

Grammar Terms and Definitions

singular	One object or person e.g The boy (singular) is laughing.
plural	More than one object or person e.g The boys (plural) are laughing.
sentence	A set of words including a verb that is complete and makes sense.
punctuation . , ... " "" ?	The use of marks and signs in writing to separate groups of words and to make meaning clearer.
exclamation mark !	This comes at the end of a sentence and shows it is about something urgent or surprising, or giving an order. It's a goal! Hurray! Sit on the chair!
common noun	A common noun names a person or thing: dog, tree, bridge, chair
proper noun	A proper noun identifies a particular person, place or thing: James Africa Friday
abstract noun	An abstract noun refers to things you cannot touch such as feelings, ideas, conditions e.g danger happiness friendship
collective noun	Collective nouns refer to groups of things: crowd family team
noun phrase	A noun phrase is an adjective and a noun together e.g blue (adjective) +sky (noun)=blue sky (noun phrase)
statement	A statement is a sentence which tells you something e.g Tigers are my favourite animal.
question	Questions are sentences which ask you something. They end with a question mark. e.g What is your favourite animal?
exclamation	Exclamations are sentences which say something with anger, urgency or surprise. They always end with an exclamation mark e.g Oh no!
command	Commands are sentences which tell you what to do. They can be very short and sometimes end with an exclamation mark e.g Stop! Don't do that.
compound	A compound word is made up of at least two shorter words e.g toothbrush, blackbird, daydream
adjective	An adjective gives information about the noun. It usually goes before it.: The little (adjective) bird (noun) flew.
verb	A verb names an action: The bird pecked (verb) the apple.
suffix	A suffix is an ending used at the end of one word to turn it into another e.g call-called teach-teacher green-greenish
adverb	Adverbs describe verbs or adjectives e.g Usha snored loudly . The match was really exciting!
present tense	Verbs in the present tense talk about what is happening now e.g Jake goes to the pool every day. My friends are coming.
past tense	Verbs in the past tense talk about things that have already happened or about imagined situations e.g

apostrophe	Apostrophes do two things: they show the place of a missing letter e.g I'm for I am or they show belonging or possession e.g Jane's pencil.
comma	A comma marks a pause in a sentence e.g The boy, who liked football, played in goal. or it divides items in a list: apples, pears, oranges
conjunction	A conjunction links two words or phrases together: James bought a bat <u>and</u> ball. Joe can't practise <u>because</u> he's injured.
prefix	A prefix I added at the beginning of a word to turn it into another word e.g <u>o</u> vertake, <u>dis</u> appear
clause	A clause is a special type of phrase: It was raining.(clause) <u>It was raining</u> but <u>we were indoors</u> .(two clauses)
consonant	Any of the letters that are not i, e, a, o, u
vowel	a, e, i, o, u
inverted commas	These are used to show e.g book titles: 'This is the Bear'.