Grammar Glossary

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

Term	Definition
-ing form	The form of a verb with an-ing ending. **Ex: doing, sending** It's a non-finite form of the verb that's combined with **be** to make a progressive construction. **Ex: is eating, has been growing** The -ing form is sometimes known as a 'present participle' or a 'gerund' (when used in a nominal phrase). Nouns and adjectives ending in -ing should be distinguished from the -ing form as a form of a verb. **Ex: building, interesting**
Interjection	A common word for expressing emotion is an interjection. It usually conveys an exclamation or a command and acts independently of other words. **Ex: "Hi!" "Hello!" "Ouch!" "Wow!"**
Interrogative pronoun	Interrogative pronoun is a pronoun that asks a question. **Ex:** "What did the Maths teacher say?"
Interrogative sentence	The interrogative sentence is a type of sentence that is commonly used to ask a question. **Yes-no questions, wh-questions, and alternative questions** are the most common types of interrogative sentences. **Ex: When are the best days to go to the City Centre Mall?**
Intransitive verb	When a verb does not take a direct object, it is called intransitive. **Ex: "Rivers flow." "Leo laughed."**
Irregular plurals	Irregular plurals are noun plurals that do not append -(e)s to the singular in the same way that regular plurals do. **Ex: man – men; woman – women; foot – feet; deer – deer;**
Irregular verb	Irregular verbs have a different ending for the past tense and past participle forms than regular verbs that has an ending "-ed." (base form – past tense – past participle) **Ex: do, did, done; let, let, let; know, knew, known**

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Linking verb	A linking verb links the subject to other information (but does not indicate action). They're also referred to as "a state of being" verbs. **Ex:** "The company stays true to its objectives."
Main clause	(Another term for independent clause. Please refer independent clause in document Grammar Glossary 4.)
Main verb	Any verb in a sentence that is not an auxiliary verb is referred to as a main verb; a main verb has its own meaning. **Ex:** They **have** a beautiful farmhouse.
Masculine	Males are referred to as masculine in modern English. **Ex: Father, Uncle, Dog, Lion**
Mass noun	A mass noun is a singular noun that cannot be used with a numerical and does not have a plural form. It can be used without the use of an article or any other determiner. **Ex: traffic, furniture, welfare, butter, water, wood**
Modal verb	A modal verb is an auxiliary verb like can, could, must, or should that is used with the bare infinitive of a verb. It expresses concepts like necessity, possibility, obligation, prediction, intention, and hypothesis. In modern English, the primary modal verbs are can/could, may/might, must, shall/should, and will/would. Other verbs, such as ought and need, share some modal verb features. **Ex:** "We **will** succeed," said Jane.
Modifier	A modifier is a word, phrase, or clause that limits or qualifies the meaning of another word, phrase, or clause. **Ex:** a **school** trip; a **new** house; the villa **over there**;

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Mood	The mood of a verb determines whether the clause in which it appears reflects a fact, command, hypothesis, etc. It's a sentence form that expresses the speaker's opinion on the degree of reality of what's being expressed. Subjunctive, indicative, imperative, and interrogative, for example.
Morpheme	A morpheme is a linguistic unit that cannot be broken down into smaller units. English morphemes include prefixes, suffixes, word stems, and combining forms. **Ex: friendly** ("friend", "ly" – 2 morphemes) A single morpheme can also make up a word. **Ex: pond, down, know etc,.**
Negation	Negation is the process of transforming a sentence or other unit into its negative form, most commonly through the use of not. The negative form transforms a "yes" into a "no." **Ex:** Tom is not here. None of us liked the drama.
Neuter	The neuter gender refers to nouns that are neither male nor female. **Ex:** student, cousin, parent, teacher, bird, etc.
Nominative case	The nominative case is used in several inflected languages to indicate nouns and pronouns that function as the subject of a verb (as well as adjectives used to modify them). These are now commonly viewed as belonging to the subjective case in modern English, and the term "nominative" is no longer widely used. **Ex: Mark** eats cookies. (The noun "Mark" is the subject of the verb "eats." "Mark" is in the nominative case.)
Non-defining relative clause	A non-restrictive is a modifier that adds meaning to a noun phrase without restricting or limiting its meaning. Ex: The boy, who had a chocolate cookie in his hand, was still hungry."

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Non-finite verb	A non-finite verb is one that does not indicate tense. In other words, a non-finite verb cannot be used to determine if a statement is in the past, present, or future tense. As a result, a sentence's main verb is never a non-finite verb. Gerunds, infinitives, and participles are all types of non-finite verbs. **Ex:** baking, to bake, baked; singing, to sing, sung;
Noun	A noun is a term that typically describes a person, place, animal, or thing and can function as the subject or object of a verb or as the object of a preposition. **Ex: Edward, Agra, dog, table etc.**
Noun clause	A noun clause is a clause that replaces a noun and cannot stand alone; it is frequently introduced with words like "that, who, or whoever." **Ex:** "**What** the principal said was surprising."
Noun phrase	Any word or group of words based on a noun or pronoun that can function as a subject, object, or prepositional object in a sentence is referred to as a noun phrase. In a sentence, a noun phrase operates just like a noun. **Ex: "Anna** is nice." "When is **the Board of Directors meeting**?"
Number	Number is a grammatical category that classifies word forms into groups based on the number of people or things they refer to. Singular and plural numbers are the two types of number categories in modern English. **Ex: two cats; three puppies; two men; five children etc.**