

Grammatical Terms/Word Classes/Features of Sentences

Nouns	
Term	Definition
Noun	A noun is a 'naming' word: a word used for naming an animal, a person, a place or a thing.
Proper noun	This is a noun used to name particular people and places: <i>Jim, Betty, London...</i> – and some 'times': <i>Monday, April, Easter...</i> It always begins with a capital letter.
Common noun	A common noun is a noun that is used to name everyday things: <i>cars, toothbrushes, trees...</i> – and kinds of people: <i>man, woman, child ...</i>
Collective noun	This is a noun that describes a group or collection of people or things: <i>army, bunch, team, swarm...</i>
Abstract noun	An abstract noun describes things that cannot actually be seen, heard, smelt, felt or tasted: <i>sleep, honesty, boredom, freedom, power ...</i>
Adjectives	
Term	Definition
Adjective	<p>An adjective is a 'describing' word: it is a word used to describe (or tell you more about) a noun.</p> <p><u>Example</u>: The burglar was wearing a black jacket, a furry hat and a large mask over his face. (The words in bold tell us more about the noun that follows)</p> <p>An adjective usually comes before a noun but sometimes it can be separated from its noun and come afterwards (e.g.: Ben looked frightened; the dog was very fierce)</p>
Interrogative ('asking') adjectives	<p>e.g.: What? Which? ... They are used to ask questions about a noun.</p> <p><u>Example</u>: Which hat do you prefer?</p>
Possessive adjectives	<p>e.g.: my, our, their, his, your ... Possessive adjectives show ownership.</p> <p><u>Example</u>. Sue never brushes her hair.</p>
Adjectives of number or quantity	<p>e.g. much, more, most, little, some, any, enough ... These answer the question: How much?</p> <p><u>Example</u>: She invited five friends for breakfast; she did not have any food left</p>
Demonstrative ('pointing-out') adjectives	<p>e.g.: this, that, these, those... Demonstrative adjectives answer the question: Which?</p> <p><u>Example</u>: Those apples and these pears are bad; That man stole this handbag.</p>

Other word classes and grammatical terms

Term	Definition
Prepositions	<p>Prepositions are words which show the relationship of one thing to another.</p> <p><u>Examples:</u> Tom jumped over the cat. The monkey is in the tree.</p> <p>These words tell you where one thing is in relation to something else.</p> <p>Other examples of prepositions include: up, across, into, past, under, below, above ...</p>
Connectives (conjunctions)	<p>Connectives (conjunctions) join together words, phrases, clauses and sentences. They help us to create compound sentences by joining two main clauses together.</p> <p>E.g.: <u>She went to the shops. She bought a box of chocolates.</u></p> <p>We can use a conjunction to join these sentences together: <u>She went to the shops and bought a box of chocolates.</u></p> <p>Other connectives (conjunctions) include: but, as, so, or ...</p>
Subordinating connectives	<p>Subordinating connectives link a main (independent) clause with a subordinate (dependent) clause (a clause which does not make sense on its own).</p> <p>Example: When we got home, we were hungry. We were hungry because we hadn't eaten all day.</p> <p>Other subordinating connectives include: if, while, after, until, before, although...</p>
Article	<p>An article is always used with and gives some information about a noun. There are three articles: a, an and the</p> <p>Examples: the chair; a table; an elephant</p> <p>*There is sometimes confusion about whether to use a or an. The sound of a word's first letter helps us to know which to use: If a word begins with a vowel sound, you should use an; if a word begins with a consonant sound, you should use a.</p>

Features of sentences/Types of sentences	
Term	Definition
Declarative sentence (statement)	These are sentences which state facts. <u>e.g.</u> : It is hot. The butter is in the fridge.
Interrogative sentence (question)	Interrogative sentences (questions) are sentences which ask for an answer. <u>e.g.</u> : Are you hot? Where is the butter?
Imperative sentence (command)	These are sentences which give orders or requests. <u>e.g.</u> : Play the movie. Give me a dinosaur for my birthday.
Exclamatory sentence (exclamation)	Exclamatory sentences (exclamations) are sentences which express a strong feeling of emotion. <u>e.g.</u> : My goodness, it's hot! I absolutely love this movie!
Clause	A clause is a group of words which does contain a verb; it is part of a sentence. There are two kinds of clauses: 1. A main clause (makes sense on its own) e.g.: Sue bought a new dress. 2. A subordinate clause (does not make sense on its own; it depends on the main clause for its meaning) E.g.: Sue bought a new dress when she went shopping . *‘when she went shopping’ is the subordinate clause as it would not make sense without the main clause.
Phrase	A phrase is a group of words which does not make complete sense on its own and does not contain a verb; it is not a complete sentence: e.g.: up the mountain

