



GRAMMATICAL JARGON: A Guide for Parents

November 2022

ADJECTIVE

A word that describes an object or person. If more than one adjective is used to describe something, commas need to be used between the adjectives.	I saw a <u>big</u> bear! They found an <u>old, rusty</u> treasure chest.
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ADVERB

A word used to describe an action (verb). Often, simple adverbs end in -ly...however this isn't always the case	We tiptoed <u>silently</u> through the woods. The snowflakes fell <u>gently</u> to the floor.
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ADVERBIAL PHRASE

Like an adverb, an adverbial phrase describes an action (verb). However, as it is a phrase, it is likely to be longer than just one word.	<u>As quick as a flash</u> , Jimmy jumped out of bed. <u>Without a sound</u> , the children walked into the hall.
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ANTONYM

Words that mean the OPPOSITE of each other	The antonym of BIG is SMALL The antonym of LOUD is QUIET
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CLAUSE

A clause is a group of words, containing a verb. A clause is part (or sometimes all) of a sentence. There are two kinds of clauses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A main clause (which makes sense on its own)- A subordinate clause (which does not make sense on its own and needs a main clause in order to be a full sentence).	MAIN: My sister is older than me. The cat sat on the mat. SUBORDINATE: My sister is older than me and she is very loud. When it came inside , the cat sat on the mat
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COLON

Punctuation used, most often, to indicate the start of a list	To make a cake, you will need: butter, eggs, flour, sugar and more!
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COMPOUND WORDS

Compound words are words that are made up of two other words together. They sometimes have a hyphen and sometimes don't.	Superman Whiteboard One-eyed
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CONJUNCTION

A conjunction links two phrases together within a sentence. There are two types of conjunction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Coordinating conjunctions join phrases	COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS Jack handed Jill a bat and ball (the bat and ball are equally important). Jemima is young but she is very strong (the two
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<p>and ideas that are equally important. Common coordinating conjunctions are and, so, but and because.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subordinating conjunctions introduce subordinating clauses (that don't make sense on their own) A common subordinating conjunction is when. 	<p>clauses are an equal pair).</p> <p>SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS Everyone watches <u>when</u> Robert does backflips!</p>
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DIRECT SPEECH

When you write down the words that have actually been spoken, using speech marks and explaining who said them.	"Wow, that's great!" said Mum
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DETERMINER

Determiners are some of the most frequently used words in English. They give more information about objects or people - for example who it belongs to, how many there are, or to add clarity.	<p>Please can you close <u>that</u> door?</p> <p>I'm looking for <u>two</u> pencils.</p> <p>You may go to <u>those</u> toilets.</p>
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ELLIPSIS

<p>Dot-dot-dot!</p> <p>To show a pause in someone's speech or thoughts...or to build up tension and show that a sentence isn't finished!</p>	<p>"You may go...when I say so..." said Mr Cribbins</p> <p>It all went quiet, then suddenly... CLANG!</p>
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FIRST PERSON

When the writer speaks about themselves, using I, we, me and us as their pronouns.	<p>My family went to the zoo. We had an amazing time and I loved seeing the capybaras and penguins!</p>
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FRONTED ADVERBIAL

A fronted adverbial is a subordinating clause that adds detail to the FRONT of a sentence. It doesn't make sense on its own and is usually joined to the main clause of the sentence using a comma. Fronted adverbials will often add detail about WHEN, HOW or WHERE something happened.	<p><u>This morning</u>, I was late to school.</p> <p><u>With tears in her eyes</u>, she said goodbye to her mum.</p> <p><u>Inside the dark room</u>, Henry could make out a shape in the corner.</p>
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HOMOPHONES

Words that sound the same, but have different spellings and meanings	<p>Pairs of homophones include:</p> <p>Night & knight Wood & would Bread & bred</p>
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HYPHEN

A hyphen is used to join two or more words together.	<p>Happy-go-lucky Eighty-year-old</p>
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METAPHOR	
Metaphors describe a particular aspect of an object by saying that they are something else.	<p>He was a giant of a man (describes that the man is tall)</p> <p>My child was a monster last night (describes the child's behaviour)</p>
NOUN	
Nouns are objects.	cheese presents dog
NOUNS (PROPER)	
Proper nouns are names of places or people. They are capitalized.	Mr Henderson Italy Japan
PARENTHESIS	
<p>There are 3 types of parenthesis: Brackets Commas Dashes</p> <p>And they are used to show where additional information has been added to the middle of a sentence (often, this extra information is called a relative clause)</p>	<p>The dog (which was covered in mud) leapt onto the sofa!</p> <p>The girl, who has been waiting patiently outside, was called into the classroom.</p> <p>Mr Turtey - the oldest turtle in the world - is still going strong at 600 years old!</p>
PREFIX	
Prefixes are letters added to the front of the word to change them into a new word.	Un happy Il legal Dis approving
PARAGRAPH	
Chunks of related sentences within a piece of writing. Paragraphs make writing easier to understand and organise ideas on a page.	<p>Generally, you need a new paragraph if any of the below change, to show you've moved onto a new idea:</p> <p>TIME PLACE TOPIC PERSON</p>
PERSONIFICATION	
Giving human characteristics to non-human objects in order to describe them.	<p>The sun smiled down on the world.</p> <p>The wind whistled through the trees.</p>

