



Nouns

Nouns are among the first lessons when studying a new language. In other words, we have to be able to name things first, then make sentences with them.

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What Are Nouns?

Nouns are the words used to name people, things, places, ideas, or concepts. They are the largest class of words in most languages, including English.

A noun is a word that refers to:

- A Person: Adam, doctor, sister, student
- A Place: home, New York, office, village
- An Object: chair, stair, hammer
- An Animal: snake, mouse, fish, bear
- An Idea: confusion, kindness, joy
- A Quality: softness, darkness, roughness
- An Action: cooking, playing, swimming

Types of Nouns

Nouns can be categorized into different groups based on various criteria. Each group has unique *functions* and *specific characteristics*.

1. Based on Uniqueness or Commonality
2. Based on Physicality or Abstractness
3. Based on Countability
4. Based on Word-Formation Processes
5. Based on Gender
6. Based on Grammatical Functions

Based on Uniqueness or Commonality

Based on whether they refer to a *specific entity* or not, nouns can be categorized into two groups:

1. Common Nouns

2. Proper Nouns

Common nouns refer to a non-specific noun, while proper nouns refer to specific nouns. Common nouns are not capitalized unless they come at the beginning of a sentence. Proper nouns should **always** be capitalized. Take a look at the following examples:

They gave Alan his own show.

* 'Adam' is a proper noun therefore is capitalized even at the middle of the sentence.

The room was full of guests.

* The noun 'room' is a common noun and is not capitalized.

Based on Physicality or Abstractness

Nouns can be categorized into two groups based on whether they are *tangible* or *visible* or not:

1. Abstract Nouns

2. Concrete Nouns

Abstract nouns refer to *intangible* entities such as concepts, ideas, or emotions. They cannot be experienced through the five senses and include words like 'love,' 'honesty,' and 'bravery.' Concrete nouns, on the other hand, refer to *tangible* entities that can be identified through the senses, such as 'telephone,' 'noise,' and 'car. Pay attention to the examples:

The bed was covered with flowers.

Everyone is not lucky enough to find love in real life.

Based on Countability

Singular or Plural Nouns

Nouns can be categorized into two groups based on their *quantity* or *number*:

1. Singular Nouns

2. Plural Nouns

Singular nouns refer to a **single entity**, while plural nouns refer to **multiple entities**. Singular nouns are preceded by the articles 'a' or 'an', while plural nouns are indicated by the addition of the letters 's' or 'es' at the end of the word. For example, 'bag' and 'apple' are singular nouns, while 'buses,' 'books,' and 'families' are plural nouns. Take a look at the examples:

It is worth a try.

The **students** in the class were all wearing different colored **shirts**.

Collective Nouns

A 'collective Noun' refers to a *group* of individuals or things regarded as a single entity, such as 'team' or 'group. For example:

The audience was taking notes of everything.

* 'Audience' are a collection of people that listen and watch a performance.

My **family** lives in Tokyo.

Countable and Uncountable Nouns

Nouns can be categorized into two groups based on whether they can be *counted* or not:

1. Countable Nouns
2. Uncountable Nouns

Countable nouns have plural forms and can be *quantified* with a number, such as 'one chair' or 'three chairs.' **Uncountable nouns**, on the other hand, cannot be *pluralized* or *quantified* with a number, such as 'water,' 'sugar,' and 'wood.' Here are some examples for clarity:

The cat was drinking its **milk from the bowl.**

* 'Milk' is an uncountable noun.

There were millions of **worms under the ground.**

* 'Worms' are countable nouns.



The cat was drinking its **milk from the bowl.**

Plural-only Nouns

Some nouns are only used in the **plural form** and cannot be counted or quantified with numbers.

Wear your glasses there is a hot sun outside.

* 'Eyeglasses' or 'glasses' are always used in plural form.

Your son looks cute in those shorts.

Based on Word-Formation Processes

Compound Nouns

'Compound Nouns' are made up of **two or more** words. There are three types of compound nouns in English:

- The closed form (which are written as one word): basketball, wallpaper, grandmother
- The open form (which are spelled as two separate words): ice cream, field hockey, distance learning
- The hyphenated form (two or more words are joined by a hyphen): long-term, mother-in-law, check-in

They have put a wooden drawer in their bedrooms.

John must be her son-in-low.

Derivation

Derivation is the process of creating new words with a different word class by adding affixes, prefixes, or suffixes. In English, some nouns are formed by adding these elements to other words.

For example, by adding '-er/-or/-ar', '-ion/-tion', '-ment', '-ness', etc. to some verbs we can have different nouns. Pay attention to the following examples:

He is a famous actor.

* Here by adding 'or' to the verb act we made the noun actor.

Children often have a very active imagination, which can lead to playfulness.

Based on Gender

A 'gender-specific noun' refers specifically to either males or females. In some languages, nouns are classified into three genders:

1. *Masculine nouns*

2. *Feminine nouns*

3. Neutral nouns

Most nouns in English are considered gender-neutral. However, if a noun refers to something that is clearly *male* or *female*, its gender will be determined by its meaning and classified as masculine or feminine.

For example Rooster (Gender-specific masculine), hen (Gender-specific feminine), and chicken (neutral). Have a look:

Her husband works at a hospital.

* 'Husband' is a masculine noun.

The queen has a diamond ring that is missing at the moment.

Based on Grammatical Functions

Verbal Nouns

'Verbal Nouns' or gerunds, are words *derived* from **verbs** that *function* as **nouns**. In English, all gerunds end in the suffix '**-ing**'. Examples include 'playing,' 'singing,' and 'drawing'. Take a look at the examples below:

Swimming is the hardest thing I have ever learned.

I was busy **reading** your essays.

Appositive Nouns

'Appositive noun' (also called attributive noun adjunct, qualifying noun, noun modifier), is a **noun** that immediately follows and modifies another **noun**. The *first* noun serves as a modifier for the *second* noun, but can be omitted without changing the meaning of the sentence.

His present, the golden watch, has been sent to Emily two days ago.

Tonight's dinner, chicken soup, was really disgusting.

The Function of Nouns

Nouns are categorized into three main groups based on their functions:

- As a subject
- As an object (*direct, indirect, retained, object of prepositions*)
- As a subject and object complement

Nouns as Subjects

Nouns can serve as the **subject** of a sentence, indicating that the sentence is either *about* the noun or that the noun is *performing* the action of the verb. In affirmative sentences, the subject typically appears at the *beginning* of the sentence.

Claudia is a Russian dentist that lives in Italy.

The organization is considered one of the best ones in this area.

Nouns as Objects

As 'objects,' nouns can be direct object, indirect object, retained objects, and the objects of the prepositions. Let us explain them one by one to avoid any confusion.

Direct Object & Indirect Object

The '**direct object**' of a verb is a noun or a noun phrase that receives the action of a transitive verb.

An **indirect object** is a noun or pronoun in a sentence that identifies *to* or *for* whom or what the action of the verb is performed. The indirect object usually comes between the verb and the direct object (if there is one). Take a look at the examples below:

Can you please pass me the keys?

* Here, 'the keys' is the direct object, and 'me' is the indirect object for whom the action is performed.

I made my sister a cup of tea.

Object of Preposition

The '**object of a preposition**' is a noun or a noun phrase that is used *after* a preposition as an object. Have a look:

Take a look! Maybe it is on the counter.

Put the books in the small closet.

Retained Object

A **retained object** is a noun or noun phrase used as the *direct* or *indirect* object in a passive sentence, where the verb is in the passive voice. Look at these examples:

She was given the key to their beach house.

They were invited to the party.

Nouns as Subject or Object Complements

A **subject complement** is a noun or noun phrase used in a sentence to *rename* or *define* the subject. It's important to note that subject complements can also be adjectives.

An **object complement**, on the other hand, provides more information about the object of a sentence. For example:

That girl standing over there is Hanna.

I found him reading books.

* Here, 'him' is the object and 'reading' is the object complement.

Flexibility of Words!

Remember, some words can function as multiple parts of speech, such as being both a noun and a verb. For example, 'run', 'cook', 'travel', etc.

Uses

Noun Phrase

In English, a noun is often accompanied by a *modifier* or *article* ('a/an' or 'the'), forming what is called a **noun phrase**. A noun phrase is a word or group of words that functions as a noun and can serve as a *subject*, *object*, *complement*, or *object of a preposition* in a sentence. Take a look at the following example:

They were in the campus of the university.

She called the driver of the car.

Noun Clause

A 'noun clause' is a group of words that functions as a noun. Unlike a noun phrase, a noun clause contains both a *subject* and a *verb*. Noun clauses are always **dependent** clauses and do not form a complete sentence on their own. Have a look:

He can invite whomever he wants.

Whether he invites Jack or not is his business.

Positions of Nouns

Most often, nouns follow a determiner or an adjective. While it is not always the case, usually there is a determiner or an adjective *before* the noun. Here are some examples :

She has a nice car.

I love the beautiful girl.

Review

Nouns are categorized into different groups based on different criteria. Here are the most important categories of nouns.

- *countable and uncountable nouns*
- *abstract and concrete nouns*
- *singular and plural nouns*
- *common and proper nouns*

Nouns can be used as:

- *subjects*
- *objects*
- *subject or object complements*

Comments (0)

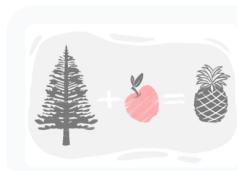
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Compound Nouns

Compound nouns are formed when two or more words are joined together to create a new word that has an entirely new meaning.





Pronouns

Repeating nouns while talking makes the conversation boring. This is why learning pronouns can be helpful. Let us learn more about this type of words.

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What Are Pronouns?

In the broadest terms, **pronouns** are words that replace or refer to nouns or noun phrases.

However, sometimes a pronoun does not refer to anything specific or anything at all!

As you know, a sentence can have a subject or an object and they are all nouns. Sometimes repeating the nouns can make the conversation boring and repetitive.

Even in some cases, repeating nouns makes a long complicated speech which confuses the listener. **Pronouns** are words that are used instead of the antecedents to avoid repetitions.

What Are Antecedents?

'Antecedents' are words that are replaced by **pronouns** to avoid repeating them and they are all '**nouns**' or '**noun phrases**.' Mostly, first, we have to mention the antecedent and then decide which pronoun to use instead of it.

Yesterday I saw John while he was trying to escape from the police.

* Here in this example, 'John' is the antecedent which is replaced by the pronoun 'he' in the following statement.

Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

Pronouns must agree on the *number*, *gender*, *person*, and the *case* of the antecedents. So, if the antecedents are *plural*, the **pronouns** should be *plural* and if they are *singular*, the **pronouns** have to be *singular*.

We live in a beautiful house, we like our house.

Similarities and Differences Between Pronouns and Nouns

Sometimes, nouns and pronouns follow the same rules, while other times they do not. For example, determiners can be added to modify nouns, but they cannot appear before pronouns. Refer to the table for more information on their similarities and differences.