Vocabulary/language strategies

Definition	Example
<p>Synonyms</p> <p>These are words that have a similar meaning to another word. We use synonyms to make our writing more interesting.</p>	<p>Synonyms for:</p> <p>Bad - awful, terrible, horrible Happy - content, joyful, pleased Look - watch, stare, glaze Walk - stroll, crawl, tread</p>
<p>Antonyms</p> <p>These are words with the opposite meaning to another word.</p>	<p>The antonym of <u>up</u> is <u>down</u> The antonym of <u>tall</u> is <u>short</u> The antonym of <u>add</u> is <u>subtract</u></p>
<p>Word groups/ families</p> <p>These are groups of words that have a common feature or pattern - they have some of the same combinations of letters in them and a similar sound.</p>	<p>at, cat, hat, and fat are a family of words with the "at" sound and letter combination in common.</p> <p>bike, hike, like, spike and strike are a family of words with the "ike" sound and letter combination in common.</p> <p>blame, came, fame, flame and game are a family of words with the "ame" sound and letter combination in common.</p>
<p>Prefix</p> <p>Prefixes are added to the beginning of an existing word in order to create a new word with a different meaning.</p>	<p>Adding 'un' to happy – unhappy Adding 'dis' to appear – disappear Adding 're' to try – retry</p>
<p>Suffix</p> <p>Suffixes are added to the end of an existing word to create a new word with a different meaning.</p>	<p>Adding 'ish' to child – childish Adding 'able' to like – likeable Adding 'ion' to act – action</p>
<p>Root words</p> <p>Root words are words that have a meaning of their own but can be added to either with a prefix (before the root) or a suffix (after the root) to change the meaning of the word. Root words can often be helpful in finding out what a word means or where it is 'derived' from.</p>	<p><u>help</u> is a root word</p> <p>It can grow into:</p> <p style="margin-left: 100px;"> <u>helps</u> <u>helpful</u> <u>helped</u> <u>helping</u> <u>helpless</u> <u>unhelpful</u> </p>
<p>Singular</p> <p>A singular noun names one person, place or thing (a single item).</p>	<p>One bike One mango One dress One fly One turkey One half</p>
<p>Plural</p> <p>More than one person, place or thing.</p>	<p><i>Most nouns are made into plurals by adding -s:</i> Three <u>bikes</u></p>

Some nouns ending in -o are made into plurals by adding -es:

Two mangoes

Most nouns ending in hissing, shushing or buzzing sounds are made into plurals by adding -es:

Ten dresses

For words ending in a vowel and then -y, just add -s:

Eight turkeys

For words ending in a consonant and then -y, change -y to -i and add -es:

Five flies

Most nouns ending in -f or -fe change to -ves in the plural:

Six halves

Punctuation

Definition	Example
<p>Capital letter</p> <p>Used to denote the beginning of a sentence or a proper noun (names of particular places, things and people).</p>	<p><u>J</u>oel has karate training ever <u>M</u>onday afternoon at <u>W</u>ells <u>P</u>rimary <u>S</u>chool.</p> <p><u>I</u>n <u>J</u>anuary, the children will be visiting <u>L</u>ondon <u>Z</u>oo.</p>
<p>Full stop</p> <p>Placed at the end of a sentence that is not a question or statement.</p>	<p>Terry Pratchett's latest book is not yet out in paperback .</p> <p>I asked her whether she could tell me the way to Brighton .</p>
<p>Question mark</p> <p>Indicates a question/disbelief.</p>	<p>Who else will be there?</p> <p>Is this really little Thomas?</p>
<p>Exclamation mark</p> <p>Indicates an interjection/surprise/strong emotion</p>	<p>What a triumph!</p> <p>I've just about had enough!</p> <p>Wonderful!</p>
<p>Inverted commas</p> <p>Punctuation marks used in pairs (“ ”) to indicate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quotes (evidence). • direct speech • words that are defined, that follow certain phrases or that have special meaning. 	<p><i>For direct speech:</i> Janet asked, "Why can't we go today?"</p> <p><i>For quotes:</i> The man claimed that he was "shocked to hear the news".</p> <p><i>For words that are defined, that follow certain phrases or that have special meaning:</i> 'Buch' is German for book. The book was signed 'Terry Pratchett'. The 'free gift' actually cost us forty pounds.</p>
<p>Apostrophes</p> <p>Used to show that letters have been left out (contractions) or to show possession (i.e. 'belonging to')</p>	<p><i>Contractions:</i> <i>Is not = isn't</i> <i>Could not = couldn't</i></p> <p><i>Showing Possession:</i> <i>With nouns (plural and singular) not ending in an s add 's:</i> <i>the girl's jacket, the children's books</i></p> <p><i>With plural nouns ending in an s, add only the apostrophe:</i> <i>the guards' duties, the Jones' house</i></p> <p><i>With singular nouns ending in an s, you can add either 's or an apostrophe alone:</i> <i>the witness's lie or the witness' lie (be consistent)</i></p>
<p>Commas in a list</p> <p>Used between a list of three or more</p>	<p>Jenny's favourite subjects are maths, literacy and art. Joe, Evan and Mike were chosen to sing at the service.</p>

<p>words to replace the word <i>and</i> for all but the last instance.</p>	<p>The giant had a large head, hairy ears and two big, beady eyes.</p>
<p>Commas to mark phrases or clauses</p>	<p><i>To indicate contrast:</i> The snake was brown, not green, and it was quite small.</p> <p><i>Where the phrase (embedded clause) could be in brackets:</i> The recipe, which we hadn't tried before, is very easy to follow.</p> <p><i>Where the phrase adds relevant information:</i> Mr Hardy, aged 68, ran his first marathon five years ago.</p> <p><i>To mark a subordinate clause:</i> If at first you don't succeed, try again. Though the snake was small, I still feared for my life.</p> <p><i>Introductory or opening phrases:</i> In general, sixty-eight is quite old to run a marathon. On the whole, snakes only attack when riled.</p> <p><i>Conjunctive verbs:</i> Unfortunately, the bear was already in a bad mood and, furthermore, pink wasn't its colour.</p>
<p>Brackets (also known as parentheses)</p> <p>Used for additional information or explanation.</p>	<p><i>To clarify information:</i> Jamie's bike was red (bright red) with a yellow stripe.</p> <p><i>For asides and comments:</i> The bear was pink (I kid you not).</p> <p><i>To give extra details:</i> His first book (The Colour Of Magic) was written in 1989.</p>
<p>Ellipsis</p> <p>Used to indicate a pause in speech or at the very end of a sentence so that words trail off into silence (this helps to create suspense).</p>	<p><i>A pause in speech:</i> "The sight was awesome... truly amazing."</p> <p><i>At end of a sentence to create suspense:</i> Mr Daily gritted his teeth, gripped the scalpel tightly in his right hand and slowly advanced...</p>
<p>Dash</p> <p>Used to show interruption (often in dialogue) or to show repetition.</p>	<p><i>To show interruption:</i> "The girl is my – " "Sister," interrupted Miles, "She looks just like you." <i>To show repetition:</i> "You-you monster!" cried the frightened woman. "St-st-stop!" stammered the boy.</p>
<p>Colons</p> <p>a) Used before a list, summary or quote</p> <p>b) Used to complete a statement of fact</p>	<p><i>Before a list:</i> I could only find three of the ingredients: sugar, flour and coconut.</p> <p><i>Before a summary:</i> To summarise: we found the camp, set up our tent and then</p>

the bears attacked.

Before a line of speech:

Tom asked: "May I have another cupcake?"

Before a statement of fact:

There are only three kinds of people: the good, the bad and the ugly.

Semi-colons

Used in place of a connective (conjunction). Shows thoughts on either side of it are balanced and connected. It can also separate words or items within a list.

To link two separate sentences that are closely related:

The children came home today; they had been away for a week.

In a list:

Star Trek, created by Gene Roddenberry; Babylon 5, by JMS; Buffy, by Joss Whedon; and Farscape, from the Henson Company.