



SSSJ Grammar Terms Glossary

K. HOSMER

Active Voice

In a sentence with an active verb – the subject is performing the action.

EXAMPLE:

James **marched** onto the football pitch



Adjective

A 'describing word'. Gives more information often **before the noun** or after the verb 'to be'

EXAMPLE:

The man **wore** a **smart, brown** suit.
The suit **was** new.

Adverb

Gives more information about a verb, adjective, another adverb or a clause. It can tell you **how, when, where** or **how often** something happens and for **emphasis**.

EXAMPLE:

Suddenly, the wind slammed the gate closed.

Fortunately, no one was hurt. **However**, the gate was broken. It was going to take **absolutely** ages to mend it.

Adverbial

Word or phrase that gives more information about a verb or clause. It can be an **adverb**, a **phrase** or a **subordinate clause**.

EXAMPLE:

The children played **happily**.

When we arrived, the shop was closed.

Ambiguity

When something could be interpreted in more than one way.

EXAMPLE:

This is the small pet shop.

Does this shop **sell small pets**, or is the **shop building small**?

Apostrophe

For **contraction** – when two words have been made smaller into one word. The apostrophe goes where the letters have been missed out or changed.

EXAMPLE:

Did not → **didn't**; should not → **shouldn't** will not → **won't**

For **possession** – to show something belongs to someone.

Singular not ending in s: The girls **dress**. **Singular ending in s**: James' **diary**.

Plural ending in s: Visitors' **car park**. **Plural not ending in s**: Sheep's **wool**.

Article

The words: **the, an** and **a** are articles. They are a type of determiner.

Brackets ()

Used to add information into a sentence to explain or as additional information. The sentence makes sense if you remove the bracketed words.

EXAMPLE:

The children played for the UFL (**United Football League**).

We had pizza on my birthday (**my favourite food!**).

Clause

A phrase with a verb as its key word, with other words to give meaning.

Main Clause

Can be used on its own as a sentence.

EXAMPLE:

The children played tennis. They lost the ball.

Main clauses can be joined with a **conjunction** or other connecting device:

EXAMPLE:

The children played tennis **until** they lost the ball.

Definite Article

The determiner '**the**' is the definite article.

EXAMPLE:

"THE book is on the table."

(It is that book in particular, not any book).



Bullet Points

Used to organise a list of items and to make points clear.

EXAMPLE:

To make the model you will need the following equipment:

- Scissors
- Cardboard
- Sticky tape

Subordinate Clause

Gives more meaning and information about the main clause. It will often start with a **subordinating conjunction**, e.g. before, although, because, if since, when, as.

EXAMPLE:

Before they lost the ball, the children played tennis.

As the moon reflected in the pond, the horse galloped across the field.

Antonym

Words which have the opposing meaning.

EXAMPLE:

hot → cold;

large → small

right → wrong

right → left

Indefinite Article

The determiner '**a/an**' is the indefinite article.

EXAMPLE:

"Pass me **a** book off the table."

(Any book – it doesn't matter!)

Cohesion

The way a writer makes their ideas link together by:

- ✍ Grouping sentences together in paragraphs
- ✍ Using particular words and phrases to link ideas.
- ✍ Choosing ways to connect paragraphs together.

Relative Clause

Gives more meaning and information about the main clause. It is connected to the main clause with a **relative pronoun**, e.g. that, which, who, whom, whose.

EXAMPLE:

Please can you pass the pencil case **that** belongs to Martha?

I took the letter **which** you left to post.





Cohesive Device

Word or phrase that links phrases, paragraphs or texts together.

EXAMPLES:

Pronouns and Determiners: Mrs Brown arrived with her new car. *She* drove *the* car carefully.



Conjunctions: Mrs Brown's hair *and* her car were bright red!

Adverbs and adverbials: There was a car stolen from the next village. *The following day*, there was a robbery.

Ellipses: when words have been missed out: "...an apple?" The words "What do you want to eat?" have been missed out.

LOOK IN DIFFERENT BOOKS.



WHAT EXAMPLES OF EACH OF THESE GRAMMAR TERMS CAN YOU FIND?

HAVE A GO AT USING THEM IN YOUR OWN WRITING



Colon :

Used to introduce a *list*.

EXAMPLE:

From the shop we need: apples, loaf and milk.

To introduce examples or explanations
The children performed well; they had been practising for weeks.

A capital letter is not needed after a colon unless it is a proper noun or I.

Comma ,

Separate items in a list: I like eating peas, carrots, apples and bananas. (The last item uses and instead of a final comma)

Change the meaning of a sentence: Let's eat Grandma! Let's eat, Grandma.

Avoiding ambiguity: I'd like some chocolate and sweets for my sister.

I'd like some chocolate, and sweets for my sister

Before a clause starting with or, and or but: Did you make this yourself, *or* did mum help you?

After a **fronted adverbial** or a **subordinate clause**:

After a while, the shadows melted away. **If we are really quiet**, we can sneak past.

Separate the name of the person being spoken to from the rest from the sentence:

"Emily, your tea's ready."