Pronouns	Example	Nouns	Example
determiners + pronoun X	A his X	determiners + noun ✓	A man ✓
pronoun + pronoun X	his her X	pronoun + noun X	his car ✓
noun + pronoun X	car his X	noun + noun ✓	school bus ✓

Nouns and pronouns are similar when it comes to using prepositions and verbs. Both can be used with prepositions. They can also be followed by verbs to show actions. Now refer to the table for more information

Pronouns	Example	Nouns	Example
preposition + pronoun✓	For her✓	preposition + noun✓	In the park✓
pronoun + verb✓	They dance.✓	noun + verb✓	Children play.✓
verb + pronoun✓	Sing me a song.✓	verb + noun✓	Sing a song.✓

Pronouns: Types

In general, there are two types of pronouns in English:

1. Personal pronouns
2. Impersonal pronouns

Personal Pronouns

Personal pronouns have grammatical features like **person**, **number**, and, in some cases, **gender**. They refer to specific people or things and are used to substitute for nouns in sentences. There are four types of personal pronouns as listed below:

- Subject pronouns
- Object pronouns
- Reflexive pronouns
- Possessive pronouns

Grammatical Features of Personal Pronouns

In terms of personal pronouns, there are some important characteristics that you should know. So take a look at the list below:

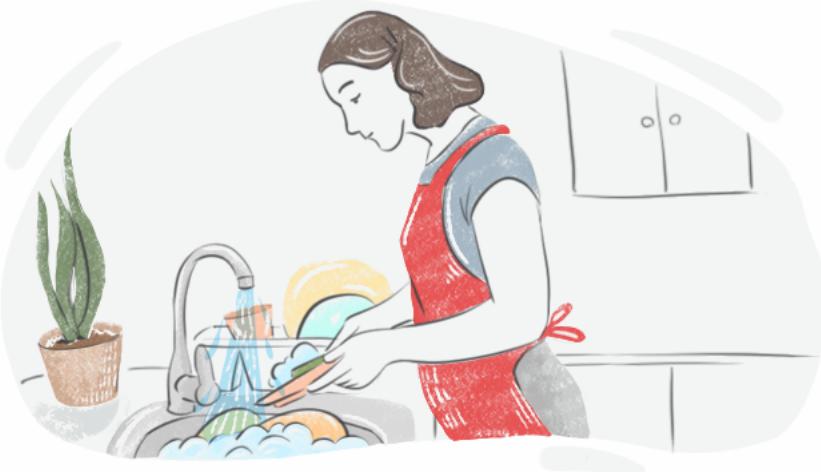
1. **Case:** The 'case' of a **pronoun** indicates whether it is functioning as the **subject** or **object** of a sentence. For example:

They did their best to establish a new company.

* As you can see, 'they' functions as the subject here.

I told him not to call again.

* As you can see, 'him' functions as the object here.



I was doing the dishes.

Using 'I' as the Subject Pronoun

- **Gender:** pronouns can also be categorized by gender, which traditionally refers to 'female', 'male', and 'neutral'. However, it is important to note that some people may not identify as either. For example:

He was a nice police officer loved by many people.

* Here, 'he' refers to anyone who identifies as 'male'.

It is only two-months old.

* As you can see, 'it' is a neutral pronoun here.

Tip!

It is important to remember that *gender-neutral pronouns* are available in all types of **pronouns**, including *personal pronouns* (subject case), *object pronouns*, and *possessive pronouns*. This includes *singular gender-neutral pronouns* that can be used to refer to individuals who do not identify as male or female.

- **Number:** The 'number' of a pronoun indicates whether it is singular or plural, depending on the number of 'people' or 'things' it refers to. As you know, **nouns** can be either singular or plural, and it is important that pronouns **agree** with their **antecedents** in **number**. For example:

The old farmer has ten hens and they lay 50 eggs per day.

* Here in this example, as the antecedent is plural (hens) the pronoun that is referring to it (they) is plural as well.

Although they had the best car ever, they sold it to buy a new house.

- **Person:** Pronouns can be categorized by their 'person,' which refers to 'who is speaking' (first-person), 'who is being spoken to' (second-person), or 'who is being spoken about' (third-person). For example:

Pam and I were talking about the leaves of the trees that suddenly **we** saw a bear by the side of the river.

They both studied art at university. No surprise that **they** are opening their own art gallery.

Pronouns Agree with the Verbs

When we say two things agree with each other, it means that they *follow the same rules*. You must know, **pronouns** agree with the '**verbs**.' For example, if the **verb** is *third-person singular*, the **pronoun** must be in the *third-person singular form*.

She drinks a lot, and it is not good for her child to see her like this.

Everybody knows her.

Exception: Plural Pronouns with Singular Meanings

When we are not sure about a person's gender, or when they identify as neither male nor female, we are supposed to use the *singular gender-neutral pronoun 'they'* to refer to them. In this case, it's important to remember that the verb used with '**they**' should be in the *third-person plural form*, even though it is referring to only 'one person.'

Each student had a gift delivered to **them**.

We have found a credit card, the person who owns it must come to get it, **themselves**.

Impersonal Pronouns

Impersonal pronouns unlike personal pronouns do not have any **grammatical person**. There are six types of these pronouns which are as follows:

- Demonstrative pronouns: Demonstrative pronouns, such as '**this**,' '**that**,' '**these**,' and '**those**,' point to specific objects or groups of objects in a sentence, indicating which ones are being referred to. For example:

This is the book I was talking about.

These are the shoes I want to buy.

- Interrogative Pronouns: Interrogative pronouns, like 'who,' 'whom,' 'whose,' 'what,' and 'which,' are used to ask questions and gather information about people or things. For example:

Who is coming to the party tonight?

What did you see?

- Indefinite Pronouns: Indefinite pronouns, including words like 'everyone,' 'someone,' 'anything,' and 'nothing,' refer to unspecified or unidentified individuals, quantities, or things. For example:

Somebody left their umbrella here.

Nothing can stop us now.

- Reciprocal Pronouns: Reciprocal pronouns, such as 'each other' and 'one another,' are used to show that two or more people or things are performing an action on each other. For example:

They hugged **each other** after the game.

The teams compete against **one another** fiercely.

- Impersonal Pronouns: Impersonal pronouns, like 'one,' 'you,' and 'they,' are used to create a sense of generality or neutrality in statements or commands, often without specifying a particular person or thing. For example:

They say it's going to be a hot summer.

One should always strive for excellence.

- Relative Pronouns: Relative pronouns, including 'who,' 'whom,' 'whose,' 'which,' and 'that,' introduce relative clauses and connect them to the main clause, providing additional information about a noun in the sentence. For example:

The person **who** won the race is my friend.

The book **that** I'm reading is really interesting.

Dummy Pronouns

In this article, we have mentioned that **pronouns** should refer to something. But here is the thing, it is not always like this. **Dummy pronouns** are those **pronouns** that do not refer to anything. In other words, dummy pronouns do not have antecedents as other **pronouns** do. They are words that *act* like **pronouns**, but do not replace a noun or noun phrase.

There are two dummy pronouns in English.

1. It

2. There

Dummy pronouns 'it' and 'there' are used on many occasions and they complete the meaning of the sentences. But remember, usually, the dummy pronoun 'there' refers to the **existence** of something. Check out the examples for more clarification:

It is 01:00 am and you are still awake.

* Here the dummy pronoun 'it' refers to the time.

There are fifty-two apples in the basket I have counted them earlier.

Review

Pronouns are the substitutes for nouns. As a result, they can be used instead of nouns to avoid unnecessary repetition.

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Personal Pronouns

A personal pronoun is a word that substitutes a name to avoid repetition. Personal pronouns show us the grammatical person and gender of the name they refer to.





Verbs

Verbs are one of the most necessary elements to make a sentence. In fact, without a verb, we cannot have a meaningful sentence.

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What Are Verbs?

Verbs are essential components of a sentence. With the exception of imperative sentences, which can consist of a single verb, a complete sentence requires more than just a verb. A verb serves as the primary element of a predicate.

Actually, verbs express states of being, actions, or occurrences. The simplest way to define verbs is to say they indicate what the subject is doing.

Types of Verbs

Verbs are categorized into different groups based on their specific characteristics. Here are different groups of them:

Based on Regularity

Based on regularity, verbs are categorized into **two** groups:

- Regular Verbs
- Irregular Verbs

Regular and Irregular Verbs

As their names suggest, '**regular verbs**' follow specific rules, whereas '**irregular verbs**' do not follow any particular pattern and are best memorized individually. However, it is important to note that '**regular verbs**' do follow a consistent pattern.

Regular Verbs	Irregular Verbs
walk	be
cook	come
talk	do
look	get
laugh	give

Based on Transitivity

Based on transitivity, verbs can be categorized into seven groups:

- [Mono-transitive verbs](#)
- [Di-transitive verbs](#)
- [Complex transitive verbs](#)
- [Ergative verbs](#)
- [Cative verbs](#)
- [Linking verbs](#)
- [Intransitive verbs](#)

Mono-transitive Verbs

'Mono-transitive' verbs are those that require an [object](#) to convey a complete meaning.

He **loves** pizza for lunch.

We **told** everything to my mom.

Di-transitive Verbs

Ditransitive verbs are used when someone other than the subject receives something as a result of the verb's action. Check out the examples:

I sent him a letter.

They gave Mother the presents.

Complex Transitive Verbs

A complex transitive verb (also known as an **attributive ditransitive verb** or **resultative verb**) is a verb that needs both a [direct object](#) and an [object complement](#).

They called him Robinson Crusoe.

I will make her happy.

Ergative Verbs

Ergative verbs (also known as **lative verbs** or **ambi-transitive verbs**) are verbs that can be both transitive and intransitive.

I **rang** the bell.

The bell rang.

Catenative Verbs

Catenative verbs (also known as **chain verbs**) link with other verbs and form a chain of two or three or more verbs.

I'm coming to help wash the dishes.

He expects to complete the project in June.

Linking Verbs

Linking verbs (also called **copula** or **copular verbs**) do not show any specific actions. They just link the subject of a sentence and the subject complement.

Mike is handsome.

The child will become an adult.

Intransitive Verbs

'Intransitive verbs' are the ones that do not need an object to make a meaningful sentence. They have a complete meaning on their own.

I sneezed.

Rivers flow.



He loves pizza for lunch.

Using Verbs to Show the Action in a Sentence

Based on Contribution to Meaning

Based on contribution to meaning, verbs can be categorized into **four** groups:

- Main verbs
- Auxiliary verbs
- Modal Verbs
- Dummy verbs

Main Verbs and Auxiliary Verbs

'Auxiliary verbs' provide information that main verbs can not. They are sometimes referred to as *helping verbs* because they assist main verbs in completing their meaning or expressing different tenses or moods. 'Main verbs' (also known as **lexical verbs** or **principal verbs**) are responsible for showing the action or state of the subject, and they hold significant importance. They can stand alone or be used in conjunction with a helping verb to form meaningful statements.

I **have decided to study** law at university.

These **were** all one the list and you **did not do** that.

Modal Verbs

English 'modal verbs' are a subset of auxiliary verbs. They can indicate necessity, probability, requests, and more. So it is good to know them. Modal verbs include Can, could, shall, should, will, would, may, might, must. The point is that they are not used alone and they have to be followed by an infinitive without 'to'.

Do not get angry, but you **could have** fun with each other.

We **will start** dating again.

Dummy Verbs

'Dummy verbs' are verbs that have no special meanings, but they are used in sentences to have a grammatical function.

Jessica **took** a breath.

Carlos **is having** a drink with his best buddy.

Based on Meaning

Based on meaning, verbs can be categorized into **two** groups:

- Action verbs

- State verbs

Action Verbs

'Action verbs' are verbs that indicate an action, and sometimes they can refer to *movements* or *physical activities*. Check out the examples for more clarification:

We **ran** out of the hallway.

Alex **does** workouts everyday, he is really in shape.

State Verbs

'Stative' verbs often are used to indicate a state, not an action. It is important to know that, these verbs refer to **abstract** things. Take a look at some examples:

I have known him for about years.

I have been thinking about him since then.

Based on Formation

Based on formation, verbs can be categorized into **two** groups:

- Phrasal verbs
- Reflexive verbs

Phrasal Verbs

'Phrasal verbs' consist of a verb combined with one or more preposition or adverbs or both, creating a new meaning. Sometimes we can put an object between the verb and the preposition, or adverb. While other times they cannot be separated.

Put your cloth on, we are going out for dinner.

I told him to **take off** his shoes.

Reflexive Verbs

'Reflexive verbs' transfer the action of the verb back to the direct object and reflect it back to the subject, reflecting it onto the direct object.

I **cut** myself with a knife.

They **introduced** themselves to the villagers.

Review

Verbs are one of the most important participants of sentences. The statements have no meaning when they are used without verbs. There are different types of verbs in English as follows.

