



Abbreviation: A shortened form of a word. **Abbreviations** begin with a **capital** letter and end with a period. Example: “**Dr.**” is an **abbreviation** for “**Doctor.**”

Action verb: A **verb** that describes an action. The action can be a physical action or a mind action. Example: He ran to the store. She wants a chocolate birthday cake. **Run, walk, think, feel, want** are examples of **action verbs**.

Adjective: A word that describes a **noun** or a **pronoun**. “**Furry**” and “**white**” are **adjectives** that tell more about the **noun** “**kitten.**”

Adverb: A word that describes a **verb** (action word). **Adverbs** tell “**how**” or “**when**” the action took place. **Adverbs** also describe “**how often**” or “**where**” the action is done. Many **adverbs** end in “**ly.**” “**Sam ran quickly.**” “**Ran**” is the **verb**. “**Quickly**” is the **adverb** that tells “**how**” Sam ran. “**Sam arrived last.**” “**Arrived**” is the **verb**. “**Last**” tells “**when**” Sam arrived.

Antonym: A word that means the opposite of another word. Example: “**large**” is an antonym of the word “**small**”.

Apostrophe: A punctuation mark (**'**) used to replace a letter in a **contraction** or to show the possessive forms of **nouns** and **pronouns**. Examples: “**Can’t**” is the contraction of the words “**can not**”. “**Sue’s**” cat, or “**somebody’s**” cat describes to whom the cat belongs.

Appositive: A word or group of words that directly follow another word to explain it. Example: **Mrs. Smith, my grandmother, is 65 years old.** The words “**my grandmother**” are the **appositive** and more fully explain who Mrs. Smith is.

Article: A type of **adjective** used to identify a **noun** in a definite way (“**The** teacher in classroom 3C likes to teach art.”) or in a general, or indefinite way (“**A** teacher prepares lessons for class.”). “**A**”, “**an**”, and “**the**” are **articles**.

Capital: The uppercase (larger) form of a letter. Example: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

Capitalize: Means to begin a word with a **capital** letter. **Capitalize** the first letter in **proper nouns** (person, place, thing), titles of people, initials, **abbreviations**, the first word, last word, and other important words in the title of books, movies, plays, paintings, ships, and other works, the greeting and closing in letter parts, the first word of each line of an outline, the first word in every line of a poem, the first word of every direct quotation, the names of months, days and holidays, proper adjectives, geographic names, religions, nationalities, languages, names of clubs, organizations, and business firms.

Comma: A **punctuation mark** (**,**) that is used to separate ideas or sentence parts that go together. **Commas** are used to help make the meaning of a **sentence** clear. When reading aloud, the **comma** tells the reader to briefly pause. **Commas** are used to separate **nouns**, **verbs**, and **adjectives** in a series, to set off **interrupters** (mild **interjections** or **parenthetical**



expressions), to set off the name of the person directly spoken to, to set off **conversation words**, before the word “**and**”, “**or**”, and “**but**” when joining two short sentences into one longer sentence, after **introductory phrases**, and to set off **appositives**.

Common noun: A word that names a person, place, or thing. **Common nouns** do not name a specific person, place, or thing. Example: **girl** is a **common noun** and does not tell us which girl.

Comparative adjective: Adjectives that compare two things. The ending “**er**” can be added to many **adjectives** to make **comparative adjectives**. Example: I have an “**old**” coat. Her coat is “**older**” than mine. “**Older**” is a comparative adjective.

Comparative adverb: **Adverbs** that compare two things. Most adverbs that end in “**ly**” form the comparative with the word “**more**.” Example: Adverb: **quickly** Comparative adverb: **more quickly**

Complete sentence: A **sentence** that has both a **subject part** and a **predicate part** and makes sense.

Compound noun: **Nouns** made by joining two or more **nouns** together to form a **compound word**.

Compound word: A word that has been made up of two or more words which keep their separate form. Example: “**Steamship**” is a compound word made up of the two words “**steam**” and “**ship**.”

Conjunction: A word that is used to connect words or groups of words together. The words “**and**”, “**or**”, and “**but**” are **conjunctions**.

Contraction: A shortened word made by putting two words together. Use an **apostrophe** to show that letters have been left out. Example: The contraction of the words **can** and **not** is “**can’t**.”

Conversation word: An action word (**verb**) that tells how someone has said something. Examples: **said**, **stated**, **shouted**, **yelled**, and **whispered**.

