

English Glossary

Term	Guidance	Example
active voice	In active sentences, the subject of the sentence does something to the object.	Anna plays the violin. Anna is the subject. The violin is the object.
adjective	Words that tell us more about a noun.	The <u>complex</u> question. A <u>fearless, courageous</u> hero.
adverb	Words that describe verbs, adjectives and other adverbs. Some adverbs show how possible or certain something is.	I <u>carefully</u> opened the door. The game was <u>terribly</u> boring. I will <u>possibly</u> go to the cinema on the weekend.
adverbial phrases	Tell you how, when, where or how often something happens. They can be used to link sentences and paragraphs together.	I love sledging. <u>In contrast</u> , my best friend prefers skiing.
antonym	Words that mean the opposite to each other.	Loud – Quiet Short – Tall Front – Back
apostrophe	Apostrophes can be used to show where a letter has been left out in a contraction, to show possession and to indicate the difference between 'its' and 'it's'.	Missing letters: they will – they'll Possession (Singular nouns): The girl's pen. Possession (Plural nouns): The daisies' petals. Its – 'belonging to it' It's – 'it is' or 'it has'
complex sentence	Has a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses.	Although I like apples, I love strawberries.
compound sentence	Has two or more main clauses joined with a conjunction.	I like apples, but I love strawberries.
conjunction	Words or phrases that join two sentences or two parts of a sentence. They help writing to flow smoothly.	He didn't want it, <u>so</u> I ate it myself <u>and</u> it was delicious.
determiner	Words that go before a noun and identify the noun in further detail.	'a boy', 'an apple', 'his football', 'one chair', 'which bag'
ellipsis	Ellipsis means removing a word or phrase which you would usually expect to be included in a sentence. Also the name of the three dots (...) in punctuation.	'Harry eats cake when he wants to'. Instead of, 'Harry eats cake when he wants to eat cake'.
homophone	Words that are pronounced the same, but have different meanings and spellings.	Isle -- Aisle. An isle is an island. An aisle is a walkway.
main clause	Has a subject and a verb, and makes sense on its own.	Tom played squash.

modal verb	Indicate how likely or possible something is to happen.	'I <u>will</u> do an excellent piece of writing'. 'I <u>should</u> try to read every night'.
noun	Words that name things. Concrete nouns are names for things that you can see, hear, touch or smell. Abstract nouns are names for ideas, concepts or feelings. Collective nouns are names for groups of people or things.	Tree, egg, dog. Faith, love, honesty. A <u>herd</u> of cows. A <u>swarm</u> of bees.
noun phrase	Includes one noun, as well as words that describe it.	The black dog. The tall boy.
object	In a sentence, the object usually comes after the verb. It has something done to it by the verb.	The cat drinks <u>the milk</u> .
passive	In passive sentences, something is done to the subject.	The violin was played by Anna. Anna is the subject. The violin is the object.
past perfect	Used to talk about something that happened before now, and before something else happened.	Riley <u>had spilt</u> his drink when Mum arrived.
past progressive	Is formed in the same way as the present progressive, but 'to be' has to be in the past tense.	Leo <u>was frying</u> an egg.
past tense	Used to write about something that's finished.	'Dave visited his Gran.' 'Mrs Smith heard everything.'
phrase	A group of words which builds up a sentence or a clause. A phrase either does not have a verb or does not have a subject. Some phrases might have neither.	'on the wall' 'hundreds of spotty dogs'
prefix	A letter or group of letters that can be added to the beginning of a word to make a new word. The spelling of the root word does not change.	<u>trans</u> + form = transform
preposition	Used to explain where things are in time or space. They usually sit before nouns or pronouns to their relationship to another word in the sentence.	About, by, down, from, under, with.
present perfect form	Use the present perfect form of a verb to talk about something that has happened before now, but not at a specific time.	Riley <u>has split</u> his drink.

present tense	Used to describe something which happens regularly.	'Mrs Smith hears everything.' 'Dave visits his Gran.'
present progressive	Used to write about something that's still happening. We use the present form of 'to be' plus the main verb with 'ing' on the end.	are/am/is + verb + ing e.g Chloe is chatting.
pronoun	Words that you use to replace nouns to avoid repetition. Relative pronouns are used to join two parts of a sentence together.	I, me, he, she, it, us, they etc. which, who, that etc.
relative clause	A relative clause is a type of subordinate clause that is often introduced by a relative pronoun.	I bought a car <u>which had red wheels</u> .
root word	A word without a prefix or a suffix added to it.	Root word = behave. With prefix = misbehave With suffix = behaviour
Simple sentence	Has one main clause.	I like apples
Standard English	The type of English that you should use in your written work. It helps to make your writing clearer.	Standard English: "I have not found him." Non-Standard English: "We ain't found him."
subject	In a sentence, the subject is the person or thing doing the verb. It usually comes first.	The <u>cat</u> drinks the milk.
subordinate clause	A subordinate clause gives extra information, but does not make sense on its own.	'while Dan walked the dog.' This would make sense if put with a main clause e.g 'Tom played squash while Dan walked the dog'.
suffix	A letter or a group of letters that can be added to the end of the word to make a new word.	prefer + ence = preference
synonym	A word or a phrase that means exactly the same, or nearly exactly the same, thing as another word or phrase.	Drowsy – Sleepy Huge – Enormous Untrue – False
verb	Doing or being words. The form of the verb has to agree with the <i>subject</i> .	The man <u>digs</u> with a spade.
word family	Groups of words that have a common feature or pattern.	For example, 'at' words. 'at', 'bat', 'cat', 'pat'.