



Examples are given in italics.

	Definition and example
abstract noun	See 'noun'.
active voice	<p>Sentences are usually written in the active voice. The verb in the sentence explains what the main noun (subject) of the sentence is doing. <i>The lion growled at the mouse.</i></p> <p>See also 'passive voice'.</p>
adjective	<p>A word that describes a noun. <i>small, large, pretty, blue, colourful, excited etc.</i> <i>The creepy mansion stood at the end of the long lane.</i></p> <p><u>Comparative adjective</u> Comparative adjectives are used when comparing two nouns. They usually end in -er. <i>bigger, smaller, louder, quieter, hotter, busier etc.</i> <i>Tommy is smaller than Jenny.</i></p> <p>For longer adjectives (with more than two syllables) the comparative form is more + adjective. <i>more beautiful, more dangerous, more intelligent etc.</i></p> <p><u>Superlative adjective</u> Superlative adjectives are used when comparing three or more nouns. They usually end in -est. <i>biggest, smallest, loudest, quietest, hottest, busiest etc.</i> <i>Anna is the quietest child in the class.</i></p> <p>For longer adjectives (with more than two syllables) the superlative form is most + adjective. <i>most beautiful, most dangerous, most intelligent etc.</i></p>
adverb	<p>Adverbs describe how, when or where something happened. They usually describe the verb in the sentence but can also add detail to adjectives or other adverbs.</p> <p>Many adverbs end in -ly. <i>angrily, loudly, rapidly etc.</i> <i>The boy shouted angrily.</i> <i>The prom dress was extremely delicate.</i></p> <p>Other adverbs do not end in -ly. How: <i>fast, well etc.</i> When: <i>now, then, often, sometimes, never etc.</i> Where: <i>here, there, everywhere, upstairs, downstairs etc.</i> How much: <i>extremely, very, slightly, rather, quite etc.</i></p>

adverbial phrase	<p>A phrase within a sentence which acts like an adverb (describing how, when or where something happened). An adverbial phrase usually begins with a preposition.</p> <p><i>Three weeks ago, I went to a pop concert.</i> <i>He lay down under the apple tree and with a deep sigh he fell asleep.</i></p>
antonym	<p>An antonym is a word which has an opposite meaning to another. <i>e.g. the antonym for bad is good.</i></p>
apostrophe	<p>Apostrophes are used to show omission/contraction or possession.</p> <p><u>Omission/contraction</u> Apostrophes are used to show that a letter or letters are missing (omission) from a word or words. As a result, the word or words have been shortened (contraction). <i>don't, can't, isn't, I'm, she'll, doesn't etc.</i></p> <p><u>Possession</u> Apostrophes are used to show that something belongs to someone. The apostrophe is usually followed by –s. <i>John's pencil case, Rob's phone, Sunita's friends etc.</i></p> <p>If the apostrophe comes after a word already ending in –s, only an apostrophe is needed. <i>James' bag, Andreas' football, Mr Jones' class etc.</i></p> <p>The key exception to the rule is 'it'. An apostrophe is used in 'it's' to show omission only. 'It's' <u>always</u> means 'it is'. <i>It's going to be a cold winter.</i> <i>It's my birthday on Saturday.</i></p> <p>If you want to say something belongs to 'it' you do not use an apostrophe. <i>The dog chased its tail.</i> <i>The tree loses its leaves every autumn.</i></p>
article	<p>An article comes before a noun to define it. There are only 3 articles: the a an</p> <p>'an' is used when the following word begins with a vowel. <i>There was an almighty roar.</i></p> <p>See also 'determiner'.</p>
brackets	<p>Brackets are a form of punctuation which are used in pairs. They separate off information that is not essential for the meaning of the sentence. <i>Sajid (who lives in the yellow house) invited me to play football in the park.</i></p>
capital letter	<p>A capital letter is an upper case letter used to signal the start of a sentence or to indicate a proper noun. <i>The roses in the garden were in full bloom.</i> <i>London, Ben, Monday, Titanic etc.</i></p>
clause	<p>A clause is a group of words within a sentence which contain a verb. <i>the humungous elephant waved its trunk, because it was raining, although he was tired.</i></p> <p><u>Main clause</u> A main clause is part of a sentence which makes sense on its own and can stand as a full sentence. <i>the big dog was barking</i></p>