Command

A sentence which gives an order or instruction which usually begins with an **imperative verb**

EXAMPLE:

Eat your dinner!

Mix the pudding.



Compound

A word which is made up of two or more words joined together.

EXAMPLE:

Skateboard

Tablecloth



Conjunction

Links words or phrases together

EXAMPLE:

The children played tennis **until** they lost the ball.

Co-ordinating conjunction

Joins groups of words which are of the same importance in a sentence.

EXAMPLE:

bread **and** water brother **and** sister

Consonant

All the other letters that aren't the vowels a, e, i, o or u.

Determiner

Goes in front of a noun and any adjectives to explain **what** the sentence is about or **how many** of the noun there are.

EXAMPLE: **The** large dog nosily ate **two** bones.

Dash –

Introduce further information instead of a colon or brackets.

EXAMPLE:

The house was dark – **it was really scary**.

My sister – **the younger one** – is really annoying.

Ellipsis ...

This is when one or more words are missed out. Usually it is denoted by 3 dots ...

EXAMPLE:

We're off to the park...I can post your letter. ("On the way" has been missed out).

EXAMPLE:

I turned the corner and suddenly saw...

Subordinating conjunction

Introduces a subordinate clause, for example: after, although, as, **because**, before, if, since, when, while

EXAMPLE:

The children tiptoed quietly **because** they didn't want to wake dad asleep on the settee.

Direct speech

People's **exact spoken words** written down using inverted commas.

EXAMPLE:

"Do you want to come to my party?" asked Oliver.

"It is over there on the table." Mum announced.

Exclamation / Exclamation mark !

Something that is said or shouted to show an extreme emotion, e.g. anger, surprise, frustration. It ends with an exclamation mark to show this emotion.

EXAMPLE:

Well done!

Brilliant goal!



Full stop

Comes at the end of a sentence to show it is completely finished.

EXAMPLE:

This is a full sentence and it is finished.

Homophone

Homophones are words that have the sound the same but have different meanings, origins or spelling.

EXAMPLE:

new and knew;
threw and through;
waste and waist

Hyphen -

A hyphen is used to join two or more words that are then read as a single word.

EXAMPLE: great-aunt; fair-haired

A hyphen is also used to help avoid ambiguity.

EXAMPLE: a man eating fish; a man-eating fish (do you want to say there is a fish that eats men? Or a man that is eating fish?)

A hyphen is sometimes used between a prefix and a root word, especially if the hyphen makes the word easier to read.

EXAMPLE: co-own; re-educate

Morphology

A morpheme is a single unit of meaning that cannot be split up any more. They are the parts which make up words,

EXAMPLE:

Walk – ing

A word can have one or more morphemes in it.

Some morphemes are whole words already; some are prefixes or suffixes and must be added to other morphemes to make sense.

Object

The **object** of a verb is who or what is acted upon by the verb.

In a statement, the object is usually the noun (or noun phrase or pronoun) just after the verb.

EXAMPLE:

The child grabbed **the ball**.



Future

There are several different ways to talk about the future in English:

The verb 'will' followed by the infinitive of the verb.

EXAMPLE: I **will** leave on an aeroplane.

The verb 'will' followed by 'be' and the present participle.

EXAMPLE: I **will be** leaving on an aeroplane.

The present progressive of the verb 'go' followed by 'to' and the verb.

EXAMPLE: I **am going to** leave on an aeroplane.

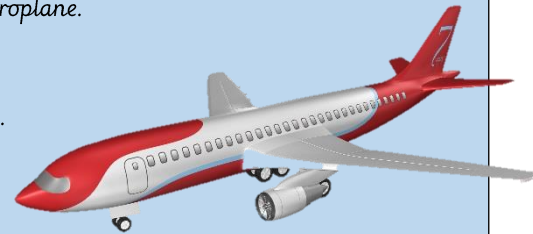
The present progressive of the verb.

EXAMPLE: I **am leaving** on an aeroplane.

The present tense of the verb.

EXAMPLE: I **leave** on an aeroplane.

Future



Inflection

An inflection is a change to the ending or spelling of a word, which changes its meaning slightly.

EXAMPLE: walks, walked; house, houses; mouse, mice

Sometimes the whole word changes.

EXAMPLE:

"went" is an inflection of "go".

Modal verbs

Modal verbs are a type of auxiliary verb.

EXAMPLES: **can, could, will, would, may, might, shall, should, must and ought to.**

EXAMPLE:

They are used for expressing:

Possibility, ability or likelihood – **can, could, may, might, should**

Necessity – **must, ought to, should the**

Future – **shall, will, would**

Collective noun

A group of things

EXAMPLE: herd, choir, audience, flock

Noun Phrase

A noun phrase is a phrase with a noun as the main word:

EXAMPLE:

The child played. ('child' is the noun)

A **noun phrase** can be expanded by adding words before or after it.

EXAMPLE: The **child with the ball** played.

The **fair-haired chubby child with the ball** played.

Inverted commas ‘ ’ ’ ’

Inverted commas, or speech marks, show when people are actually speaking (direct speech).

