

Grammar Terms and what they mean...


Word Level terms

Nouns A noun is a thing, a feeling or the name of a person or place (a naming word).

To test if it is a noun you can always put 'a', 'the' or 'my' in front of it, and, if it is a name it starts with a capital letter.

Examples – **book, love, table, Otley, happiness** are all nouns.

- **Proper Noun** – is a name of place or person and needs a capital letter.
Examples – **Paris, Jason, Farnley Lane**
- **Concrete noun** – is a thing that you can touch.
Examples – **brick, cup, river, letter, brain.**
- **Abstract noun** – a thing that exists but you cannot touch it.
Examples – **love, hate, thought, philosophy**
- **Singular** – means just one thing or person.
Examples – **table, place, feeling**
- **Plural** – means two or more things or people.
Examples – **tables, places, feelings**
- **Gender** – in foreign languages **nouns** are divided up into **feminine, masculine or neuter**. We do have some nouns that are marked by gender in English.
Examples - **poet (male) poetess (female), fiancé (male) Fiancée (female).**

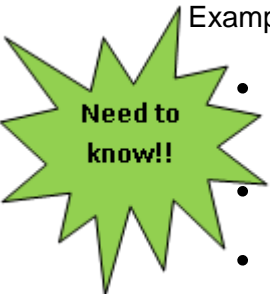


Need to know!!

Verbs Verbs express an action or a state (a doing word). To test if a word is a verb put 'I' with it.

Examples – **go, see, do, like, run, sing.**

- **Modal verbs** – the modal verbs are **can, (could), may, (might), must, shall, (should), will and (would)**. They express the likelihood of something taking place. Examples - I **could** win the prize, He **might** pop round tonight
- **The Infinitive** This is the form of a verb found in a dictionary and is usually expressed to..... Examples – **to run, to swim, to think.**
- **The Imperative** – this is when the verb is used as a command. Examples – **Look! Sit! Stop! Behave!**
- **Tense** - we use verbs to help us say **when something happens**. Tense means **past, present and future**



Need to know!!

Past – an action that happened in the past. Example – I **worked** hard yesterday.

Present – an action that is happening now happens today, or regularly.

Examples – I **am eating** my dinner, I **eat** my dinner at one o'clock.

Future – an action that will happen in the future. Example – I **will go** to America one day.

Active /passive – verbs can be expressed in the **active** or the **passive** voice.

The active voice is when the subject of the sentence is doing the action. Example - **Neil kicked the ball.** The passive voice is when the subject of the sentence is having something done to it.

Example – **The ball was kicked by Neil.**

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Good to know!!

- **Dynamic verb** – a dynamic verb expresses an action which can be **physical** or **mental**.

Examples – **to cough, to jump, to think, to see**.

- **Stative Verb** – a stative verb expresses a state of being or a process.

Examples – **to remember, to believe, to realise, to be**.

Adjective An adjective is a describing word. It always describes a noun.

Examples – **red, beautiful, delicious**.

Adverb An adverb is a word that gives information about another word. **An adverb describes how you do a verb** and in English these words usually end in **-ly**.

Example – **slowly, beautifully, seriously**.

- ✓ An adverb can describe when a verb is done. Example – **yesterday, now**
 - ✓ An adverb can describe how often it is done - Example – **frequently**
 - ✓ An adverb can describe where a verb is done – Example – **here, there**
 - ✓ An adverb can describe how a verb is done – Example - **swiftly, fast, often**
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Pronoun A pronoun **stands instead of a noun or name** and is used as a reference. They are divided into three categories: **first person, second person** and **third person pronouns**.

First person (Talking about yourself)	Second person (Talking directly to others)	Third person (Talking about others)
I, me, my, mine	you, your, yours we, us, our, ours	he, she, him, his, her, hers it, its they, them, their, theirs

Possessive pronouns

Are used when you need to show possession of something.

Examples – **my, mine, yours, his, hers, ours, your, theirs**.

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- Preposition** A small word that tells you where something is.
- Examples – **on, next to, beside, above, behind**
- Interjection** **a sound that has meaning , but is not a recognised word.**
- Examples – “**Mmm**” – meaning you agree with something, “**Oy**” - suggesting that you want someone’s attention.
- Conjunction** **A word that you use to join simple sentences together or to join clauses of sentences together .**
- Examples – **and, but, because, although, despite**
- Connective** **A *word or a phrase* that is used to link sentences, paragraphs or arguments.**
- Examples – **however, therefore, also, in addition to, as a result of.**
- Definite article** ‘the’
- Indefinite article** ‘a’ / plural – ‘some’
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Sentence Level Terms

Subject - **Who** or **what** is doing the verb in a sentence.

Example – **Jane read the book.**

Jane is the **subject** of this sentence.

Object - **Who** or **what** is having the verb done to them.

Example – **Jane read the book.**

The book is the **object** of this sentence

Simple Sentence

A simple sentence contains one clause and has a verb and a subject.

Example – **David shouts.**

Compound Sentence

A compound sentence is made up of two or more simple sentences joined together by the conjunctions **and, but so** or **then**. Each part of the sentence makes sense on its own and each is of equal importance.

Example – **David shouts and he doesn’t listen.**

Complex Sentence

A complex sentence is made up of one **independent main clause** and one or more **subordinate clauses**.

Example – **Although it was raining, Elizabeth wore shorts.**

Independent Main Clause

An **independent main clause** is the part of a complex sentence that makes sense on its own.

Example – **Elizabeth wore shorts.**

Subordinate Clause

A **subordinate clause** is a part of a complex sentence that does not make sense on its own. It needs the independent main clause to make sense.

Example – **Although it was raining,**