

Grammatical terms

What follows is extremely basic. For more insight see L.R. Trask, *A Dictionary of Grammatical Terms in Linguistics*, London: Routledge, 1993.

accusative	The case of the <i>direct object</i> (see below): Він читає книжку .
adjective	This modifies a noun: ‘the <i>long</i> book’, ‘an <i>interesting</i> story’, ‘the <i>Polish</i> exercise’.
adjectival participle	An <i>-ing</i> form of a verb which means the same as ‘who/which . . .’, e.g. ‘He phoned the man selling a canoe’ (= ‘who was selling’).
adverb	This modifies a verb: ‘he reads <i>slowly</i> ’, ‘John does this <i>well</i> ’, ‘they arrived <i>yesterday</i> ’.
adverbial participle	An <i>-ing</i> form of a verb which means the same as ‘when, if, because ...’, e.g. ‘Looking through the window, Joan saw just what she had been looking for’ (= ‘when she was looking ...’), ‘They were so tired they went to bed <i>without undressing</i> ’ (= a negative adverbial participle).
article	As in ‘ <i>the</i> book’ (definite); ‘ <i>a</i> library’ (indefinite).
aspiration	The puff of air that accompanies the pronunciation of sounds to varying extents. For example, in standard English <i>p</i> at the beginning of a word is accompanied by a quite noticeable aspiration; people from northern England have much less aspiration in their <i>p</i> , <i>t</i> , <i>k</i> , something that is close to the situation in Ukrainian.
cardinal	A numeral indicating <i>how many</i> (one, two ...).
case	The form of a word (noun, adjective, pronoun) showing the function of that word in a sentence; expressed by an <i>ending</i> .
conjugation	The set of verb endings indicating who or what is involved in the description or action: ‘John reads’, Мико́ла чита́є .
dative	The case of the <i>indirect object</i> (see below).
declension	A set of case endings (see ‘case’ above).
definite	See ‘article’ above.
direct object	The thing/person at which a verbal action is directed: ‘she bought <i>the</i> book’, ‘we saw <i>John</i> ’.
ending	The element(s) added to the stem of a word: book+s; an ending in Ukrainian can be ‘zero’: брат + zero, кни́жк + <i>a</i> ; по́л + <i>e</i> .
gender	‘Natural’ gender: distinction of sex; ‘grammatical’ gender: distinction of declensional types according to the ending in the nominative singular.
genitive	The case denoting possession or origin, often in English ‘of’: ‘the capital <i>of</i> England’, ‘ <i>England’s</i> capital’.
gerund	See ‘adverbial participle’.

imperative	The verb form used to express commands: <i>‘Write this down immediately!’</i>
indefinite	See ‘article’ above.
indirect object	The recipient of the <i>direct</i> object (see above): ‘the teacher gave the book <i>to the student</i> or ‘the teacher gave <i>the student</i> the book’.
instrumental	The case expressing ‘by means of’.
interjection	A word or phrase expressing emotion: ‘Oh!’
lexicon	The set of words (‘lexical items’) that make up the vocabulary of a language; sometimes = ‘vocabulary’
locative	The case indicating location (<i>in</i> the city); in Ukrainian this case is used only with a preposition.
modality	A form conveying the attitude of the speaker to what is being said (‘can’, ‘ought’, it is necessary’, etc.): also, in a verb the ‘indicative’ conveys plain statements, as in ‘I am reading a book, and the ‘conditional’ hints at an underlying condition or ‘if’: ‘I would like to go to Kyiv’.
nominative	The case of the subject (see below).
noun	An object (pencil), person (John, woman) or concept (freedom).
ordinal	A numeral indicating <i>relative order</i> (first, second ...).
palatalization	The modification of the pronunciation of a consonant when it is almost simultaneously accompanied by a ‘y’-sound; thus, the variations of the <i>ss</i> , <i>t</i> , <i>d</i> and <i>n</i> in <i>issue</i> , <i>tune</i> , <i>dew</i> , <i>new</i> . Such ‘palatalized’, or ‘soft’, consonants are a feature of Ukrainian pronunciation.
paradigm	A set of declined or conjugated forms, e.g. the present-tense paradigm of іти ‘go’ is ідý, ідеш, іде, ідемó, ідетé, ідýть .
participle	See ‘adjectival participle’ and compare ‘adverbial participle’.
plural	When reference is to more than one item or person.
prefix	An element added to the beginning of a verb to denote an action different from that of the unprefixed verb: ‘Jack <i>prepaid</i> the bill’. ‘I <i>underestimated</i> him’.
preposition	A word relating two things/people: ‘a book <i>in</i> a library’, ‘the letter <i>from</i> mother’. The use of a preposition in Ukrainian requires that the following word occurs with a particular case ending.
pronoun	Personal ‘I, you’, possessive ‘mine, yours’ or interrogative ‘who? what?’
root	The core of a word, to which can be added prefixes, derivational suffixes, stem-marking suffixes, endings.
singular	When reference is to a single person or item, e.g. ‘a pencil’, or something collective or uncountable, e.g. ‘foliage’, ‘honey’.
stem	The form of a word minus the ending, e.g. книжк-, добр-, прочитай-, говори-, передай- . In verbs, that portion between the root and the ending may be referred to as the ‘theme’, namely -е- and -и- for the first and second conjugations respectively.

stress	Greater emphasis on one vowel/syllable within a word: compare the two different places of stress in ‘ <i>cóntent</i> ’ and ‘ <i>contént</i> ’.
subject	Actor; thing/person carrying out the main action of a sentence: ‘ <i>John</i> read the article’.
suffix	A word-formational element: e.g. English <i>-tion, -ment, -ness, -er</i> ; Ukrainian -ець .
tense	Time as expressed by the verb (past, present, future).
verb	A word expressing action or conveying description: ‘ <i>Louise writes</i> letters’, ‘ <i>John is sitting</i> there’.
vocative	The case of address: ‘ <i>John!</i> ’ Nouns in Ukrainian may have a distinct vocative form in the singular: Іва́не!
voice	In pronunciation, a sound articulated with accompanying vibration in the vocal chords, e.g. voiced <i>z</i> as against voiceless <i>s</i> ; in the verb, the contrast between, for example, the ‘active’ voice in ‘ <i>John sees</i> Mary’ and the ‘passive’ voice in ‘ <i>John is seen</i> by Mary’.
word-formation	the process of building words from a base form: ‘transform’ to ‘transformation’.