Glossary of Grammar



Noun	Words that name a person, place, thing or idea.	
	These can be described as either Common or Proper.	
	Common Nouns	
	A noun that describes types of objects	cat, tree, kitchen
	Proper Nouns	
	A noun that describes people, places or 'times'.	Monday, Jane, Newcastle
	Collective Nouns	
	A noun that describes a group.	bunch, team, swarm
	(can be considered plural)	
	Abstract Nouns	truth, hope
	A noun that describes a feeling or concept you cannot touch or see.	
Pronoun	Words to replace a noun.	
	Singular Pronouns	
	Pronouns to describe one thing or person.	it, you, she, he, I, mine, yours, his
	Plural Pronouns	
	Pronouns to describe more than one thing or person.	they, we, ours, their
	Possessive Pronouns	
	Pronouns to show possession.	his, ours, theirs
	Relative Pronouns	
	Pronouns that relate/refer to the subject (noun).	who, which, that
Determiner	Words to introduce a noun or noun phrase.	a, an, the, every, this, those, one, some,
		many
	Article	a an tha
Adjective	The most common determiners Words to describe a noun or pronoun.	a, an, the A <u>shy</u> child, <u>blue</u> notebook and <u>rotten</u>
Aujective	words to describe a noun or pronoun.	apple.
Verb	Words to describe an action or state.	The film <u>was</u> exciting.
	Often referred to as 'doing words.	Jane <u>baked</u> a cake.
,	Modal Verb	
	A type of auxiliary verb (it's used with another verb) which	will, would, can, could,
	can express meanings such as certainty, ability, or obligation	may, might, shall, should, must, ought
	Imperative Verb	Give me that pen.
	A type of verb that creates an imperative sentence (a	John, <u>put</u> that down!
	sentence that gives an order or command).	

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Adverb (Adverbial)	Single words that modify (change or add to the meaning of) verbs, adjectives and adverbs (and clauses). Note: they do not modify nouns. Express time, place or cause. Indicate degrees of possibility Linking across paragraphs Using adverbs of time, place and number.	He moved slowly down the path. (modifying verb – move) bravely, loudly then, next, soon, therefore perhaps, surely later, nearby, secondly
Preposition	Words that show a nouns relationship to another word in the sentence.	behind, throughout, on, into
Conjunction	Words that join together phrases or clauses. Subordinating Conjunctions Conjunctions that show cause and effect. Co-ordinating Conjunctions Conjunctions that join main clauses (sentences).	when, because, if, so, while, after, and, but, or when, because, if, so, while, after and, but, or
Subordinate Clause	A clause that is dependent of a main clause and begins with a subordinating conjunction. This clause does not make sense on its own.	The frog jumped <u>because the boy splashed</u> <u>the water.</u> <u>Before washing his hands</u> , the boy found some soap.
Antonym	Two words with opposite meanings.	hot – cold
Synonym	Two words with the same/similar meanings.	talk – speak
Homophone	Two words that sound exactly the same, but are spelled differently and have different meanings.	hear, here some, sum
Homonym	Two words that are spelled and sound exactly the same, but have different meanings.	Has he <u>left</u> yet? Yes – he went through the door on the <u>left</u> .
Root Word	A word in its simplest form, to which prefixes and suffixes can be added to change the meaning.	unemployment employ = root word
Prefix	Letters added to the beginning of a word to modify its meaning. All prefixes hold meaning by themselves; however they are not considered words.	unhappy happy = root word un = prefix
Suffix	Letters added to the end of a word to modify its meaning. All suffixes hold meaning by themselves; however they are not considered words.	tasteless taste = root word less = suffix