PREPOSITION	
Words that explain the relationship between two objects by describing where one thing is, relative to another.	<p>On the table, there was a fish.</p> <p>Inside the box, I saw a coin.</p> <p><i>(Others include behind, below, beside, between, by, beyond, in, into, near, on, under, since, towards, until, upon)</i></p>
PRONOUNS	
Are used instead of nouns or names to avoid repetition. Pronouns can include he, she, they, we, us.	Katie was a lovely girl. She had long, curly hair.
PRONOUNS (POSSESSIVE)	
Are used to show the owner of an item, without constantly using a name.	Katie was a lovely girl. Her hair was long and curly.
Possessive pronouns include my, her(s), his, its, our, their.	The dog was filthy! All its fur was covered in mud!
RELATIVE CLAUSE	
A relative clause adds more information about an object into the middle of a sentence. You will usually use parentheses to show the start and end of the relative clause. Relative clauses start with a relative pronoun.	<p>The teacher, who looked like he hadn't slept, walked slowly into the classroom.</p> <p>My favourite plate (which had a picture of David Tennant on) was laying smashed in the corner.</p>
RELATIVE PRONOUNS	
Relative pronouns are very often the first word of a relative clause. They show that the extra information within the clause is ABOUT the subject that has already been mentioned in the sentence. Very often, these relative pronouns are who, which, whose, that, whom	<p>The old man, who we were all scared of, smiled and threw our ball back.</p> <p>The tree, which used to be splendidly tall and decorated, was now a mess on the floor.</p> <p>The girl (who was only 4 years old) danced wonderfully on the stage.</p>
REPORTED SPEECH	
Reported speech is where you write about what somebody else has said, without using their exact words. Reported speech does not need speech marks.	<p>Mrs Samuels told me I was being silly.</p> <p>When I saw Mr Peters, he said his back had been hurting all week.</p>
SECOND PERSON	
When the writer is speaking directly to the	You are now reading a book.

reader. 'You' is used, rather than 'I'.	When you reach the door, please knock gently.
SEMI-COLONS (LIST)	
In a list, semi-colons are used instead of commas where the items in a list are longer (and usually more descriptive). You don't use capital letters after a semi-colon, but you can use 'and' after the last semi-colon to show a list is ending.	On my holiday, I saw loads of amazing sights, including: the enormous, towering, stony pyramids; long, dry desserts as far as the eye could see; the River Nile, which was so wide I couldn't even see the other side; and Mrs Moose, my teacher from school!
SEMI-COLONS (PROSE)	
Semi-colons can also be used to show that two complete sentences are very closely linked. In this instance they are used in place of a conjunction or full-stop.	The children came home very happy today; they have been on their residential trip all week. Let's go to the library to read; it is the only place I can concentrate.
SIMILE	
Describes one aspect of an object or person by saying it is SIMILAR to something else. Usually, the words 'like' or 'as ___ as ___' will appear in a simile.	The tea was as hot as lava . The girl was as tall as a mountain . The children were quiet like a class of mice .
SUFFIX	
A suffix is a group of letters added to the end of a word to change its meaning. Common suffixes are -ed, -er, -est, -ly	Big, bigger, biggest Quiet, quietly Inform, information
SYNONYM	
Different words that have nearly the same meaning as each other	Synonyms of BIG include HUGE, TALL, MASSIVE Synonyms of HAPPY include JOYFUL, PLEASED, CONTENT
THIRD PERSON	
When the writer is speaking about someone or something else, using pronouns such as he, she, they, it, them	<u>The boy</u> walked to the shops. <u>They</u> sat down in assembly.
VERB	
A verb is an action word (a doing word in KS1). Verbs are what you change to show which tense you are writing in.	Go////Went////going Look////Looked////Looking Kick////Kicked////Kicking NOTE: <i>am, was, were, be, are, is, being</i> are all verbs - from the verb family 'To be'