	<p><u>Subordinate clause</u> A subordinate clause is part of a sentence which contains a verb but does not make sense on its own. <i>because it was lonely, when I arrived, which was called Rover</i></p> <p>The subordinate clause can start or end a sentence and can sometimes come in the middle of a sentence. <i>The big dog was barking because it was lonely.</i> <i>When I arrived,</i> <i>the big dog was barking.</i> <i>The big dog, which was called Rover, was barking.</i></p> <p><u>Relative clause</u> A relative clause is a clause which is embedded into the main clause. Relative clauses start with a pronoun e.g. who, whom, which, that etc.</p> <p><i>The big dog, which was called Rover, was barking.</i> <i>The doctor, who was on holiday, saved a young boy from drowning.</i></p> <p>See also 'complex sentence'.</p>
collective noun	See 'noun'.
colon	<p>A colon is a form of punctuation which is used to introduce a list. <i>You need the following ingredients: an egg, some flour, milk and sugar.</i></p> <p>It is also used before an explanation is given about something. <i>She got what she had worked so hard for: she really earned her Olympic gold medal.</i></p>
comma	<p>A comma is a form of punctuation used to separate items in a list. <i>Gary ate a sandwich, a pork pie, a packet of crisps, an ice cream and a chocolate bar.</i></p> <p>It is also used to mark clauses in a sentence. <i>Before he went to work, George walked his dog in the park.</i></p>
command	<p>A command is a sentence type where the verb starts the main clause. <i>Ask your parents for permission.</i> <i>Before you leave, stack the chairs at the back of the hall.</i></p>
common noun	See 'noun'.
comparative adjective	See 'adjective'.
complex sentence	<p>A complex sentence is made up of one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses which are linked to the main clause. <i>Because it had been a long day, David went straight to bed.</i></p> <p>'<i>David went straight to bed</i>' is the main clause as it makes sense on its own. '<i>Because it had been a long day</i>' is the subordinate clause as it does not make sense on its own.</p> <p>See also 'clause'.</p>
compound sentence	<p>A compound sentence is a simple joining of two sentences with a connective. <i>Samina ran home <u>because</u> she wanted to watch her favourite TV programme.</i></p>
conjunction	<p>A conjunction is a word which joins sentences together.</p> <p>See 'connective'.</p>
connective	<p>Connectives are words which join sentences together. <i>and, but, so, because, when, then, although, however, therefore etc.</i></p>

	<i>I like pizza but I prefer pasta.</i>
dash	<p>A dash is a form of punctuation used to show breaks in a sentence where a comma, semicolon, or colon could be used. <i>Things have changed a lot in the last year – mainly for the better.</i></p> <p>They can also be used in pairs to mark off information or ideas that are not essential to an understanding of the rest of the sentence. <i>Thousands of children – like the girl in the photograph – are very proud of their results this year.</i></p> <p>Dashes are most often used in informal writing.</p>
determiner	<p>A determiner goes before a noun or noun phrase to define the noun in some way. <i>the, a, an, this, that, every, some, each, his, her, my, one, two</i> etc. <i>Is that your dog?</i></p>
direct speech	<p>Direct speech is used when reporting the exact words that someone said. Inverted commas are used to indicate the words spoken. <i>"We've been waiting for ages!"</i> complained Sarah.</p>
ellipsis	<p>Ellipsis is a series of dots (...) to indicate that words are missing but not needed to understand the meaning of the sentence. Authors use ellipsis to create suspense. <i>They opened the door, heard a creaking noise and then...bang!</i></p>
exclamation mark	<p>An exclamation mark is a form of punctuation used to end a sentence and to indicate something surprising. It can also be used to show emotions. <i>I can't wait until Saturday!</i> <i>Behind the children stood a ginormous, hideous troll!</i></p>
full stop	<p>A full stop is a punctuation mark used to signal the end of a sentence. <i>The weather was sunny today.</i></p>
future tense	See 'verb'.
hyphen	<p>A hyphen is a form of punctuation used to join two words to show they have a joined meaning. <i>well-known, quick-thinking, accident-prone, sugar-free</i> etc.</p>
indirect speech	<p>Indirect speech is used to report what has been said without using the speaker's exact words. This is also known as reported speech. Inverted commas are not needed. <i>The vet explained that he looked after a lot of animals.</i></p>
inverted commas	<p>Inverted commas are punctuation marks used to signal the beginning and end of direct speech. They can also be called 'speech marks' or 'quotation marks'. <i>"I don't know where I'm going," Dad admitted.</i></p> <p>The punctuation of the direct speech should always be inside the inverted commas.</p>
irregular verb	See 'verb'.
main clause	See 'clause'.
modal verb	See 'verb'.
noun	<p>A noun is a person, place or thing/object. <i>Janet, London, dog</i> etc.</p> <p>Nouns can be singular or plural.</p> <p><u>Singular and plural</u> Singular means that there is only 1 object. <i>cat, flower, box, wolf, party</i> etc.</p>