- action verbs, state verbs, transitive verbs, intransitive verbs,
- infinitive verbs, auxiliary verbs, main verbs, modals verbs, gerunds
- participles, finite and non-finite(infinite) verbs, phrasal verbs
- regular, irregular verbs, dummy verbs

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Regular and Irregular Verbs



Based on how we conjugate verbs in the past simple and the past participle, they can be divided into two types: Regular verbs and Irregular verbs.





Adjectives

Adjectives are words that are used to modify nouns. They offer more information about the noun after them.

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What Are Adjectives?

Adjectives are words that *describe or modify nouns or pronouns*. They provide additional information about the qualities, characteristics, or attributes of the noun or pronoun they are describing. Adjectives can be used to provide more detail about a person, place, thing, or idea.

Adjectives as Subject Complements

Adjectives do more than describe nouns. They can also act as a **subject complement** to describe or modify the subject of linking verbs. For example:

This is the **happiest dog** in the world. → adjective

The man was really **happy**, because she said "yes" to his proposal. → subject complement

She was **breathtaking** in that **gorgeous dress**.

* Here, 'breathtaking' is a subject complement, while 'gorgeous' modifies the noun 'dress'

Adjectives: Types

We can categorize adjectives based on different properties:

Based on Placement

Based on their position in a sentence, i.e. where they appear in a sentence, adjectives can be categorized into two main groups:

1. Attributive adjectives
2. Predicative adjectives

Based on Capitalization

Based on whether their first letter is capitalized or not, adjectives can be categorized as:

- Common adjectives

- [Proper adjectives](#)

Based on Gradeability

Gradeability in adjectives refers to their ability to express different **degrees or levels** of the quality they describe. Some adjectives are more gradeable than others, meaning that they can be used to express a wider range of degrees or levels of the quality they describe. With this regard, adjectives can be categorized as:

- [Gradable Adjectives](#)
- [Non-gradable Adjectives](#)

Based on Comparability

Comparability in adjectives refers to the ability of an adjective to be compared to another noun or pronoun in terms of the degree or level of the quality it describes. Based on comparability, adjectives can be categorized into **two** main groups:

- [Comparable Adjectives](#)
- [Non-comparable Adjectives](#)

Based on Formation

Formation in adjectives refers to the process of creating adjectives from other words, such as nouns, verbs, or other adjectives. Based on how they are formed, we can categorize adjectives into two types:

- [Simple Adjectives](#)
- [Compound Adjectives](#)



This is **the happiest** dog in the world.

using the superlative form of the adjective 'happy'

Based on Degree

Comparative degree is a feature of some adjectives, which allows for the comparison of two or more nouns or pronouns in terms of the *quality* described by the adjective. For example, a person may be 'nice,' but another person may be 'nicer,' and a third person may be the 'nicest' of the three. Based on this comparison, adjectives can be:

- Base Form of Adjectives
- Comparative Adjectives
- Superlative Adjectives

Based on Restrictiveness

Based on whether the adjectives are necessary to the whole meaning of the sentence or not, they can be categorized into two groups:

- Restrictive Adjectives
- Non-restrictive Adjectives

Adjective Placement

Adjectives can come before or after the noun they modify. Basically, in English, placement of adjectives can be classified into three categories:

1. Prepositive adjectives (also called attributive adjectives): appear before the noun
2. Postpositive adjectives: appear immediately after a noun or after a linking verb
3. Nominalized adjectives: function as nouns and appear alone

Nominal Adjectives

Nominal adjectives, also known as substantive adjectives, function similarly to nouns in that they can act as the **head** of a noun phrase. They are often used in contexts where a noun is *implied* but not explicitly stated, and can be easily understood from the context in which they are used. Check out the examples:

It has been set up to help the homeless.

The charity dedicated \$100 to the poor.

* In this example, by 'poor' we mean the 'poor people.'

Determiners vs. Adjectives

One key difference between 'determiners' and adjectives is that **determiners** can only be used before nouns, while **adjectives** can also be used after verbs.

I am supposed to submit an essay by 10:00 pm.

Moreover, the number of **determiners** used before a noun is limited to **one**, while there is no limit to the number of **adjectives** that can be used before a noun.

Additionally, **determiners** are essential to clarify the noun they precede, and cannot be omitted without changing the meaning of the sentence. In contrast, omitting adjectives may not substantially affect the sentence's meaning.

She had a small beautiful dog.

* 'She had a dog' ✓ But 'She had small beautiful dog' ✗

The following table summarizes the differences between determiners and adjectives.

determiner + determiner	✗	adjective + adjective	✓
determiner + adjective	✓	adjective + determiner	✗
determiner + noun	✓	adjective + noun	✓
noun + determiner	✗	noun + adjective	✗
verb + determiner	✗	verb + adjective	✓
can omit determiner	✗	can omit adjective	✓

What Is an Adjective Phrase?

An adjective phrase is a group of words that functions as an adjective and modifies a noun or pronoun in a sentence.

The smell of the hot delicious cake makes me hungry.

A very big game is on Sunday.

What is an Adjective Clause?

The term 'adjective clause' is often used interchangeably with 'relative clause', as they typically consist of a relative pronoun followed by a clause that modifies a noun. These clauses provide additional information that helps to define or identify the noun they modify. Here are some examples of adjective clauses:

The man who was standing over there, made the girl cry.

The door which was opened by the teacher, was brown and yellow.

Agreement

In some languages, such as French, adjectives change their form to reflect the *gender, case, and number* of the noun they describe. This is called **agreement**. In English, adjectives never agree with the noun they modify.

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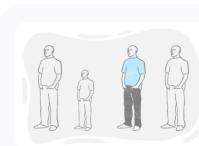
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Adjective Placement and Order



In this lesson, we will learn the place of adjectives in a sentence and where they appear. We will also learn about the order of different types of adjectives





Adverbs

Adverbs are words that can modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. So if you are not familiar with the concept of adverbs yet, read this.

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What Are Adverbs?

'Adverbs' are words that are used to modify 'adjectives', 'verbs', other 'adverbs', 'determiners', 'clauses', 'prepositions, or sentences'. They provide more information about the manner, place, time, degree, frequency, or reason of an action, state, or quality by answering questions like when?, where?, why?, how?, how much?, how long?, how often? in what way? and to what extent?

Types of Adverbs

The following are the main types of adverbs in English:

- [Adverbs of place](#)
- [Adverbs of time](#)
- [Adverbs of manner](#)
- [Adverbs of frequency](#)
- [Adverbs of degree](#)
- [Adverbs of probability](#)
- [Adverbs of movement and direction](#)
- [Demonstrative adverbs](#)
- [Relative adverbs](#)
- [Interrogative adverbs](#)
- [Conjunctive adverbs](#)
- [Viewpoint and commenting adverbs](#)
- [Intensifiers and mitigators](#)
- [Adverbial nouns](#)

Adverbs: Functions

As mentioned earlier, adverbs can modify 'adjectives', 'verbs', other 'adverbs', 'determiners', 'clauses', 'prepositions, or sentences'.

Modifying Verbs

The **main function** of adverbs is to modify verbs or verb phrases. Adverbs are used to give us more information about the *manner*, *place*, *time*, *frequency*, *certainty*, etc.

Take a look at some examples:

She danced **beautifully.**

* Here, 'beautifully' modifies the verb 'danced,' indicating the **manner** of dancing.

I left my wallet **there.**

* 'There' modifies the verb phrase 'left my wallet,' indicating **place**.

My uncle is going to London **tomorrow.**

* Here, 'tomorrow' modifies the verb phrase 'is going to,' indicating **time**.

She **often works on the weekend.**

* 'Often' modifies the verb 'works,' indicating **frequency**.

She has **probably gone home.**

* 'Probably' modifies the verb phrase 'has gone,' indicating **probability**.

Modifying Adjectives and Adverbs

We can also use adverbs to modify adjectives and other adverbs, often to indicate **degree**. For examples:

The turtle moves **very slowly.**

* The adverb 'very' modifies another adverb 'slowly.'

This cake is **absolutely delicious.**

* The adverb 'absolutely' modifies the adjective 'delicious.'

Modifying Determiners and Prepositional Phrases

Adverbs can also be used to modify determiners and prepositional phrases. Take a look at the following examples:

I've watched **practically all of his movies.**

* 'Practically' modifies the determiner 'all' in the noun phrase, 'all of his movies'.

He's **almost as old as I am.**

* 'Almost' modifies the prepositional phrase 'as old as.'

Modifying Sentences

We can also use adverbs to modify whole clauses or sentences. For example:

Undoubtedly, people have become more interested in social media.

* 'Undoubtedly' modifies the sentence as a whole.

Unfortunately, we couldn't finish the project on time.

* 'Unfortunately' modifies the sentence as a whole.

Adverbs as Subject Complements

Adverbs can sometimes be used as **predicative subject complements**. Mostly adverbs of **place** can be used in this way. For example:

Our seat is there.

Here is where the trouble starts.

* In this sentence, 'where the trouble starts' is the subject and 'here' is the predicate. The sentence has a subject-verb inversion.

Adverbs: Structures

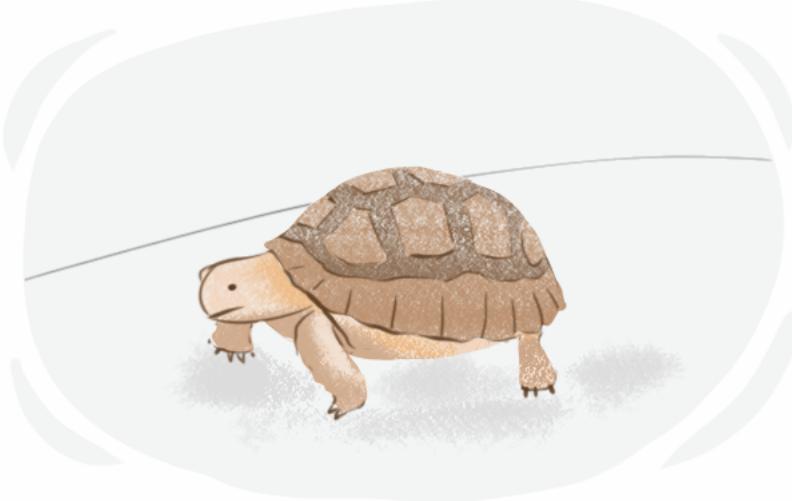
In English (as in many other languages), adverbs are formed in various ways. For example, adverbs of **manner** are formed by adding the suffix '**-ly**' to adjectives. For example:

quick → **quickly**

slow → **slowly**

Some words can be used as both adjectives and adverbs. These words are called **flat adverbs** (also called **bare adverbs** or **simple adverbs**). For example:

- fast
- hard
- straight



The turtle crawled **slowly over the street.**

using an adverb of manner in a sentence

Adverbs: Position in Sentence

Adverbs of **manner** are generally placed after the verb and its objects. However, other positions are possible too. Pay attention to the examples:

He drove **carefully.**

He **carefully drove.**

Many adverbs of **frequency**, **degree**, **certainty**, etc. tend to be placed before the verb. However, if there is an *auxiliary*, these adverbs are normally placed after it.

I **usually bake cookies.**

I can **usually manage to stay calm.**

Adverbs that show a *connection with the previous sentences*, and those that provide *the context for a sentence*, are normally placed at the beginning of the sentence.

Next, put the turkey in the oven for 45 minutes.

If the verb has an **object**, the adverb comes after the object. For example:

I read the book **quickly.**

Adverbs: Order

If you want to use *more than one 'adverb'* in a sentence, it is important to place them in the correct order. There is a set of rules to follow, called the **order of adverbs**. The adverbs are placed in the following order:

1. Adverbs of manner
2. Adverbs of place
3. Adverbs of frequency
4. Adverbs of time

Pay attention to the following examples:

I run **quickly** (manner) **down** the road (place) **every morning** (frequency) **before school** (time).

