

Grammar words

This a list of words used in the explanations in this book.

active and passive

Many verbs can be active or passive. For example, *build*:

My grandfather built this house. (active)

This house was built by my grandfather. (passive)

The active sentence begins with *My grandfather* (the subject). This sentence tells us something about my grandfather and what he did (he built this house).

The passive sentence begins with *This house* (the subject). This sentence tells us something about the house (it was built by my grandfather).

Passive forms are *be* + past participle. Compare:

active

I can't repair it.

Somebody stole my wallet.

Have they cleaned the room?

passive

*It can't **be repaired**.*

*My wallet **was stolen**.*

*Has the room **been cleaned**?*

See Units 42–44.

adjective

An adjective is a word that tells us about somebody or something. *Nice, tall, hungry, foreign* and *interesting* are all adjectives.

Adjectives go before a noun:

*a **nice** day* ***foreign** languages*

or after some verbs (*be, get, seem, look, taste* etc.)

*she's **tall*** *this looks **interesting***

See Units 98–101, 65, 76 and 130–131.

adverb

Adverbs often end in *-ly*, for example:

slowly *really* *fortunately*

These *-ly* adverbs often tell us how somebody does something:

quietly *carefully* *safely*

Other adverbs do not end in *-ly*. Many of these adverbs tell us where, when or how often something happens. *Here, yesterday* and *always* are all adverbs.

Some adverbs (for example *very, really* and *absolutely*) are used with adjectives:

***very** sorry* ***really** nice* ***absolutely** enormous*

See Units 100, 101 and 110.