	<p>Plural means that there is more than 1 object. <i>cats, flowers, boxes, wolves, parties etc.</i></p> <p>To make a noun plural, you usually just add –s to the end of the word: <i>cat → cats</i> <i>flower → flowers</i></p> <p>However, there are various exceptions to this rule and specific spelling rules to follow.</p> <p><u>Abstract noun</u> An abstract noun is something that cannot be physically seen or touched. <i>beauty, truth, honesty, justice etc.</i></p> <p><u>Collective noun</u> A collective noun is a singular name for a group of many objects. Therefore, if there is verb to agree with the collective noun, it should be singular. <i>team, group, herd, flock, pack, range, class etc.</i> <i>The pack of wolves lived at the bottom of the mountain.</i> <i>The football team is very strong this year.</i></p> <p><u>Common noun</u> The most common form of noun. A name which identifies an object. <i>dog, table, boy, tomato, hand, car etc.</i></p> <p><u>Proper noun</u> A proper noun names a specific noun and so must have a capital letter. <i>London, Robert, Janet, Mexico, October, Tuesday, the London Eye, the West Quay Shopping Centre etc.</i></p>
noun phrase	See 'phrase'.
object	<p>The object of a sentence is the less important noun in the sentence. The verb in the sentence does not explain what the object is doing. <i>The young girl was running along the street.</i> <i>The verb in the sentence above explains what the young girl was doing. The young girl is the subject of the sentence.</i></p> <p>See also 'subject'.</p>
passive voice	<p>The passive voice is used when the lesser noun of a sentence (object) starts the sentence. <i>The book was read by Sue.</i> <i>In this example Sue is the subject of the sentence because the verb (read) explains what she was doing. The book is the object or the lesser noun of the sentence.</i></p> <p>See also 'active voice', 'subject' and 'object'.</p>
past tense	See 'verb'.
phrase	<p>A phrase is a group of words which form part of a sentence. A phrase does not contain a verb and so cannot be a sentence on its own. <i>the small fluffy dog with the big paw, along the colourful lane etc.</i> <i>Jasminder was worried about the small fluffy dog with the big paw as it whined every time it took a step.</i></p> <p><u>Noun phrase</u> A noun phrase is group of words in a sentence which contain at least 1 noun. The noun phrase acts like a noun in the sentence. <i>The boy in the blue jeans</i> said he would meet the challenge.</p>