I study **carefully** (manner) at **school** (place), because I have to become an engineer.

Comparative and Superlative Adverbs

Like adjectives, **adverbs** can show *degrees of comparison*. But it's less common to use them in comparison.

- To make the **comparative** form of adverbs with two or more syllables, add '**more**' before the adverb.
- To make the **superlative** form of adverbs with two or more syllables, add '**most**' before the adverb.

She walked **more** quickly than the others.

She walked the **most** quickly of them all.

When an adverb has the *same form* as its corresponding adjective, the comparative and superlative forms of the adverb are **identical** to those of the adjective. Pay attention to the examples:

She speaks **faster** than Sara and I cannot understand anything.

* Here, fast is an adverb which has the same form as the adjective 'fast'.

Maria works **harder** than before so that she can buy a new car.

Tip!

Certain linking verbs tend to be followed by **adjectives** rather than adverbs, including 'smell', 'feel', 'appear', etc.

The food smells **good**. (Not 'The food smells **well**.)

Adverbial Phrases

'Adverbial phrases' are groups of words that act as **adverbs**. An adverb phrase may have an adverb as its head, along with any accompanying modifiers and complements. For example:

Handle the fragile vase **very carefully** while moving it.

As a former athlete, I know **all too well** the importance of staying hydrated during a game.

Sadly enough, many people are still not aware of the devastating effects of climate change on our planet.

Another common type of adverb phrase is the **prepositional phrase**, which consists of a preposition and **its object**. Pay attention to the examples:

I will talk to my father **in the morning**.

His car is parked **on the corner**.

Adverbial Clauses

Clauses must contain at least one subject and one verb to be considered grammatically complete. Consequently, **adverbial clauses** are composed of a subject and verb and *function as adverbs*, modifying the verb in the main clause.. Look at the examples.

The bosses signed the contracts **after they had talked about the subjects**.

He left **before the conversation ended**.

* As you can see, 'before the conversation ended' acts as an adverb and modifies the verb 'left'.

Review

Adverbs are used to modify adjectives, verbs, or other adverbs. There are different types of adverbs in English. Check out the list.

- *adverbs of manner*
- *adverbs of place*
- *adverbs of time*
- *adverbs of frequency*

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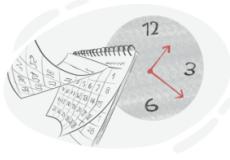


Adverb Placement and Order



We can put adverbs at the front, in the middle, or at the end of a clause. Each can have its own function. We'll also learn about the orders of adverbs.





Tenses

Tenses are a set of grammatical characteristics that are used in languages to show time. Here you will learn all how to use tenses in English language.

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What Do We Mean by Tense?

Tense refers to the form of a **verb** that indicates *when* an action takes place, whether in the past, present, or future. The tense of a verb helps to clarify the timeline of actions and events.

Different Tenses in English

There are three main tenses in English, as follows:

- present
- past
- future

Can One Tense Indicate More than One Time?

A particular tense can describe two different actions in two different periods of time. Therefore, it is important to understand the usage of each tense in order to use them correctly. Here are some examples to help illustrate this concept.

I **go** swimming tomorrow.

I **go** to school every day.

Combination of Aspects and Tenses

Every verb has two characteristics. One is **the tense** and the other is **the aspect**. A verb is not meaningful unless it has both aspect and tense together. **Tense** alone has no significance.

To better understand the relationship between **tense** and **aspect**, let us consider them together in a table.

	Present	Past	Future
Simple	<u>present simple</u>	<u>past simple</u>	<u>future simple</u>
Progressive	<u>present progressive</u>	<u>past progressive</u>	<u>future progressive</u>
Perfect	<u>present perfect</u>	<u>past perfect</u>	<u>future perfect</u>

Present	Past	Future	
Perfect Progressive	present perfect progressive	past perfect progressive	future perfect progressive

Let us learn them one by one.

Use of the Simple Present Tense

The 'simple present tense' (also known as 'the present simple tense'), is used to express *actions* that are happening repeatedly, or *how often* something happens. Another use is to describe actions that are happening in a chain of series. We can also use the present simple tense to describe actions in general.

It is really important to know that we can use 'the present tense' to describe the timetable in the *future*. Check out the examples.

Suddenly she calls me and tells me that the store is on fire.

The Jimmy Fallon show is at 11:34 pm.

Use of the Simple Past Tense

The 'simple past tense' (also known as 'the past simple tense') is used to describe actions that began and ended in the past without any connection to the present. Here are a few examples:

She got her license three years ago.

I slept well last night.

Use of the Future Simple

The 'simple future' (also known as 'the future simple') is used to talk about events that have not happened yet. The important point to keep in mind is that these structures are not technically considered tenses. That is why we do not call them 'tenses'. For example:

I will be there for you.

She is going to get married



I **go** to school every day.

using the present simple to talk about routines

Use of the Present Progressive Tense

The 'present progressive tense' (also known as the 'present continuous tense'), is used to describe an action that is occurring at the same time as the speaking or around it. In some cases, we can also use 'the present progressive' to express a fixed plan or date or to describe something that has already been decided. Check out the examples:

I **am quitting** smoking.

She **is trying** hard to loose weight.

Use of the Past Progressive Tense

We use the 'past progressive tense' (also known as the 'past continuous tense'), to talk about an unfinished action that started to happen in the past. In some cases, we can use the past progressive tense to indicate that an event happened in *the middle* of another incident.

She **was studying** English two years ago.

Alice and Sam **were talking** in the conference the whole time he was giving his speech.

Use of the Future Progressive Tense

The 'future progressive tense' is used to describe an action that will be in progress at a specific time in the future or to express an action that is expected to occur based on previous patterns or routines.

I **will be raising** my prize up, when you are fettering me.

He will be waiting for you from dust till dawn.

Use of the Present Perfect Tense

The 'present perfect tense' is used to express actions that started in the past but have continued up to the present time or at least have a connection to the present. These are a few examples that may help you:

They have been in China for three years.

We have been married for 37 years.

Use of the Past Perfect Tense

The 'past perfect tense' is used to describe an action that occurred before another action in the past or to serve as 'the past form' of 'the present perfect tense'. When describing a series of events in the past, the action that occurred earlier than another is expressed in 'the past perfect tense'. For example:

They had talked to the manager and he changed his mind.

She had been in Tokyo before leaving for London

Use of the Future Perfect Tense

The 'future perfect tense' is used to express an action that will already have happened before a certain time in the future. Here are a few examples that may help you understand the concept:

We will have arrived to Sydney by Monday.

I won't have been married by next year.

Use of the Present Perfect Progressive Tense

The 'present perfect progressive' tense is used to express that an action began in the past and has continued up to the present moment, with an emphasis on the *duration* of the action. This means that the action could still be ongoing at the present moment or may have just finished. Check out the examples:

I have been working on this essay for over five hours.

I have been acting on set for two days. I am really tired.

Use of the Past Perfect Progressive Tense

The 'past perfect progressive' tense is used to describe an action that was ongoing in the past and continued up until another point in time in the past. This tense emphasizes the *duration* of the action and its relationship to another event in the past. Check these examples out for more clarification.

We **had been painting** the house the last two days.

They **had been playing** hockey for years.

Use of the Future Perfect Progressive Tense

The 'future perfect progressive' tense is used to describe an ongoing action that will continue up until a certain point in the future, at which time it will be completed. This tense emphasizes the *duration* of the action up to a specific point in the future. For example:

She **will have been dancing** for three years, by then.

When I come back home from the military, Samuel **will have been studying** math for one year.

Review

There are three different tenses in English that are used in four different aspects. Here are the tenses and the aspects in English.

- *present simple, present progressive, present perfect, present perfect progressive*
- *past simple, past progressive, past perfect, past perfect progressive*
- *future simple, future progressive, future perfect, future perfect progressive*

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Present Simple

In this lesson, you will learn all the grammatical features of the Present simple tense in the English language and get familiar with its uses.

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Modals

Modal verbs are also known as modals and are used to give additional information about the main verb. Let us learn more about them.

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What Are 'Modals'?

'**Modals**' (also called **modal verbs** or **modal auxiliary verbs**) are special verbs that follow the main verb and modify its meaning and function in a sentence. Modals serve a wide variety of **communicative** functions, such as expressing probability, ability, obligation, willingness, and habits, as well as giving advice and permission.

Modal Verbs in English

The following is a list of **modal verbs** in English:

1. Can
2. Could
3. Shall
4. Should
5. Will
6. Would
7. May
8. Might
9. Must

It's important to note that modal verbs do not have a tense division like regular verbs. This means that some modal verbs can be used in **both** past and present forms.

General Rules of Modal Verbs

Conjugation

Modal verbs only have **one form**, which is the **base form** of the verb, and they do not change to indicate tense, aspect, or agreement with the subject. This means that modal verbs are not affected by the rules of adding -s, -ing, or -ed, which are used for conjugating main verbs in English. Pay attention to the examples:

Nikolai **must have been** here. (Not 'Nikolai **musted** be here.')

I **will swim** in this pool. (Not 'I **willing** swim in this pool.')

She **shall** ride at dawn. (Not 'She **shalls** ride at dawn.')



I **will** swim in this pool.

using the modal 'will' in a sentence

Can They Stand Alone?

Modal verbs do not function as the main verb of a sentence, and they require another verb to complete the meaning of a sentence. The rule for using modal verbs is to add the **base form** of the main verb after the modal verb to create a complete verb phrase. For example:

I **might** walk to my house, if it doesn't rain.

* Without the main verb the sentence doesn't make sense: 'I might to my house, if doesn't rain'.

I **can** drive trucks and it is fun.

She **would like** to drink a cup of coffee.

You **should wash** your hands every time you enter the house.

Negation

To create the **negative form** of a modal verb, you can simply add '**not**' after the modal verb.

Alina **cannot** get out of her room.

If I **were** you I **wouldn't** marry Damon.

You **must not** smoke here, look at the no-smoking sign!

Tip!

Sometimes contracting negative modal verbs leads to a change in the overall appearance of the verb. For example:

He won't travel to Italy.

* Here in this example, 'won't' is the contracted form of 'will not'.

The modal verb 'can', has two negative forms, one is **can not** and the other is **cannot** which is used as a single term in *formal* writings. However, the *only* correct contracted form is **can't**.

David can't pay the rent.

My sisters can not get along with each other.

Researchers must do more to ensure that human cells cannot be taken without consent.

However, the use of **shan't**, which is the contracted form of '*shall not*' is not common in informal and daily spoken English.

I shan't drink alcohol at all.

Forming Questions

When forming a question using a modal verb, the modal verb is placed at the beginning of the sentence.

In wh- questions, an interrogative word such as 'what', 'where', 'when', 'why', 'who', or 'how' is placed at the beginning of the sentence followed by the modal verb and the subject. Pay attention to the examples:

Should I accept his proposal?

May I go out?

When will you arrive to the station?

What would you do, if you were me?

Forming Tag Questions

Modal verbs can also appear in tag questions. Tag questions using modal verbs are formed without the main verb being expressed, such as "Can he?" or "Would they?"

In general, if the main sentence is affirmative, the modal in the tag question must be negative, and if the main sentence is negative, the tag question must be affirmative. Take a look at the examples:

He can speak Italian, can't he?

* Not 'He can speak Italian, **can** he?'

They wouldn't follow us, would they?

You cannot be more patient, can you?

I shouldn't call him, should I?

Punctuation in Tag Questions

There must be a **comma** before tag questions.

You won't ever leave me, will you?

Jake should start practicing for the big match, shouldn't he?

Are Modal Verbs Different from Auxiliary Verbs?

Modals are a **special kind of auxiliary verbs**. That is why they are also called **modal auxiliary verbs**.

	modal verbs	auxiliary verbs
can indicate <u>tense/voice</u>	x	✓
can be conjugated	x	✓
can be <u>inverted/negative</u>	✓	✓
can be used more than once	x	✓

For example:

It will have been made.

