

Grammar Vocabulary (EnglishClub.com/search)

This is a short list of grammar terms and definitions. We have a [longer list of grammar terms here](#).

active voice

In the active voice, the subject of the verb does the action (e.g. *They killed the President*). See also Passive Voice.

adjective

A word like *big, red, easy, French* etc. An adjective describes a noun or pronoun.

adverb

A word like *slowly, quietly, well, often* etc. An adverb modifies a verb.

article

The "indefinite" articles are *a* and *an*. The "definite article" is *the*.

auxiliary verb

A verb that is used with a main verb. *Be, do* and *have* are auxiliary verbs. *Can, may, must* etc are modal auxiliary verbs.

clause

A group of words containing a subject and its verb (for example: It was late *when he arrived*).

conjunction

A word used to connect words, phrases and clauses (for example: *and, but, if*).

infinitive

The basic form of a verb as in *to work* or *work*.

interjection

An exclamation inserted into an utterance without grammatical connection (for example: *oh!, ah!, ouch!, well!*).

modal verb

An auxiliary verb like *can, may, must* etc that modifies the main verb and expresses possibility, probability etc. It is also called "modal auxiliary verb".

noun

A word like *table, dog, teacher, America* etc. A noun is the name of an object, concept, person or place. A "concrete noun" is something you can see or touch like a *person* or *car*. An "abstract noun" is something that you cannot see or touch like a *decision* or *happiness*. A

"countable noun" is something that you can count (for example: *bottle, song, dollar*). An "uncountable noun" is something that you cannot count (for example: *water, music, money*).

object

In the active voice, a noun or its equivalent that receives the action of the verb. In the passive voice, a noun or its equivalent that does the action of the verb.

participle

The *-ing* and *-ed* forms of verbs. The *-ing* form is called the "present participle". The *-ed* form is called the "past participle" (for irregular verbs, this is column 3).

part of speech

One of the eight classes of word in English - noun, verb, adjective, adverb, pronoun, preposition, conjunction and interjection.

passive voice

In the passive voice, the subject receives the action of the verb (e.g. *The President was killed*). See also Active Voice.

phrase

A group of words not containing a subject and its verb (e.g. *on the table, the girl in a red dress*)

predicate

Each sentence contains (or implies) two parts: a subject and a predicate. The predicate is what is said about the subject.

preposition

A word like *at, to, in, over* etc. Prepositions usually come before a noun and give information about things like time, place and direction.

pronoun

A word like *I, me, you, he, him, it* etc. A pronoun replaces a noun.

sentence

A group of words that express a thought. A sentence conveys a statement, question, exclamation or command. A sentence contains or implies a subject and a predicate. In simple terms, a sentence must contain a verb and (usually) a subject. A sentence starts with a capital letter and ends with a full stop (.), question mark (?) or exclamation mark (!).

subject

Every sentence contains (or implies) two parts: a subject and a predicate. The subject is the main noun (or equivalent) in a sentence about which something is said.

tense

The form of a verb that shows us when the action or state happens (past, present or future).

Note that the name of a tense is not always a guide to when the action happens. The "present continuous tense", for example, can be used to talk about the present or the future.

verb

A word like *(to) work*, *(to) love*, *(to) begin*. A verb describes an action or state.