun set**, we had pitched camp; the horse galloped **like the wind**.

**Adverb clauses** – contain a proper verb and describes how, when or where something happens or is done.

The boy fell **because the branch broke**; I will go out **after I have washed my hair**.

**Conjunctions** – words used to join clauses within a sentence.

The girl kicked the ball powerfully **and** she scored a goal.  
**Although** we'd had plenty to eat, we were still hungry.

**Connectives** – words or phrases that link clauses or sentences. They include conjunctions but also include other words such as: however, consequently.

The girl kicked the ball powerfully **and** she scored a goal.  
**Although** we'd had plenty to eat, we were still hungry.  
I was angry. **However**, I didn't say anything.  
It was raining. **Consequently**, we all put our coats on.

**Prefixes** – added to the front of words to change them.

Unsuitable, **disagree**, **triangle**.

**Suffixes** added to the end words to change them.

**Jumping**, **higher**, **management**.

**Prepositions** – show how something is positioned in relation to something else or show the relationship of events in time.

The coats were **in** the cloakroom; the shed was **behind** the hedge; it was so quiet **after** the hurricane; a path ran **alongside** the stream.

**Contractions** – shortened forms of words where an apostrophe replaces missing letters.

**Mustn't** (must not), **we'll** (we will), **I'm** (I am).

**Articles** – **a** or **an** (indefinite articles) or **the** (definite article).

**Subject and Object** – the **subject** is who or what the sentence is about, the **object** is who or what is having something done to it.

The **cat** [**subject**] drinks the **milk** [**object**].

**Phrase** – a group of words, a part of a sentence. Groups of words are only a clause if they have a subject and a verb.

**...scampered away.**

**Clause** – a group of words having a subject and a verb.

**The dog scampered away.**

**Main clauses** – (also known as **independent clauses**) must contain a proper verb and can be a sentence on its own or part of a longer sentence.

**The music was playing** as I left the room.

**Subordinate clauses** – (also known as **dependent clauses**) must be connected to a main clause in order to make a sentence.

The music was playing **as I left the room.**

**Sentences** – must begin with a capital letter, end with a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark and make sense (must have a subject and a verb).

**Complex Sentences** – have two or more clauses that are not of the same importance. The main clause can make sense by itself but the other clauses cannot.

The road was covered in snow **which fell swiftly during the night.**

**Compound Sentences** – made up of two or more main clauses joined by ‘and’, ‘but’ or ‘or’.

The truck was stuck in the snow **and the driver couldn’t move it.**

**Active** – when the subject of a sentence does the action, the verb is active.

**Dave weeded the garden. Tim did the shopping.**

**Passive** – when the subject of the sentence has the action done to it, the verb is passive.

**The garden was weeded by Dave. The shopping was done by Tim.**

**Infinitive** – a verbal (can be noun, adjective or adverb) that begins with to.

To be, to be seen, to be eaten.

**Direct Speech** – the actual words that someone has said with speech marks around them.

Jane announced, “I need to go to the doctor.”

**Reported Speech** – (also known as **indirect speech**) when we write about what someone has said without using the actual words and without using speech marks.

Jane announced that she needed to go to the doctor.