* 'Will' and 'have' are auxiliary verbs. So it is possible to have more than one auxiliary verb in a sentence.

When a sentence contains both auxiliary verbs and modal verbs, the **modal** is used for negation and interrogation. Look:

I will be walking there. → Will you be walking there?

She should not have done that.

Review

Modal verbs precede the main verb to give more information about the function of a verb. These verbs are used to express *probability, possibility, ability, obligation, advice, permission, prohibition, lack of necessity, habits* by using the following words as modal verbs:

- can
- could
- may
- might
- must
- will
- would
- shall
- should

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Can and Could

Talent shows are a big thing now in our pop culture. If you want to participate in them, you should know how to talk about your abilities. Learn about it here!





Determiners

Determiners are words that can define nouns. So, what are the differences between determiners and adjectives?

◀ ▶

What Are Determiners?

Determiners are a part of speech in English that are used to modify and specify a noun or noun phrase. They can indicate the number, quantity, possession, or definiteness of the noun.

Determiners: Types

There are different types of determiners in English:

1. pre-determiners
2. central determiners
3. post-determiners

What Are Pre-determiners?

Pre-determiners appear before other determiners in a noun phrase to provide additional information about the noun. They modify the meaning of other determiners. Pre-determiners in English include:

- multipliers
- fractions
- intensifiers
- distributives (both, all)

Multipliers

A number that is used to increase the amount, number, or quantity of something is called a **multiplier**. Check out the examples:

She eats twice the normal amount.

Fraction

Fractions are used to show a *smaller* part of a whole. Here are some examples.

I will give you **half** my salad.

Three-fourth the cup has to be filled with oil.

Intensifiers

Intensifiers are adverbs or adverbial phrases that are used to *amplify* or *emphasize* the degree or extent of a noun or an adjective. Take a look at these examples.

The first day of school was **such** terrible day that I rather not go there again.

What a mess you are!

Distributives

'Distributive determiners' refer to *specific individuals* within a group rather than the group as a whole. They can refer to each individual separately. However, only a few distributives can be used as pre-determiners. Here are distributive pre-determiners:

1. both
2. all

Take a look at some examples:

Both my friends are in love with Hanna.

I gave **all** his money back.

Central Determiners

Central determiners are used in the middle position to modify the head noun. They can be used in combination with a pre-determiner before or a post-determiner after them to further modify the noun. Here are the central determiners of English:

- articles
- possessive determiners
- demonstrative determiners
- interrogative determiners

Articles

Articles are used to specify a noun as either definite or indefinite. Definite articles refer to a specific noun, while indefinite articles refer to a general noun that is not specific. Using a definite article before a noun helps to identify which noun is being referred to, while using an

indefinite article indicates a more general reference. English articles are as follows:

1. **A** (indefinite article)
2. **An** (indefinite article used with nouns that start with a vowel)
3. **The** (definite article)

Take a look at some examples:

I heard a noise.

He is an actor

The teacher started to walk in the class.

Demonstrative Determiners

'Demonstrative determiners' are used to indicate or point to *specific things or objects*. They are only used before **nouns** to modify or specify it. Here are the demonstrative determiners of English:

1. This
2. That
3. These
4. Those

Take a look at some examples:

Those butterflies are flying around the flowers.

That girl standing over there, is the one who won the prize.

Possessive Determiners



**Those butterflies are flying around
the flowers.**

using determiners in a sentence

'Possessive determiners' indicate the possession of objects. In other words, they are used to say to whom something belongs. As their name requires possessive determiners show who possesses something. Here are the possessive determiners:

1. My
2. Your
3. His
4. Her
5. Its
6. Our
7. Their

Take a look at some examples:

Those are **my pants** honey, put them on the bed, please.

The cooks set **their tables** for the match on **their own**.

Interrogative Determiners

'Interrogative Determiners' are used to ask a question. These are Interrogative determiners of the English language:

1. whose
2. what
3. which

Take a look at some examples:

Whose car is this?

What color is your car?

Warning

Interrogative determiners are used alone with no **post-determiners** following them or any **pre-determiners** preceding them.

Post-determiners

Post-determiners are placed after *central determiners*. Here are the post-determiners on the list.

- numerals
- quantifiers
- distributives

Numerals

Numerals can be *ordinal*, or *cardinal numbers*. Sequencers are kinds of numbers as well. They are all used as numerals.

1. ordinal numbers
2. cardinal numbers
3. sequencers

Take a look at some examples:

I need to buy six oranges for the recipe.

* A cardinal number

The first time I saw him I knew he would be the one.

* An ordinal number

The next time you are here, make sure you tell the truth.

* A sequencer

Quantifiers

Quantifiers are used before head nouns to define an **indefinite** amount or number. They are used as **post-determiners**. Here are the most important quantifiers.

- some
- any
- plenty
- few
- little
- many

Take a look at some examples:

Many people voted for him.

A **few** glasses are still filled with red wine.

Distributive Determiners

'Distributive determiners' refer to *specific individuals* within a group, and can either point to them as a single whole or to each individual separately. Here are some *distributive determiners*.

1. Either
2. Neither
3. Each
4. Every

Take a look at some examples:

Each one of us is trying to get the prize.

I spent **every** minute of my life with my mother.

Tip!

Pre-determiners, post-determiners, and **central determiners** can be used *alone* as the only determiner of the head noun. Here are a few examples.

Both parents came to the meeting. → pre-determiners

My sister is an accountant.

Neither book was interesting for me.

Adjectives vs. Determiners

Determiners and 'adjectives' are two distinct parts of speech in English grammar. While **determiners** are used only once before a particular noun, there is no limit to the number of **adjectives** that can be used before a noun. Additionally, determiners cannot be used after a verb, whereas predictive adjectives are commonly used after verbs to describe the subject or object of the sentence.

determiner + determiner	X	adjective + adjective	✓
determiner + adjective	✓	adjective + determiner	X
determiner + noun	✓	adjective + noun	✓
noun + determiner	X	noun + adjective	X
verb + determiner	X	verb + adjective	✓
can omit determiner	X	can omit adjective	✓

Determiners are not always used before *plural nouns* and can sometimes be omitted, but they are typically necessary before *singular nouns*. **Adjectives**, on the other hand, can often be *omitted* before nouns without affecting the sentence's overall meaning. Check out the table for more detailed information.

Review

Determiners come before nouns to modify them. Here are different types of determiners.

- articles
- demonstratives
- possessive
- quantifiers
- distributives

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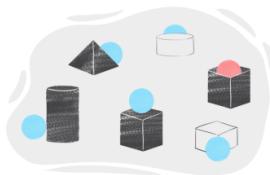
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Pre-determiners

Pre-determiners are used to modify a noun. They are placed before the central determiners. Follow the article to learn about them.





Prepositions

Prepositions can refer to many things. Since there are a lot of prepositions in the English language and they are used a lot, we have to learn them completely.

< >

What Are Prepositions?

Prepositions are a type of word that typically show the *relationship* between nouns or pronouns and other words in a sentence. They often appear before the object and indicate the **location** of something in space or time, or the **direction** or **manner** of an action.

Prepositions Are Tricky!

We say we are *at* the hospital seeing someone who is *in* the hospital. We lie *in* bed but *on* the couch. We watch a movie *at* the theater but *on* television. So, you need to learn the prepositions by looking them up in a dictionary, reading a lot of texts in English, and learning useful phrases with prepositions.

Prepositions: Types Based on Structure

Prepositions are categorized into **three** main groups based on the *number of words* they are made of:

1. Simple prepositions
2. Compound prepositions
3. Complex prepositions

Simple prepositions are made of only one word, while **compound prepositions** are made of two or more words. And **complex prepositions** are formed when two or more prepositions follow each other. Pay attention to the examples:

The small cat jumped on the chair. (simple)

Please do not talk on behalf of her. Let her choose please. (compound)

She gazed at us from beneath the brim of her hat. (complex)

Prepositions: Types Based on Meaning

There are different types of prepositions in English that are all frequently used. Check out the list:

1. prepositions of direction
2. prepositions of time

3. prepositions of place

4. preposition of manner

Prepositions of Direction

If we want to refer to the direction of something, we use a preposition such as 'to', 'in', 'across', 'on', and 'along'.

I'm walking **along** the beach.

Across the bridge, there's a village.

Prepositions of Time

If we want to refer to a point in time, we use prepositions such as 'in', 'at', and 'on'. Furthermore, we can use prepositions like 'since', 'for', 'by', 'during', 'from...to', to refer to a *period* of time. Take a look at the examples:

The bus comes **at** 15:33 p.m.

I worked there **from** January **to** June.

Prepositions of Place

Prepositions of place answer the question 'Where?'. They are used to show the **position** or **location** of a thing or person in relation to another thing or person. Prepositions such as 'at', 'in', 'on', 'behind', 'under' and 'above' are some examples of this category. For example:

There's a cat **under** the car.

Look **at** the picture **on** the wall.



The small cat jumped **on the chair.**

using the preposition 'on' to talk about movement

Prepositions of Manner

Prepositions of manner express the way something happens or **how** a certain thing happened or is done. They may express the *method* or *instrument* by which something is done; these prepositions include **by**, **with**, **like**, **as**, and **in**. Check out the examples.

By telling the truth, you may survive.

He works **as a chef.**

Participle Prepositions

Participle prepositions are prepositions that end in '-ed', '-ing', '-en', etc. **Excluding**, **including**, **following**, **considering**, and **regarding** are examples of participle prepositions. Here are a few examples in sentences:

Following his rule, I closed the door slightly.

Considering her illness, she was still beautiful.

Preposition or Adverb?

Some words can function as **both adverb** and prepositions, meaning they can belong to two different parts of speech but have the same form. Compare the examples:

Sally closed the door **behind her.** (preposition)

The car **behind was hooting impatiently.** (adverb)

Prepositional Phrase

A group of words that consist of a *preposition* and a *noun* or *pronoun* (object of the preposition) is considered a *prepositional phrase*. As you know, a phrase does not have a *verb* or a *subject*, as a result, it does not form a complete sentence; rather, it is used to complete the meaning of the sentence. Rather than trying to guess which preposition to use with a noun, it can be helpful to memorize common prepositional phrases. Take a look at some examples:

Young people were swimming **into the deep water**.

This is the only thing **at the top of my head**.

Common Error

Be careful not to add an unnecessary 'at' at the end of a question as a preposition. That is not grammatically correct.

Where are you going? (Not 'Where are you going **at?')**

Where is your mother? (Not 'Where is your mother **at?')**

Preposition: Position in a Sentence

While some strict grammarians believe it is incorrect to *end* a sentence with a preposition, it is now generally considered acceptable in modern English. For example:

What are you looking **at?**

Where did you put them **on?**

We are not allowed to use prepositions *before* or *after* certain word classes. Check out the table for more details:

verb + preposition	✓	preposition + verb (gerund)	✓
adjective + preposition	✓	preposition + adjective	✗
preposition + noun	✓	noun + preposition	✓
preposition at the end	✓	preposition + preposition	✗

Review

Prepositions are used before prepositional objects to indicate a particular concept such as time, place, etc. Here are the most important categories of prepositions.

- Prepositions of direction

- Prepositions of time
- Prepositions of place
- Preposition of manner
- Compound prepositions
- Participle prepositions

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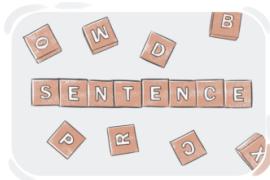
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Types of Prepositions



Prepositions can indicate different relationships between the elements of the sentence. This lesson will clarify some of their most common functions.





Sentences

Sentences are formed by putting words next to each other, but we do not always need more than one word to make a meaningful sentence.

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What Are Sentences?

Sentences are formed by placing different words in a particular order to convey a specific meaning. Even a single word can convey a meaningful concept in English, so, we can have **one-word** sentences in English. But usually, sentences have a subject and a predicate.