	<i>He bought her a beautiful red dress.</i>
plural	See 'noun'.
prefix	A prefix is a group of letters which join on the start of a word to change its meaning. <i>dis, re, un, mis, inter, ex, in etc.</i> <i>disrespect, recycle, undo, misunderstood, international, exterior, incorrect etc.</i>
preposition	A preposition is a word which shows the relationship between one thing and another. It often describes the position of nouns in a sentence. It links nouns, pronouns and phrases to other words in the sentence. <i>with, at, in, over, under, beside etc.</i> <i>The family ate their picnic under the tree.</i>
present tense	See 'verb'.
pronoun	A pronoun stands in place of a noun. <i>he, she, it, I, you, his, him, her, they, them etc.</i> <i>She loved reading books.</i>
proper noun	See 'noun'.
question	A question is a sentence type which asks a question. It should end with a question mark. <i>Can I stay out late on Saturday night?</i> <i>How are you feeling?</i>
question mark	A question mark is a form of punctuation used at the end of a sentence to indicate that the sentence was a question. <i>Are you going swimming on Thursday?</i>
regular verb	See 'verb'.
reported speech	See 'indirect speech'.
relative clause	See 'clause'.
semi-colon	A semi-colon is a form of punctuation which is stronger than a comma but not as strong as a full stop. It can be used when the items in a list are long phrases. <i>At the circus we saw a clown juggling with swords and daggers; a lion who stood on a ball; a fire eater with flashing eyes; and an eight year old acrobat.</i> It can also be used in place of a connective to link two sentences together. The two sentences should have the same theme. <i>Alex bought a toy car; he played with it as soon as he got home.</i> See also 'connective'.
simple sentence	A simple sentence contains only 1 clause. <i>The dog was barking.</i> See also 'clause'.
singular	See 'noun'.
statement	A statement is a sentence type which states a fact. Most sentences are statements. <i>The theatre opens at 7pm.</i> <i>Fatima went to see her friends.</i>
subject	The subject of a sentence is the main noun in the sentence. The verb in the sentence explains what the subject is doing. <i>The man ate a triple decker burger.</i> <i>The verb in this sentence (ate) explains what the man was doing. The triple decker burger is the lesser noun in this sentence as the verb does not explain</i>

	<p><i>what it was doing. Therefore the triple decker burger is the object of the sentence.</i></p> <p>See also 'object'.</p>
subjunctive form	<p>The subjunctive form or subjunctive mood is used to show that events aren't true. It can be used to express wishes. It is used rarely in the English language. The subjunctive form is usually made by using 'were'.</p> <p><i>If Tom were a millionaire, he would travel the world.</i></p> <p><i>In this example the verb 'were' has been used rather than 'was' to indicate that Tom is not a millionaire. This is the subjunctive form.</i></p>
subordinate clause	See 'clause'.
suffix	<p>A suffix is a group of letters which join on the end of a word to change its meaning.</p> <p><i>-ible, -able, -ment, -ship, -less, -like etc.</i></p> <p><i>flexible, preventable, entertainment, friendship, homeless, lifelike etc.</i></p>
superlative adjective	See 'adjective'.
synonym	<p>A synonym is a word that means exactly or nearly the same as another word. e.g. <i>pretty, beautiful, lovely, handsome, attractive etc are synonyms.</i></p>
verb	<p>Verbs tell you what is happening in a sentence.</p> <p><i>The children skipped along the road.</i></p> <p>Verbs have tense: past, present, future</p> <p><u>Verb tenses:</u></p> <p>Past tense shows that the action in a sentence happened in the past.</p> <p><i>The children played in the playground.</i></p> <p><i>The children were playing in the playground.</i></p> <p>Present tense shows that the action in a sentence is happening now.</p> <p><i>The children play in the playground.</i></p> <p><i>The children are playing in the playground.</i></p> <p>Future tense shows that the action in a sentence will happen in the future.</p> <p><i>The children will play in the playground.</i></p> <p><u>Regular or irregular:</u></p> <p>If a verb is regular, its past tense ends in -ed.</p> <p><i>barked, wanted, talked, answered etc.</i></p> <p>Verbs that don't follow a pattern are irregular.</p> <p><i>make – made, catch – caught, see – saw/ seen (I saw/ I have seen)</i></p> <p><u>Modal verbs:</u></p> <p>Modal verbs are used to show whether something is certain, probable or possible (or not).</p> <p><i>can, may, shall, will, could, might, should, would.</i></p> <p><i>It might rain tomorrow.</i></p> <p><i>I should go shopping.</i></p>