Declarative sentence: A sentence that makes a statement or tells something. A **declarative sentence** has a **period** at the end. It is the most common type of sentence.

Demonstrative pronoun: A **pronoun** when it stands alone in a sentence and replaces a **noun**. These words can be used as **demonstrative pronouns**: **this**, **that**, **these**, **those** Example: **These** are my shoes.

Detail sentence: **Sentences** that tell more about the **main idea** in a **paragraph**.



Direct quote: The exact words a person says. **Quotation marks** (“ ”) are used before and after a person’s exact words. Example: **John said, “I am going to the store.”**

Exclamation mark: A punctuation mark (!) used at the end of an **exclamatory sentence** or an **interjection**.

Exclamatory sentence: A sentence that shows strong feeling. An **exclamation mark** is used at the end of an **exclamatory sentence**.

Future tense verb: An action word (**verb**) that tells about something that will happen in the future. Example: We “**shall visit**” the Statue of Liberty next year.

Helping verbs: A **verb** that helps the main **verb** name an action a **helping verb** states that “**something is**” and is a form of a “**be**” **verb** called a “**state of being**” **verb**. It helps the action form the **predicate part**. The most common helping **verbs** are: **am, is, are, was, were, have, has, had, do, does, did, being, been, can, could, may, might, must, shall, should, will, and would**. Example: He might have seen my lost dog. The **helping verbs** “**might**” and “**have**” help the **verb** “**seen**” to form the **predicate part** of the sentence.

Homographs: Words that have the same spelling as another word, but a different origin and meaning. Homographs may have the same or different pronunciation. When pronunciation is the same, the words are also homonyms.

- Examples:
1. Our class was **present** for the award ceremony.
The word **present** in this sentence is an **adjective**.
 2. We watched our teacher **present** the awards.
The word **present** in this sentence is a **verb**.

The **adjective present** has a different **pronunciation** than the **verb present**. Because the **adjective present** has different pronunciations, it is neither a **homophone** nor a **homonym**.

Homonyms: Words that have the same **pronunciation** and the same spelling as another word, but a different origin and meaning. All **homonyms** are also **homographs** and **homophones**. Example: The word **mail** can mean “**letters**” or “**armor**”. It is pronounced the same way for both meanings. It is also spelled the same for both meanings of the word.

Homophones: Words that sound alike or have the same **pronunciation** as another word but have different meanings and word origins. Spelling could be the same (then the words are also homonyms and homographs) or different. The words **they’re, there,** and **their** are **homophones**. They sound alike but have different meanings and word origins. As they are spelled differently, they are neither **homographs** not **homonyms**.



Imperative sentence: A **sentence** that tells or commands someone to do something. It has a **period** at the end of it. An example of an **imperative sentence** is: “**Pick up your toys.**” As in this sentence, the **subject** “**You**” is often not stated.

Indent: To begin the first word in a sentence farther from the left margin than any of the other lines in the **paragraph**. It is used to show that a new **paragraph** is about to begin.

Indirect quotations: A reference to spoken words that do not give the exact words of a speaker and are not placed within quotation marks. An example of an indirect quotation: **My brother said that he wanted to go.**

Initial: The first letter in each part of a name. Example: John Paul Jones’s **initials** are **J. P. J.** An **initial** is always **capitalized** and followed by a **period**.

Interjection: A word or group of words that show a strong feeling. **Interjections** are not complete sentences. An **exclamation mark** is used at the end of an **interjection**. Examples: “**Help!**” and “**Stop that!**”

Interrogative sentence: A sentence that asks a question. It has a **question mark** at the end of it. Example: “**Where are you going?**”

Intransitive verb: An **action verb** that does not have an **object**. Example: **The rooster crowed.** “**Crowed**” is an **action verb**, but it is not followed by a **direct object**.

Introductory phrase: A group of words that do not form a **complete sentence**. They are used to introduce a **sentence** and are set off from the rest of the **sentence** with a **comma**. Example: **Before I go to bed, I brush my teeth.** The words “**Before I go to bed**” is an **introductory phrase**.

Linking verb: A **verb** that connects the **subject part** of a **sentence** with a noun or an **adjective** in the **predicate part**. It tells what the **subject is** or **is like**. The most common **linking verb** is a form of the **verb** “**be**.” The most common of the **linking verbs** are: **is, are, was, were, am, seem, be, been, become**. Example: **He is my father.** The linking verb “**is**” links the **subject** “**He**” to the **object** “**father**”. He and father are the same person.