EXAMPLE: "I would love to go to the party," he said.

The punctuation at the end of the spoken words always comes inside the inverted commas.

EXAMPLE: "I can't wait to see everyone!" Alex cried.

You may see single (' ') or double (" ") inverted commas, depending on what you are reading.

With your own writing you should use the **double inverted commas**.

Noun

A noun is the name of a person, place or thing.

EXAMPLE: apple, dog, team, chair, happiness, beauty.

Common Noun

A common noun is a noun that refers to people or things in general.

EXAMPLE: dog, tree, bridge, chair, beauty, excitement, advice, bread

Proper noun

A proper noun is a noun that identifies a particular person, place or thing. Proper nouns begin with capital letters.

EXAMPLE: James, Africa, Friday, December

Abstract noun

Describes a thought or state rather than anything physical

EXAMPLE: belief, bravery, success



Paragraph

A paragraph is a group of sentences that are put together because they are about the same thing.

You would start a new paragraph for a change in **or a new: speaker, event, place, person, time.**



Phrase

A phrase is a group of words that can be understood as a unit.

EXAMPLE: **his teddy** (is a noun)

Plural

Means – more than one.

It is usually formed by adding **-s**.

EXAMPLE: boy → boys; tree → trees

Some nouns have irregular plural endings or no plural ending at all.

EXAMPLE: bush → bushes; knife → knives; sheep = sheep; mouse → mice

Progressive

The progressive (or 'continuous') form is created by the verb **'to be'** followed by the present participle of the **verb**. It describes an ongoing event.

EXAMPLE: The bird **is pecking** at the apples.

The cat **was looking** at the bird.

The **past progressive**, formed with the past tense of the verb 'to be' can show that something was in the process of happening when something else happened.

EXAMPLE: I **was going** to the shops when I lost my glove.

Punctuation

Punctuation marks are used in sentences to make the meaning clear. Sentences can mean very different things if they don't have punctuation.

Question

A sentence that is used to find out information. You can tell that a sentence is a question because:

- it ends with a question mark
- it asks something
- if there is a modal verb, it usually comes before the subject
- it might start with **how, when, what, why or where.**

Parenthesis

A way of adding extra information, and explanation or an afterthought. It is separated with brackets, dashes or commas. The word or phrase inside the **brackets, commas or dashes** is called a **parenthesis**.

EXAMPLE: The girl **(who was nervous about the performance)** waited backstage.

() , , - - -

Prefix

A morpheme that can be added to the beginning of a root word. Different prefixes have different meanings. When you add a prefix to a word, you change its meaning and make a new word.

EXAMPLE: dis + appear = disappear

im + possible = impossible

un + well = unwell

sub + marine = submarine

il + legal = illegal



Pronouns

Used instead of a noun. Using a pronoun avoids repeating the noun again and again.

EXAMPLE: The **child** licked the **ice cream** and ate **it** as **he** sat on a bench.

Personal pronoun

These replace the name of a person or thing.

Subject personal pronouns: I, you, he/she/it, we and they.

Object personal pronouns: me, you, him/her/it, us and them.



Possessive pronoun

These tell you who something **belongs to**

EXAMPLE: That ice cream is **mine!**

Relative pronoun

These introduce more information about the noun.

EXAMPLE: The child **that** sat on the bench was eating an ice cream.

The words **where** and **when** are also sometimes used as relative pronouns.

EXAMPLE: This is the park **where** we played football.



Question Mark ?

Comes at the end of a sentence which is asking a question.

EXAMPLE: Where is it?

Passive Voice

In a passive sentence, the subject of the verb is the one that has something done to it, so the 'do-er disappears or is mentioned after 'by'.

EXAMPLE: The ball **was** caught.

The ball **was** caught **by** the little girl.

You can tell that a sentence is passive because: the **subject of the verb** has the **action done to it** there is part of the verb 'to be' (such as 'was' or 'is') or a verb like 'get', followed by a past participle the person or thing carrying out the action is introduced by the word 'by', or not at all.

Preposition

Usually comes before a noun or pronoun, often showing **place or direction or time or cause.**

EXAMPLE: **Later**, a cat crept **up** the tree.

Suddenly, the cat tried to pounce **on** the little green bird, but crashed **into** the tree. **After this**, the cat was furious with the bird.

EXAMPLES: above, against, behind, below, beside, between, in, inside, near, on, off, onto, outside, over, through, under

Root Word

This can stand on its own without suffixes or prefixes.

EXAMPLE: **appear** is the root word of **disappearing** and **reappear**.

Compounds contain two root words.

EXAMPLE: skate + board



Semi-Colon ;

It can be used between two related main clauses.

EXAMPLE: The party was fun; I had a great time.

It can separate longer phrases in an expanded list that has been introduced by a **colon**;

EXAMPLE: The children need to bring with them: a hot-water bottle or an extra blanket if the weather is cold; a cup, a plate and a bowl; a knife, a fork and a spoon.

Singular

The singular of a noun is used when there is only one of something.