Sentences: Types Based on Mood

Sentences are mainly categorized into four moods as follows:

1. declarative
2. interrogative
3. imperative
4. exclamative

Declarative Sentences

Declarative sentences give information about something. They have a **subject** and a **predicate** which is made of a verb and sometimes a subject complement or an object complement. Here are the examples.

My mother used to have long straight hair.

His father isn't rational enough to bear this.

Declarative sentences are further divided into two groups:

1. negative declarative sentences
2. affirmative declarative sentences

Affirmative sentences have positive verbs. We use negation rules to form *negative sentences*. Check out the examples.

You **should** study to get a good job in the future.

We **do not** get a good salary.

Interrogative Sentences

We use the **interrogative mood** to ask *questions* or to *ask for information* about something. Usually, interrogative sentences are **inverted**. Here are the examples.

What was your name again?

Were you at the party last night?

Interrogative sentences are categorized into two groups:

1. wh-questions
2. yes/no questions

Wh-questions start with an interrogative-word and yes/no questions start with an auxiliary verb. Check the examples.

Where do you live?

Did you talk to your teacher?



My mother drank the tea gently.

an example of declarative sentence

Imperative Sentences

Imperative sentences are used to give *orders*. They are usually made of only one word which is actually the **imperative verb**. Here are some examples:

Sit down!

Have fun!

English Imperative sentences are also of two types:

- imperative sentence using **only one verb**
- imperative sentence using **a subject and a verb**

The *subject* of an **imperative sentence** is the pronoun '**you**' that is usually omitted because it is implied in the meaning of the imperative verb. For example:

You shut up!

Speak!

Imperative Verbs vs. 'Should' and 'Must'

Should and must are not imperative verbs. **Imperative verbs** can be used *without subjects*. However, you can never use modal verbs on their own as an imperative verb. So, If you can omit the *subject* without harming the formation of the sentence, then the verb is an imperative verb.

You start reading → start reading ✓

* In this example, **start** is an imperative verb.

You must study → must study X

* In this example the verb '**must**' cannot be used without a subject so it isn't an imperative verb.

You should clean your room → should clean your room X

Negative Imperatives

Since imperative verbs are all **main verbs**, to form **negative imperatives** all you have to do is add **don't** to the beginning of the imperative sentence. For example:

Do not take my car!

Don't be jealous!

Exclamatory Sentences

Exclamatory sentences are used to show *surprise* or other strong emotions. Commonly, exclamations are formed using the words 'what' and 'how'. Here are the examples:

What a nice day!

How amazing!

Punctuation Marks

Every type of sentence is followed by a particular **punctuation mark**. You can see the **punctuations** used for each sentence type on the following list:

- Period: declarative sentences (.)
- Question mark: interrogative sentences (?)
- Exclamation mark: exclamatory and imperative sentences (!)

Sentences: Types Based on Structure

Based on their structure, sentences are categorized into four groups:

1. simple sentences
2. compound sentences
3. complex sentences
4. compound-complex sentences

Simple Sentences

Simple sentences consist of a **subject** as the *doer* of activity and a *predicate* which represents the action. Simple sentences are not followed by any other *dependent* or *subordinate clauses*. For example:

Sara is beautiful.

My mother drank the tea gently.

Compound Sentences

Compound sentences are two independent sentences that are joined together using linking words or conjunctions, and semicolons. Here are the examples:

This is too expensive, **but** I will buy it.

I want to gain weight, **yet** I don't like eating.

Complex Sentences

Complex sentences are formed from an *independent clause* and at least one dependent clause linked to the independent clause. Here are the examples.

I moved in **since** I finished high school.

You will pass **if** you study better.

Compound-Complex Sentences

Compound-complex sentences combine compound sentences with complex sentences. A compound-complex sentence has at least two independent clauses and one dependent clause. Here are the examples:

He cried **when** he left, **but** I didn't care.

I am beautiful **and** my mother is beautiful too, **yet** my grandfather says she is more beautiful than me.

Review

Sentences are made from different words. Based on their **mood** they are categorized into four groups:

- declarative
- interrogatory
- imperative
- exclamatory

Based on their structure, they are categorized into four groups as well.

1. simple sentences
2. compound sentences
3. complex sentences

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Simple Sentences



Most of us learned how to put three words together to make sentences in kindergarten: I love puppies! Games are fun! Let's learn all about simple sentences!





Punctuation

Punctuation is using special signs, and certain typographical devices to help the understanding and correct reading of written texts.

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What Is Punctuation?

Punctuation is the use of standardized marks and symbols in writing to *clarify meaning* and *indicate the structure and organization* of sentences. Punctuation is a crucial aspect of written communication as it helps to **convey meaning** and prevent ambiguity.

Common Punctuation Marks

Here is a list of common punctuation marks in English:

- full stop (.)
- question mark and exclamation mark (?) and (!)
- comma (,)
- colons and semicolons (:) and ;)
- quotation mark (" ")
- hyphens and dashes (-)
- brackets, braces, and parentheses([] and {} and ())
- apostrophe (')

Full Stop

Full stop is also called **period** in American English. It is a punctuation sign that is used at the end of a **statement** or in some abbreviations. Keep in mind that there is no space before full stop and one space after it.

Abbreviations

There are three kinds of abbreviations:

1. Abbreviations with **no full stops**, like CIA, CNN, MTV
2. Abbreviations that **always** have a full stop, like **e.g.**, **i.e.**, or **etc.**
3. Abbreviations that **sometimes** have a full stop, like **Mr./Mr a.m./AM Dr./Dr**

In British English, titles and honorifics are usually written without full stops. But in American English, they are written with full stops. British English usually uses **a.m.** and **p.m.** in lowercase and with full stops. In American English, however, they are written with uppercase letters and without full stops (AM and PM). They both are correct and you can use them according to the variety of English you are using.

I know you well.

She wakes up at 5 a.m. everyday.

Mr. Johnson is on his way to the office.

Question Mark & Exclamation Mark

Question mark (?) is used at the end of a direct question whether it is a wh-question or a yes/no question. The direct question is a sentence that asks a question directly from the addressee. For example:

Where are you?

Are you ok?

An exclamation mark (!) is used in at the end of a sentence expressing *strong emotions* such as anger, surprise, joy, etc. Notice that what and how are commonly used at the beginning of a sentence to make an exclamatory phrase.

Oh no! I can't believe it!

What a mistake!

How stupid you are!

Comma

Commas are used for three main purposes:

1. To separate items on a list
2. Before certain conjunctions (and, but, so, or)
3. To add non-essential information

To Separate Items on a List

We use commas to separate items on a list. To introduce the last item on the list, the comma is followed by an 'and'.

I have bought some rice, milk, bananas, **and** bread.

We need to take water, fruits, sleeping bags, canned food, **and** tent for camping.



I have bought some rice, milk, and bananas.

using comma to separate the items of a list

Before Certain Conjunctions

We can use commas before certain conjunctions: '**and**', '**but**', '**so**', and '**or**'.

Take a look at the examples:

You can tell her, **but** she'll get upset.

This was his last chance, **so** he took it.

To Add Non-essential Information

We can use a comma, or sometimes two commas, to separate non-essential information from the rest of the sentence. Non-essential information can be removed from the sentence without changing its overall meaning. For example:

Usually, I go to school.

Apparently, he was a very good painter.

Beijing, **which is the capital of China**, has a mixture of modern and ancient architecture.

Commas can be used for many other purposes. They are used in dates and numbers, after adverbs, in direct reported speech, and between adjectives. You can see some examples below:

3,000,000

* numbers

April 1st, 1999, she left him.

* date

He said, "I am not going to do that."

* in direct reported speech

There was a big, fascinating, marvelous wedding there.

* between adjectives

Colons & Semicolons

Colons (:) are used to introduce *examples, explanations, or details*. The main idea is expressed before the colons and the explanation or examples appear right after it. Colons can be used to introduce a **list**, a **dialogue**, a **title**, or to show **emphasis**.

The power outage has caused many problems: darkness, burnt out electric devices, transportation disruption, and so on.

* Here, the general idea is the power outage problems, and after the colons we can see the explanations or examples.

I can be sure of one thing: she won't let you to get a dog.

* show emphasis

What we need for the cake is: butter, flour, water, etc.

* introducing a list

She played: 3GA.

* introducing a title

Semicolons (;) are similar to a full stop in that they are both used at the end of a full sentence. But the difference is that the semi-colon shows that the sentences before and after the semi-colon are connected and express the same idea. For example:

The weather is so hot; it's impossible to get out of the house without getting a heatstroke.

As you can see in the example, semicolons are used to join two independent clauses. They can also appear:

1. Before conjunctive adverbs, like 'however', 'thereafter', 'therefore', etc.

2. Before coordinating conjunctions, like 'but', 'or', 'and'.

We couldn't go; **however**, we really wanted to.

* conjunctive adverbs

We were looking for what they called us for; **and** the result was disappointing.

* coordinating conjunctions

Quotation Mark

Quotation marks (" ") are used when reporting a direct speech. They are also used to avoid repetition in a list. There are two kinds of quotation marks: **single (')** and **double (" ")**. They are usually used interchangeably. But in some cases, it's better to use one of them in particular. For example, it's better to use double quotation marks when you are quoting what someone said.

He laughed and said, "**you'll kill me with these jokes**".

She asked," Who is the lead actor."

* direct speech

Here is another example of how quotation marks are used to **avoid repetition**:

names of fathers	
Steve	Max
Rhone	"
Mia	"

When we want to put **emphasis** on a word or phrase in a sentence, we use single quotation marks. For example:

This is a sentence where the 'adverb**' plays the central role.**

We can also use the quotation mark to indicate **irony, skepticism, and sarcasm**. For example:

My "friends**" left me there all alone.**

* Here, "friends" in quotation marks to indicate irony because they did not act as real friends.

The "clean**" sheets smelled like mold.**

You can also use quotation marks when the words are not used in their literal meaning.

The TV 'knows' when I have homework, it starts playing all the good shows.

* Clearly the TV cannot know anything, it's used metaphorically.

You can use quotation marks when you refer to words as 'words' and not for what they mean. For example:

How do you spell 'whitening'?

* We don't use the word for what it means and we show it by using the quotation marks.

Hyphens & Dashes

Even though hyphens and dashes look a lot alike, they are different and serve different functions.

Dashes

We have two kinds of dashes: en dashes (-) and em dashes (—).

- **En dashes (-)** are used to replace the words like "and", "through", and "to" when indicating **numerical ranges, describing directions, relationships, or scores**

The world war one (1914–1918) was a great disaster.

Midwest-southwest bridge

Sometimes, in British English, the **en dash** does the same thing as the **em dash**. In these cases, there are **spaces** on both sides of the en dash to add **extra information** to the sentence. Commas can be used for this purpose too, but dashes are preferable when the information we are adding doesn't fit well in the sentence.

Jeff – who is my best friend – already went back home.

- **Em dashes (—)** work like parenthesis and commas, they add **non-essential information** to the sentence and this usually happens when the information we are adding doesn't fit well in the sentence. The em dashes can be used with space on either side or without spaces.

My best friend—who I haven't seen in years—got married yesterday.

Years ago — never mind how long precisely — I thought I could run all around the globe.

We can also use dashes when repeating an **emphatic** part or phrase in a sentence. In this case, we can use a dash at the beginning of the emphatic part. Check out these examples:

The beautiful sky—the clear blue sky—was her dream.

Hyphens

The first thing about hyphens (-) is they are not the same as dashes (- and —). Hyphens are used to:

- form **compound modifiers** before a noun

It is a short-term plan.

I went for a full-body massage.

- form **compound adjectives** with nouns

Why are you wearing these old-fashioned clothes?

Have you seen that six-feet girl?

- with some prefixes

I saw my ex-wife yesterday.

She is a self-made girl.

- enhance **clarity and readability** of sentences

I will re-design the whole place.

* meaning to design again

They wanted to re-elect him.