Main idea: Words that tell the most important idea in a **paragraph**. The rest of the sentences in a **paragraph** tell more about the main idea.

Mild interjections: Also called **parenthetical expressions** or **interrupters**. They are the words: “**yes**”, “**no**”, “**well**”, “**for example**”, “**by the way**”, “**however**”, and “**of course**”. A **comma** is used to set these words off from the rest of the **sentence**. Example: **Yes, I will go to the store with you.**

Noun: A word that names a person, place, thing, idea, or a feeling. Examples: **dentist, town, cheese, love, music.**



Noun of address: The person directly spoken to in a sentence is called the **noun of address**. **Nouns of address** are separated from the rest of the **sentence** with a **comma**. Example: **Mikel, where is your coat?** “**Mikel**” is the **noun of address**.

Object pronoun: A **pronoun** used as an **object** of the **verb**. It answers the question **whom? or what?** Example: **Look at me.** “**Me**” is the **object** of the **verb** “**look**” and answers the question “**whom?**” “**Me**” is the **object pronoun**.

Ordering adjectives: **Adjectives** that are used to order things. Words like **one, two,** and **three** **tell how many** and are called **ordering adjectives**.

Paragraph: A group of **sentences** that tell about the same idea or topic. **Paragraphs** usually begin on a new line and are **indented**.

Past tense verb: An action word (**verb**) that tells about something that has already happened. Many **past tense verbs** end in “**ed.**” Example: I **cleaned** my room yesterday.

Period: A **punctuation mark** (.) used at the end of a **declarative sentence** or an **imperative sentence**. It is also used at the end of an abbreviated title of people, **abbreviations**, and **initials**.

Plural noun: A **noun** that names more than one person, place, or thing. Examples: **boys, schools,** and **apples**.

Plural possessive noun: A **plural noun** that shows ownership. To form a **plural possessive noun**, add an **apostrophe** (') after the ‘s’ on a **plural noun**. Do not add another ‘s’ after the apostrophe. Example: The **ducks’** bills were all muddy.

Possessive noun: A **noun** that names who or what has something. To form a **possessive noun**, add an **apostrophe** and “s” at the end of a noun. Example: The yellow coat is that **girl’s** coat.

Possessive pronouns: A word that takes the place of a **noun** and shows who or what has or owns something. Examples: **my, her, his, their, our, its, mine, your, yours.**

Predicate: The word or words telling what is said about the **subject**. Example: **The dog barks.** “**Barks**” is the **predicate** or **verb** part that tells what the **subject** “**the dog**” is doing.

Predicate Adjective: An **adjective** that follows a linking verb. Example: **The food was tasty.** **Tasty** is a **predicate adjective** because “**is**” is a **linking verb** and “**tasty**” is an **adjective** describing the food.

Prefix: A letter or letters added at the beginning of another word to change its meaning. The letters “**un**” and “**re**” are common prefixes. The prefix “**un**” can mean “the opposite of.” The prefix “**re**” can mean “again.” Examples: When “**un**” is added to the word “**hook**”, to form



“**unhook**” it changes the meaning to be “**the opposite of hooking**”. When the prefix “**re**” is added to “**fill**” to form “**refill**” it changes the meaning to “**fill again**”.

Preposition: The word **preposition** has two parts: “**pre**” meaning “**before**” and “**position**”. A **preposition** is a word that stands before its **object** and shows the relationship between that **object** and another word in the sentence. A **preposition** is a word that relates its object (a **noun** or **pronoun**) to another word in the sentence. These are a few of the commonly used **prepositions**: **about, from, in, of, at, to, before over, with**. Example: **I went to the store**. “**I**” is the **subject**, “**went**” is the **verb**, “**to**” is the **preposition**, “**store**” is the **object** of the **preposition**.

Prepositional phrase: The group of words that includes a **preposition** and its **object**. Words that modify the **object** are also part of the **phrase**. Example: **Mother found my shoes in the living room**. The **prepositional phrase** is “**in the living room**.”

Present tense verb: An action word (**verb**) that tells about something that is happening now. Example: I **walk** to school.

Present perfect tense verb: A **verb** that names an action that happened at an indefinite time in the past. It can also name an action that happened in the past and is still happening in the present. Using “has or have” as a **helping verb** with the **past participle** forms the **present perfect tense verb**. Example: **The dog has returned every day at this time for months**. The sentence tells about something that has happened in the past and is still happening in the present.

