Grammar Glossary

Grammar Glossary is the terminology of English grammatical terms, with definitions, explanations and example sentences presented in an alphabetical order.

Term	Definition
Base form	With the exception of singular nouns and third-person singular pronouns, base form is the verb form used in the present tense with all subjects. **Ex:** talk, walk, run, eat etc.
Base sentence	The sentence base is the smallest statement possible for a sentence. We look for a simple subject (one word if possible) and a simple predicate to find this (the verb phrase). Modifiers are not used. **Ex:** Prices dropped. Demand increased.
Canonical	A canonical form is a grammatical category's simple and usual form, from which alternative more complex and atypical forms can be explained. A basic affirmative statement, for example, is canonical and can be used to explain how to construct negative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamative sentences. **Ex: Canonical:** They hired a taxi. **Non-Canonical:** They didn't hire a taxi. Did they hire a taxi? Hire a taxi. What a taxi they hired!
Case	Case is a grammatical concept that refers to the systematic variation in the form of a noun or pronoun based on its role in the sentence's syntax. The nominative and accusative forms of pronouns (**I - me; we - us**) and the genitive forms of nouns and pronouns (**girl's, my, ours**, and so on), also known as possessive forms, are the only remains of the English case system today.
Cataphora	Cataphora is a relationship between two language phrases in which the first expresses a forward reference to the second. **Ex:** If you want **them**, there are <u>chocolates</u> in the jar. '**them**' is cataphoric referring forward to chocolates.

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Causative	A causative verb is one that causes things to happen. Although the subject does not perform the action, it is indirectly responsible for it. **Ex:** She **made** me go to the art exhibition. 　　I **spill**ed the juice on the table.
Clause	A clause is a grammatical unit that usually consists of a subject, a verb (or verb phrase), and may be a complete sentence or part of a sentence. **Ex:** We/ bought a new car. [independent clause] (subject) / (predicate) 　　When the principal arrives [dependent clause]
Cleft sentence	A cleft sentence is one in which a single thought is divided into two parts (or "cleft"). This allows you to draw attention to a certain element by changing it from its normal position to a focus position. **Ex:**　　It was **my aunt**/ who gave this frock to me. 　(segment 1) (**focus**)/ (segment 2)
Collective noun	A collective noun is a singular term that refers to a group of persons or things considered as a whole. **Ex:** board, choir, herd, flock, bunch, pack etc.
Collocation	Two or more words are said to collocate or be in collocation when they are placed next to one other, especially when they are habitually juxtaposed. **Ex:** fully aware; regular exercise; a round of applause etc.
Common noun	A common noun is a noun that refers to a group of people, animals, places, things, or abstract concepts or qualities, or any example of that group. **Ex:** hill, lion, beauty, vehicle, woman etc.

Term	Definition
Comparative	A comparative adjective or adverb implies a greater degree of the characteristic or feature that the adjective or adverb denotes. The comparative degree is commonly expressed in English by adding –er (for example, colder) to an adjective or adverb, or by using more as a modifier (e.g., more important). In some circumstances, though, it is conveyed using a word derived from a different root. Better, for example, is the comparative of good.
Comparative clause	A comparative clause is a type of subordinate clause where the comparative words **as**, **than**, or **like** can introduce a sub-clause, which is a part of a sentence with its own verb that makes no sense when it is removed from the rest of the sentence. **Ex:** The fuel price is higher **than** we had expected.
Comparative phrase	Comparative phrase is a prepositional phrase introduced by **as** or **than** and equivalent to a comparative sentence from which the verb has been omitted by ellipsis. **Ex:** Sam plays as well [as me].
Complex sentence	One independent clause and one or more subordinate clauses make up a complex sentence. **Ex:** Whenever prices rise, consumers buy fewer products. When Elena was younger, she believed in fairy tales.
Compound-Complex sentence	A sentence with two or more independent clauses and one or more subordinate clauses is known as a compound-complex sentence. **Ex:** When we won the national hockey championship, the team captain jumped for joy and the fans cheered.
Compound noun	A compound noun is a noun comprised of more than one word; it might be a single word, hyphenated, or separated by a space. **Ex:** rainfall; passer-by; printer cartridge;
Compound phrase	A compound phrase is a group of words or phrases connected by a conjunction, a comma, or both. **Ex:** We saw an enormous, old, rough-skinned lion. The puppy was lively, friendly, and curious.

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Compound sentence	Compound sentences are made up of two or more independent clauses that are usually connected by a conjunction. **Ex:** Jane made the juice, and Eliza made the sandwiches.
Concord (also called agreement)	Concord is a relationship between two elements in which they match each other in terms of a grammatical feature such as tense, case, or number. **Ex:** My uncle owns a private jet.
Concrete noun	An actual item, location, person, or animal is referred to as a concrete noun. An abstract noun, on the other hand, signifies something immaterial as an idea, characteristic, situation, or activity. **Ex:** phone, Mr. William, dog, car etc.
Conditional	A conditional clause is a clause that expresses a condition and usually begins with the words if or unless. **Ex:** If the bus breaks down again, I will have to take a taxi to the airport.
Conjugate	Conjugate is the process of displaying the various forms of a verb based on voice, mood, tense, number, and person; conjugation in English is very simple compared to many other languages. **Ex:** We **would consider** your project proposal. We **would have considered** your project proposal. We **would be considering** your project proposal. We **would have been considering** your project proposal.
Conjunction	A conjunction is a term that refers to words that have a conjoining or linking function in grammar. A conjunction is a word that connects multiple words, phrases, clauses, or sentences. **Ex:** and, but, or, if, when, although, because, unless, etc.
Conjunctive adverb	Conjunctive adverb is a word or phrase used to show a relationship between clauses or sentences. **Ex:** nevertheless, as a result, therefore, however, likewise etc.