* instead of writing 'reelect' which is hard to read.

Brackets, Braces, & Parentheses

There are four types of brackets:

1. square brackets []

2. curly brackets {} or braces
3. angle brackets <>
4. round brackets or parentheses ()

Square brackets are used to add Information, comments, or definition in a sentence:

They said the [cancer] patients are not satisfied with the services.

* Information

We need a doctor [an expert] to do the surgery.

* comments

The indolent [lazy] man spent all day at home.

* definition

Braces are usually used in mathematical, chemical, and statistical equations.

2{1 + [32 + 3]}

Round brackets or parentheses are used for two purposes:

1. Give Information (date/answer/statistics).
2. Set off numbers and letters (give options).

The doctors did what was possible (they couldn't do more).

* Giving Information

The world war one (1914–1918) was a great disaster.

* date

Remember to take: (1) pen (2) ruler (3) hair brushes.

* Three items are needed: pen, ruler, hair brush

Write your opinion(s) here.

* the reader can choose how to read it.

Tip!

Try to avoid using parenthesis to add long ideas in your sentences, for that purpose you can use commas or dashes accordingly.

Apostrophe

Apostrophe (') is used in two cases:

1. Create contracted forms
2. Form possessive nouns

Isn't → is not

* contracted form

Sarah's father

* possessive nouns

Tip!

We can never use an apostrophe to make plurals, unless we are referring to multiple letters. For example:

How many M's are there in 'common'?

Comments (0)

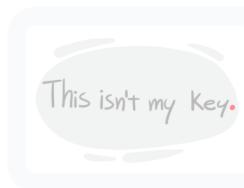
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Full Stops



A full stop or period is usually used to show the end of a sentence. In this lesson, we will learn all about this punctuation mark.

<

>



Phrases

Phrases are comprised of one or more words that form a meaningful grammatical unit. They are one of the most important elements of English grammar.

< >

What Are Phrases?

A **phrase** consists of one or more words that form a single grammatical unit and act as a unified part of speech. If you think of a sentence as a building, phrases are like bricks of that building. They are typically part of a clause or a sentence. Phrases can consist of one or more words.

Phrases: Structure

A phrase consists of:

1. One **head** (also called **Headword**)
2. Two or more **modifiers**

The **head** of a phrase is the most important word in the phrase and determines its **grammatical function**. For example, a phrase whose head is a noun is called a noun phrase, and a phrase whose head is a verb is called a verb phrase.

The remaining words in a phrase are called the **dependents** of the head. These words **modify** or **complement** the head and provide additional information that helps to clarify the meaning of the phrase. The dependents can include other nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, or other types of words that modify or describe the head.

The **head** is the **essential** part of a phrase, while not every phrase has **dependents**. In other words, some phrases may consist of only a head, without any dependents.

Phrase vs. Clause

A phrase does not contain a subject and verb and cannot convey a complete idea or meaning. A clause, however, does contain a subject and verb, and it can convey a complete idea.

Phrases can never stand on their own as sentences, while clauses can be complete sentences (independent clauses) or part of a sentence (dependent clauses). Let's take a look at some examples:

shouts very loudly → phrase

That man shouts very loudly → clause

* This example has a subject (the man) and a verb (shouts) and conveys a complete idea.

Clauses contain phrases, and sentences contain clauses.

Phrases: Types

There are five main types of phrases in English:

1. Noun Phrase (NP) → the cute hamster
2. Verb Phrase (VP) → play piano
3. Prepositional Phrase (PP) → under the table
4. Adjective Phrase (AP) → very delighted
5. Adverb Phrase (AdvP) → too carefully

Other Types of Phrases

There are other types of phrases apart from the main five types:

- Gerund Phrase
- Infinitive Phrase
- Participial Phrase
- Appositive Phrase

Noun Phrase

A noun phrase (NP) is a group of words that includes a noun and any **modifiers** that describe or qualify the noun. Noun phrases can be **simple**, consisting of just a noun, or **complex**, consisting of a noun plus one or more modifiers, such as pronouns, adjectives, or prepositional phrases.

Noun phrases can function in various grammatical roles in a sentence, such as the subject, object, or the complement.

Tip

Usually, a noun phrase is just a **noun** or a **pronoun**.



a **boy** with a blue hat

Using a noun phrase

a **boy** with a blue hat

the **girl** standing over there

the **house** that we live in

Verb Phrase

A verb phrase includes a **main verb** (the head) and any **modal** and/or **auxiliary verbs** that accompany it (the dependents). The main verb is the **central element** of the phrase and expresses the main action or state of being in the sentence.

Tip

The main verb always appears at the end of the verb phrase.

Types of Verb Phrases

In English grammar, a verb phrase can be categorized based on the type of verb it contains:

1. Finite Verb Phrases
2. Non-finite Verb Phrases

Finite Verb Phrases

A finite verb phrase contains a **finite** verb, which is a verb that indicates tense, person, and number, and it is in the **present** or **past** tense.

I **work** in a bank.

I **went** to school.

Non-finite Verb Phrases

A non-finite verb phrase contains a **non-finite verb**, which is a verb that does not indicate tense, person, or number. Non-finite verb phrases cannot stand alone as a sentence, but they can function as a **subject or object** in a sentence or as a **modifier** of a noun or verb. Non-finite verb phrases come in three forms: infinitives, gerunds, and participles.

I enjoy **dancing** to my favorite songs.

* 'Dancing to my favorite songs' is a gerund non-finite verb phrase that functions as the direct object of the verb "enjoy."

To **swim** in the ocean is my favorite summer activity.

* 'To swim in the ocean' is an infinitive non-finite verb phrase that functions as the subject of the sentence.

She might have been waiting for him.

* 'Might have been waiting' is a participle non-finite verb phrase.

Prepositional Phrases

A prepositional phrase is a group of words that includes a **preposition**, **its object**, and any **modifiers** of that object.

The preposition indicates the relationship between the object and the rest of the sentence. The object of the preposition can be a noun, pronoun, or gerund, and it receives the action of the preposition.

I lived **near** the Bakersfield's hospital.

The man **with** the hat is my uncle.

* In the prepositional phrase 'with the hat', 'with' is the preposition, 'hat' is the object of preposition and 'the' is the article modifying it.

Adjective Phrase

An adjective phrase is a group of words that includes an adjective and any **modifiers** that describe or qualify a noun or pronoun. Adjective phrases can be **simple**, consisting of just an adjective, or **complex**, consisting of an adjective plus one or more modifiers, such as adverbs or prepositional phrases. Take a look at the examples:

You have **gorgeous** eyes.

* A simple adjective phrase

The statues masterfully **carved** by artists are in the museum.

* A complex adjective phrase consisting of an adjective (carved) and its modifiers: an adverb (masterfully), and a prepositional phrase (by artists).

Adverb Phrases

An adverb phrase is a group of words that includes an **adverb** as its head, along with any modifiers of that adverb. Adverb phrases can function as adverbs, modifying verbs, or adjectives in a sentence.

I will come as soon as possible.

Luckily for me, the bus arrived just in time.

Tip!

We have two types of phrases:

- Grammatical phrases: function as a unit within a sentence and serve grammatical purposes
- Common phrases: phrases or idioms frequently used in everyday language which have a specific (sometimes metaphorical or figurative) meaning

Gerund Phrases

Gerund phrases are groups of words that include a **gerund**, which is a verb form ending in -ing that functions as a **noun**. Gerund phrases also include any **modifiers** of the gerund, such as adverbs, prepositional phrases, or adjectives.

Gerund phrases can also function as objects of prepositions, direct objects, or subject complements, just like any other noun.

Eating healthy food is essential for your body.

* The gerund phrase 'eating healthy food' is the subject of the sentence.

We are looking forward to camping in the wilderness.

* The gerund phrase 'camping in the wilderness' is object of preposition.

Infinitive Phrases

Infinitive phrases are groups of words that include an **infinitive**, which is the base form of a verb preceded by "to." An infinitive phrase may also include any modifiers of the infinitive, such as adverbs, adjectives, or noun phrases. Infinitive phrases can function as direct objects, adjectives, or adverbs in a sentence. Pay attention to the examples:

I wish to make a complaint.

* The infinitive phrase functions as the direct object of the verb.

He works hard to support his family.

* The infinitive phrase 'to support his family' functions as an adverb modifying the verb 'works'.

Participle Phrases

Participle phrases are groups of words that function as **adjectives** in a sentence. They include a **participle**, which is a verb form that can function as an adjective, and any **modifiers** of the participle. For example:

The continually crying baby was hungry.

The sadly devastated man killed himself.

Appositive Phrases

Appositive phrases are groups of words that include an **appositive** and the **noun** or **pronoun** it renames or describes. Appositive phrases can also function as **explanatory phrases**, providing additional information about a noun or pronoun. Pay attention to the examples:

Mary Lou, my friend, wears glasses.

Center City, a neighborhood in Philadelphia, is a very lovely neighborhood.

Review

In this article, we have learned about phrases. They are words that are put together with no subjects and verbs. In this case, they cannot have a complete meaning. There are some main phrases and some other ones as follows:

main phrases 1. noun phrase 2. verb phrase 3. prepositional phrase 4. adjective phrase 5. adverb phrase

other types of phrases 1. conjunctional phrase 3. interjectional phrase 5. gerund phrase

2. participial phrase 4. infinitive phrase 6. appositive phrase

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Noun Phrases



When a group of nouns come together, they form a noun phrase. To know what is a noun phrase and how short or how long a noun phrase can be, start here!





Moods

Moods and tenses are different concepts in English grammar that are widely confused. In this lesson, we will learn all about moods in English grammar.

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What Do We Mean by Moods?

'Mood' (also known as **modality**) is used to describe a special state or form of the verb. They show the writer's or speaker's attitude toward or intention for the action expressed by the verb.

Moods: Types

Based on whether verbs express facts, commands, questions, surprises, possibilities, wish, or conditions, they are categorized into various groups.

1. Imperative mood
2. Declarative (indicative) mood
3. Interrogative mood
4. Exclamatory mood
5. Subjunctive mood
6. Conditional mood

Imperative Mood

'The imperative mood' is used to give *orders*, *commands*, or *instructions*. This mood is formed using the **main verb** in the imperative form, which is typically the bare infinitive (i.e., the infinitive without 'to') used at the beginning of a sentence.

Imperative verbs are categorized into two groups based on whether the command is **to do** or **not to do** the action:

1. Affirmative imperative
2. Negative imperative

To form a negative command in the imperative mood, the auxiliary verb 'do' is followed by the word '**not**' before the bare infinitive.

Don't talk to me!

Repeat after me!

'The imperative mood' usually does not include a subject at the beginning, but the subject is always the pronoun 'you' that can be hidden or not.

(**You**) slow down!

(**You**) submit your homework, now!

Declarative Mood

Declarative mood describes the type of sentence that makes a *statement* or *declaration* or provides **information** about something. In other words, a declarative sentence is a sentence that declares or asserts a fact, opinion, or idea. Sentences in declarative mood typically begin with a **subject** followed by a **verb**, although other word orders are possible too.

There are two kinds of declarative moods in English:

1. Affirmative declarative mood
2. Negative declarative mood

She **lives** in Torino.

Simon **doesn't eat** sea food.

Interrogative Mood

'The interrogative mood' is used to ask questions. In other words, an interrogative sentence is a sentence that **seeks information** or clarification. There are two kinds of interrogative questions:

1. Yes/no questions
2. Wh-questions

Obviously, a **question mark** is used at the end of interrogative sentences. Take a look at some examples:

Are you coming?

What is your name?



Simon doesn't eat sea food.

a sentence in the declarative mood

Exclamatory Mood

'The **exclamatory mood**' describes a *strong emotion* or *surprise*. An exclamatory sentence is a sentence that conveys excitement, admiration, fear, anger, or any other intense feeling. Exclamatory mood is identified by the use of exclamation mark at the end of the sentence, as any verb can be used in the exclamatory mood.