Pronoun: A word that takes the place of one or more **nouns**. **The “girl” bought eggs**. “**She**” **bought eggs**. “**She**” takes the place of the **noun “girl”**.

Proper noun: A **noun** that names a specific person, place, or thing. **Mary** tells which girl. **Lincoln School** tells which place. **October** tells which thing (month). **Proper nouns** begin with **capital** letters.

Punctuation: The use of marks (**punctuation marks**) to organize and help the expression and meaning of words, often in **sentences**. The **comma**, **period**, **exclamation mark** and **question mark** are examples of **punctuation marks**.

Question mark: A **punctuation mark** (?) used at the end of an asking **sentence** called an **interrogative sentence**.

Quotation marks: A punctuation mark (“ ”) used in front of the first word in a direct quote and after the last word in a direct quote. A set of quotation marks look like this: “ ”. Example: “This is my teacher,” said Sandy. **Quotation marks** are also used to mark titles. Put **quotation marks** around the titles of stories, poems, television programs, reports, articles, and chapter titles of a book. Example: “**How the Camel Got His Hump**” (name of a story).



Run-on sentence: Two or more **sentences** joined together. Avoid **run-on sentences**.

Example: **Jeremy was waiting at the bus stop he is waiting for his friend, Max.**

Sentence: A group of words that tells or asks a complete thought or idea and makes sense. It has two parts: the **noun phrase** part called the **subject** and the **verb phrase** part called the **predicate**. The **subject** tells who or what the sentence is about. The **predicate** tells what action someone or something does or did. Sometimes the **predicate part** describes what the **subject** is or is like.

Singular noun: A **noun** that names just one person, place, or thing. Examples: **boy, school,** and **dog.**

Singular possessive noun: A **noun** that shows who or what has or owns something.

Example: My **sister's** shoes are black.

Stringy sentence: A **sentence** that strings together several different **sentences** with the word **“and”**. Avoid **stringy sentences**. Example: **We went to the movie and we ordered popcorn and we had fun.**

State of being verbs: **Verbs** that tell that something is are called a form of the **“be” verbs** or **“state of being” verbs**. These **verbs** are **“be” verbs** or **“state of being verbs”**: **is, are, am, was, were, will be, has been, have been, had been, seem, appear, look**. They can be used as **linking verbs** or **helping verbs**.

Subject: The person, place, thing, quality, or idea that the sentence is about. It is the **noun** part in a sentence. Example: **“The girl has red hair.” “The girl”** is the **subject**.

Subject pronouns: **Pronouns** that can be used in the **subject part** of a **sentence**. **Subject pronouns** take the place of the **noun** in the **subject**. **The boy has a horse. He likes to ride the horse.** The **pronoun “He”** takes the place of the **noun “boy.”**

Suffix: A letter or letters added to the end of a word to change its meaning. The letters **“er”** and **“or”** are common **suffixes** and usually mean “a person who”. Examples: A **climber** is a person who climbs. An **inventor** is a person who invents.

Superlative adjective: A type of **adjective** that compares more than two things where one of the things is the most of something. The ending **“est”** is added to an **adjective** to make a **superlative adjective**. Many times the words “of all” are used in a sentence with a **superlative adjective**. Example: I have an old coat. But she has the **oldest** coat of all. **“Oldest”** is a **superlative adjective**.

Superlative adverb: An **adverb** that compares more than two things. Most **adverbs** that end in **“ly”** form the superlative with the word **“most.”** Example: **Adverb: quickly**

Superlative adverb: most quickly



Synonym: A word that means the same or nearly the same as another word. A **synonym** for “big” is “large”.

Title: The name of a book, a poem, picture, song, play, or written work. It can also mean a word that names a person’s rank, occupation (job or work) or condition in life. Examples: **Doctor, Princess, Mr., President, Gone With the Wind,** and “**Jingle Bells**” are all **titles**.

Transitive Verb: An **action verb** that has an **object**, called a **direct object**. The **direct object** answers the question **what?** or **whom?** Example: **The dog ate the bone.** The **action verb** is “ate”. The dog ate what? **bone** (bone is the **direct object**).

Underline: **Underline** by drawing a line under the name of books, magazines, or movies. Example: Happy Feet (Name of a Movie)

Verb: An action word that tells what is or what is done. **Verbs** tell about the **subject** or **noun** part of the sentence and may tell what the **subject** is or is like. Examples: **Walk, run,** and **think** are **action verbs**. **Is, are,** and **was** can be **linking verbs**. **Has, have,** and **had** are called **helping verbs**.