Grammar Terms and what they mean...

Word Level terms

Nouns

A noun is a thing, a feeling or the name of a person or place (a naming word).

To test if it is a noun you can always put ‘a’, ‘the’ or ‘my’ in front of it, and, if it is a name it starts with a capital letter.

Examples – book, love, table, Otley, happiness are all nouns.

- **Proper Noun** – is a name of place or person and needs a capital letter.
  Examples – Paris, Jason, Farnley Lane

- **Concrete noun** – is a thing that you can touch.
  Examples – brick, cup, river, letter, brain.

- **Abstract noun** – a thing that exists but you cannot touch it.
  Examples – love, hate, thought, philosophy

- **Singular** – means just one thing or person.
  Examples – table, place, feeling

- **Plural** – means two or more things or people.
  Examples – tables, places, feelings

- **Gender** – in foreign languages nouns are divided up into feminine, masculine or neuter. We do have some nouns that are marked by gender in English.
  Examples – poet (male) poetess (female), fiancé (male) Fiancée (female).

Verbs

Verbs express an action or a state (a doing word). To test if a word is a verb put ‘I’ with it.

Examples – go, see, do, like, run, sing.

- **Modal verbs** – the modal verbs are can, (could), may, (might), must, shall, (should), will and (would). They express the likelihood of something taking place. Examples - I *could* win the prize, He *might* pop round tonight

- **The Infinitive** This is the form of a verb found in a dictionary and is usually expressed to…… Examples – to run, to swim, to think.

- **The Imperative** – this is when the verb is used as a command. Examples – Look! Sit! Stop! Behave!

- **Tense** - we use verbs to help us say when something happens. Tense means past, present and future

  - **Past** – an action that happened in the past. Example – I *worked* hard yesterday.
  - **Present** – an action that is happening now happens today, or regularly.
    Examples – I *am eating* my dinner, I *eat* my dinner at one o’clock.
  - **Future** – an action that will happen in the future. Example – I *will go* to America one day.

**Active /passive** – verbs can be expressed in the active or the passive voice.

The active voice is when the subject of the sentence is doing the action. Example - Neil *kicked the ball*. The passive voice is when the subject of the sentence is having something done to it.

Example – The ball was *kicked by Neil*. 

Need to know!!

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• **Dynamic verb** – a dynamic verb expresses an action which can be physical or mental.
  
  Examples – **to cough, to jump, to think, to see**.

• **Stative Verb** – a stative verb expresses a state of being or a process.
  
  Examples – **to remember, to believe, to realise, to be**.

### Adjective

An adjective is a describing word. It always describes a noun.

Examples – **red, beautiful, delicious**.

### Adverb

An adverb is a word that gives information about another word. An adverb describes **how you do a verb** and in English these words usually end in -ly.

Example – **slowly, beautifully, seriously**.

- An adverb can describe **when** a verb is done. Example – **yesterday, now**
- An adverb can describe **how often** it is done - Example – **frequently**
- An adverb can describe **where** a verb is done – Example – **here, there**
- An adverb can describe **how** a verb is done – Example - **swiftly, fast, often**

### Pronoun

A pronoun **stands instead of a noun or name** and is used as a reference. They are divided into three categories: **first person, second person** and **third person pronouns**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First person (Talking about yourself)</th>
<th>Second person (Talking directly to others)</th>
<th>Third person (Talking about others)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I, me, my, mine</td>
<td>you, your, yours</td>
<td>he, she, him, his, her, hers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>we, us, our, ours</td>
<td>it, its</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Possessive pronouns**

Are used when you need to show possession of something.

Examples – **my, mine, yours, his, hers, ours, your, theirs**.
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**Preposition**
A small word that tells you where something is.

Examples – on, next to, beside, above, behind

**Interjection**
a sound that has meaning, but is not a recognised word.

Examples – “Mmm” – meaning you agree with something, “Oy” - suggesting that you want someone’s attention.

**Conjunction**
A word that you use to join simple sentences together or to join clauses of sentences together.

Examples – and, but, because, although, despite

**Connective**
a word or a phrase that is used to link sentences, paragraphs or arguments.

Examples – however, therefore, also, in addition to, as a result of.

**Definite article**
‘the’

**Indefinite article**
‘a’ / plural – ‘some’

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**Sentence Level Terms**

**Subject** - Who or what is doing the verb in a sentence.

Example – Jane read the book.

Jane is the subject of this sentence.

**Object** - Who or what is having the verb done to them.

Example – Jane read the book.

The book is the object of this sentence

**Simple Sentence**
A simple sentence contains one clause and has a verb and a subject.

Example – David shouts.

**Compound Sentence**
A compound sentence is made up of two or more simple sentences joined together by the conjunctions and, but so or then. Each part of the sentence makes sense on its own and each is of equal importance.

Example – David shouts and he doesn’t listen.
Complex Sentence
A complex sentence is made up of one independent main clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

Example – Although it was raining, Elizabeth wore shorts.

Independent Main Clause
An independent main clause is the part of a complex sentence that makes sense on its own.

Example – Elizabeth wore shorts.

Subordinate Clause
A subordinate clause is a part of a complex sentence that does not make sense on its own. It needs the independent main clause to make sense.

Example – Although it was raining,