She actually has lost the keys!

You were meant to be here on the best day of my life!

Subjunctive Mood

The **subjunctive mood** is used to describe situations that are *hypothetical*, *contrary to fact*, or *uncertain*, unlike the declarative mood. It is often used to express wishes, opinions, obligations, emotions, and other **non-realistic scenarios**. The key feature of the subjunctive mood is that it is used to refer to events that may not have occurred yet or are *unlikely to occur*.

I wish I could buy another house.

* In this example, the speaker is talking about something that they cannot afford yet.

She doubts she can make it.

The subjunctive mood is mostly used in:

1. Subordinating clauses

2. That-clauses

Lee would cry if she knew the truth.

I suggest that he cook for us.

* Here, the main verb stays the same as a bare infinitive even for a third person singular pronoun.

Conditional Mood

The **conditional mood** is used to express events or actions that are *dependent* on a certain condition or circumstance, and *may or may not* happen. It is often used to express a **hypothetical situation**, a **possibility**, or a **conjecture**.

If you were me, you would kill him.

If you boil the egg, it gets solid over a short time.

There are five types of conditional moods in English:

1. [Zero conditional](#)
2. [First conditional](#)
3. [Second conditional](#)
4. [Third conditional](#)
5. [Mixed conditional](#)

Zero conditional

Zero conditional mood expresses a *general truth or fact*, and implies that a particular action or result will always follow a certain condition.

The zero conditional is typically formed using the **present tense** in both clauses of the sentence, with the word 'if' introducing the condition. For example:

If you boil eggs, they get solid in a short time.

He cries if you hurt him.

First Conditional

'The first conditional mood' refers to a *future event* that is likely to happen if a specific condition is met. The **conditional clause** expresses this condition, and is often introduced with the word 'if'. The first conditional mood is used to express a *possible or probable* future outcome, based on a particular condition being fulfilled. Check out the examples:

I will pick up John if you are busy.

If you take it easy, it will be easier to find solutions.

Second Conditional

'The Second conditional' refers to a hypothetical situation that is *unlikely* or *impossible* to happen in the present or future. It is often used to express a situation that could have happened differently, or to make a suggestion, or express a wish that is unlikely to be fulfilled. The second conditional is usually formed using the **past tense** in the conditional clause and the modal verb '**would**' in the main clause. Pay attention to the examples:

If I were you, I would tell the truth to my boss.

I would do anything for her **if** she just chose me over him.

Third Conditional

The third conditional refers to a hypothetical situation or event that *did not happen in the past*, and is used to express a *regret* or a *missed opportunity*. It is often used to imagine what could have happened differently in the past if circumstances had been different.

The third conditional is usually formed using the **past perfect** tense in the conditional clause and the modal verb '**would have**' in the main clause. Here are some examples.

If I had watched the movie, we would have been able to talk over something mutual.

She would have called me **if** you hadn't lied to her.

Mixed Conditional

The mixed conditional is a type of conditional sentence that combines elements of the **second** and **third** conditional moods. It is used to express a *hypothetical* or *unreal* situation in the present or future that is *linked to a past event or condition*. In a mixed conditional sentence, one clause typically uses the **past tense**, while the other clause uses the **present or future** tense. Here are the examples:

If I hadn't been married to Sam, I wouldn't be this happy now.

If I had studied harder in school, I would be working in a better job now.

Review

The state or form of a particular verb is described by a **mood**. There are six different moods in English as follows.

- imperative mood
- declarative (indicative) mood
- interrogative mood

- exclamatory mood
- subjunctive mood
- conditional mood

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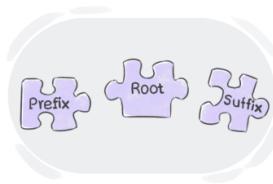


Declarative Mood



There are different types of moods in English. Each shows a special manner toward the subject. In this article, we will focus on the declarative mood.





Morphology

Every word is consisted of one or more than one part. In this lesson, we're going to analyze words in detail. Let's find out.

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What Is Morphology?

'**Morphology**' is a Greek word consisting of 'morph-' meaning 'form' and '-ology' meaning '**the study of something**'. In linguistics, morphology is the study of the **internal structure** of words. In other words, It is a way of analyzing **constituent elements** of words. These parts or elements of words are called '**morphemes**'.

What Are Morphemes?

Morphemes are the **smallest units** of meaning or grammatical function. A morpheme is a word unit with a content meaning of itself. It can also be an **affix** or a word part with no content meaning in itself but with a **function**. For example:

Renewed → **re** (**unit of meaning**) + **new** (**unit of meaning**) + **-ed** (**unit of grammatical function**)

Tourists → **tour** (**unit of meaning**) + **-ist** (**unit of meaning**) + **-s** (**unit of grammatical function**)

Morphemes: Types

Morphemes can be divided into two general groups:

- **Free Morphemes**
- **Bound Morphemes**



Jane is taller than her sister.

an example of inflectional morpheme

Free Morphemes

Morphemes that can function as a **single** word with a specific meaning are called **free** morphemes. In other words, they can stand alone **without** any other element involved. Note that Free morphemes are described as **base words**. Here are some examples:

Picture

Life

With

And

Free morphemes are divided into two groups based on what they do in a sentence:

- **Lexical morphemes:** They are a set of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs that carry the **most content** of a sentence. It is possible for lexical morphemes to change their meaning when combined with other morphemes, but their free morphemes will still form the content of the sentence. Take a look at the examples:

Follow (verb)

House (noun)

Happy (adjective)

Now (adverb)

- **Functional morphemes:** They are a set of conjunctions, prepositions, pronouns, demonstratives, auxiliaries, quantifiers, and articles. They fulfil grammatical roles and carry little meaning of their own. Note that they are not normally combined with affixes. For example:

It (pronoun)

Or (conjunction)

The (article)

On (preposition)

These (demonstrative)

Does (auxiliary verb)

Some (quantifier)

Tip!

Almost all free morphemes can be modified by affixes to form **complex** words. On the other hand, combining two free morphemes (mostly lexical) creates a compound word. Here are some examples:

Mail + box → mailbox (compound)

* As you can see, two free morphemes (lexical) made a compound noun.

Fight + -er → fighter (complex)

Bound Morphemes

Bound morphemes are those that cannot stand alone and normally have no linguistic meaning unless they are attached to a root, base word, or other morphemes. Thus, we can say that all affixes in English are bound morphemes. Here are some examples:

Unsatisfied → un- (bound) + satisfy (free) + -ed (bound)

Hopefully → **hope** (free) + **-full** (bound) + **-y** (bound)

Bound morphemes are divided into two groups:

- **Derivational morphemes:** When we use a set of affixes to make new words with different **grammatical** roles. Derivational morphemes include suffixes such as -ish, -ly, -ment, -ful and prefixes such as re-, pre-, ex-, un-, etc. Most derivational morphemes have roots in Latin or Greek. For example:

Good (adjective) + ness → **goodness (noun)**

Care (noun) + less → **careless (adjective)**

re- + start (verb) → **restart (verb)**

* As you can see, the bound morpheme changed the meaning of the word.

- **Inflectional morphemes:** The second type of bound morphemes is used **only** to show grammatical functions. English only has eight inflectional morphemes. Take a look at the examples below:

Noun + -'s → **Sara's mother is very sick.**

* Here, -'s is attached to a noun and made it possessive. Notice that it is different from the -'s used as a contraction for *is* or *has* (e.g. it's mine).

Noun + -s or -es → **She has two little sisters.**

Verb + -s → **He likes baseball.**

Verb + -ing → **I'm thinking about it.**

Verb + -ed → **I studied hard for tomorrow's exam.**

Verb + -en → **Jane's car got stolen.**

Adjective + -er → **Jane is taller than her sister.**

Adjective + -est → **He is the kindest person that I have ever seen.**

Tip!

A word's grammatical role is never changed by **inflectional** morphemes. However, derivational morphemes can change both a word's part of speech and semantic meaning. Note that these two morphemes **always** appear in a specific order. The derivational morpheme will attach to a word first, and then the inflectional morpheme is added. For example:

Teachers → teach + -er (derivational)+ -s (inflectional)

Allomorphs

An allomorph is a **phonetic** and **spelling** variant of a morpheme. In other words, allomorphs are different sounds that pronounce the same morph. Here are some examples of the three most common types of allomorphs in the English language:

- **Past tense allomorphs:** We add the '-ed' morpheme to the end of regular verbs to form their past tense. It always functions the same but is sometimes pronounced differently. For example:

wanted /'wɔ:n.tɪd/ Vs. washed /wɔʃt/

* As you can see, -ed is pronounced as /ɪd/ in 'wanted', and pronounced as a /t/ in 'washed'.

rested /'res.tɪd/ Vs. touched /tʌtʃt/

* Here, the pronunciation symbols that you see between slashes are from the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).

- **Plural allomorphs:** For making plural nouns, we must add -s or -es to the end of the words. They function the same but have three different versions of pronunciation /s/, /z/ and /ɪz/. For example:

Chips /tʃɪps/

Buses /'bʌsɪz/

Dogs /da:gz/

- **Negative allomorphs:** We have different prefixes to make a negative word; all of them function the same but are pronounced differently. For example:

Unbelievable

Impossible

Informal

What Is a Null Allomorph?

A null allomorph (also known as a zero allomorph or a zero morph) can not be seen or said in a word, it is invisible. It can only be understood by the **context** of the word. We can find null allomorphs in the **plural** forms of some words and **past tenses** of irregular verbs. For example:

Sheep (singular) → sheep (plural)

* As you can see, we do not say 'sheeps'. The plural morpheme is invisible so it is called a null allomorph.

hit (present) → hit (past)

Roots, Base words and Stems

The English language has borrowed many words from other languages. **Latin** and **Greek** are the most common origins. There are three parts to a word: a root, a prefix, and a suffix. In a word, an affix does not function as a stand-alone word but is attached to the root or base word. Most people think root words, base words, and stems are the same, but in fact, they are different from each other.

Roots

Root words serve as the starting point for new words by adding **prefixes** and **suffixes**. The term 'root' refers to the part of the word that is not further analyzable. In other words, it is the part of the word that cannot be broken down. In traditional roots, these words usually can not stand alone and come from Latin or Greek Language. By this definition, roots are divided into two groups:

- Independent Root Words
- Dependent Root Words

Independent Root Words

There are some root words in English that can be used **independently** or as part of other words that are commonly used. Here are some examples:

act as in 'actor'

form as in 'conform'

Dependent Root Words

Much of English words are derived from Latin and Greek, so many word roots in English are not easily recognizable because of their origin. These root words usually can not stand alone; to form a complete word in English, they need to be combined with something else. For example:

aud as in audience

* Here, 'aud' is a Latin root which means 'to hear'. Obviously you can not use it as a stand-alone word but so many other words are formed by this root word.

biblio as in bibliophile

* Here, 'biblio' is a Greek root which means 'of books'.

Base Words

In contrast to roots, base words can always **stand alone** in the English Language. These words have meanings of their own and can also be prefixed and suffixed to form new words. In general, bases are any forms to which one can add affixes. For example:

bicycle → cycle (base word)

* Here, 'cycle' is a full and free word in English, but it can function as the base of other words. The word 'cycle' itself, is based on the root 'cyc' which means 'circle'.

reinvented → invent (base word)

* As you can see, by removing all the affixes you can extract the base word. The word 'invent' itself, is based on the root 'ven/vent' which means 'to come'.

Stems

Stems are only relevant in **inflectional** morphology. When the inflectional suffix is removed from a word, the part that remains will be called 'stem'. Here are some examples:

Responding → respond (stem)

* As you can see, whatever remains after removing the inflectional suffix is called 'stem'.

Demographics → demographic (stem)

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Back-Formation and Conversion



Sometimes we can make a new word by shortening a long word and sometimes we can create a new word without changing anything. Isn't it interesting? Let's see.

