

apostrophe

We use an apostrophe (') instead of the missing letter(s) in a short form:

I'm (= *I am*) *you've* (= *you have*) *didn't* (= *did not*)

We also use an apostrophe + **s** (**'s**) to show possession:

Rachel's car my sister's friends the cat's tail

See Unit 81 and Appendix 5.

article

A/an and *the* are articles. Articles are a type of determiner.

See Units 71–78.

auxiliary verb

We use auxiliary verbs together with other verbs:

we are going *the plane has landed* *I can't help* *do you know*

In these examples, *going*, *landed*, *help* and *know* are the main verbs. *Are*, *has*, *can* and *do* are auxiliary verbs.

See Units 51–52.

clause

A clause is a whole sentence or a part of a sentence. There is always a verb in a clause. Examples of clauses:

I'm tired. (one clause, one sentence)

I'm tired and I want to go home. (two clauses, one sentence)

I was tired when I got home. (two clauses, one sentence)

Although I was tired, I went out, which wasn't a good idea. (three clauses, one sentence)

Some clauses begin with a participle (*talking/standing/injured/stolen* etc.):

Who were those people standing outside your office?

See Units 68 and 92–97.

comparative and superlative

Adjectives and adverbs have comparative and superlative forms.

The comparative form is **-er** or **more ...** :

old → *older* *important* → *more important*

The superlative form is **-est** or **most ...** :

old → *oldest* *important* → *most important*

See Units 105–108.

conjunction

A conjunction is a word that joins clauses. For example, in the following sentences *but* and *if* are conjunctions:

*We were hungry, **but** there was nothing to eat.*

***If** she gets the job, she'll be really happy.*

Other conjunctions are *and*, *so*, *or*, *when*, *because*, *although* and *that*.

See Units 25, 38–40 and 113–120.