

Grammar Glossary

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

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Absolute phrase	An absolute phrase is a modifier usually made up of a noun, noun phrase, or pronoun with a participial phrase. It can modify a noun or pronoun or the whole sentence to which it is attached. Ex: Who is the best person for the managerial position in the accountancy department, <i>all things considered?</i> <i>Their branches covered in icicles;</i> the tall redwood trees stood along the coast.
Abstract noun	An abstract noun is a noun that names a quality, an action, an idea, a concept, or a state apart from the object to which it belongs. An abstract noun cannot be realized using the five sense organs. Ex: kindness, goodness, honesty, wisdom, bravery, laughter, childhood, poverty, etc.
Accusative case	The accusative case is an alternative term for an objective case. It's a grammatical case that applies to nouns and pronouns. Its fundamental function is to show the relation of the direct object to a verb. Ex: The dog ate <i>our bread.</i> Mrs. Smith bought <i>a new car.</i>
Active voice	A verb is in the active voice when its form shows that the person or thing denoted by the subject is the doer of the action. Ex: The guard <i>opened</i> the gate. The cat <i>chased</i> the mouse.
Adjectival clause	A relative clause is also another term for an adjective clause. It is a group of words and does the work of an adjective that modifies a noun or a pronoun. It is a dependent clause that usually starts with a relative pronoun or a relative adverb. Ex: There is the Poon Hill <i>that we are going to climb.</i> Ten o'clock was the time <i>when</i> we were supposed to be there at the school auditorium for rehearsal. (<i>when</i> is the relative adverb)
Adjective	An adjective is a word used with a noun, noun phrase, or a pronoun to add something for its meaning to describe it more fully. It specifies such things as what kind, how many, and which one.

	Ex: He is intelligent. She is clever. Please use three yellow roses in the vase.
<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Adjective phrase	An adjective phrase is a phrase or a group of words that describe a noun or a pronoun in a given sentence. It does the work of an adjective. Ex: A coat of purple color. The flag of India. A girl with blue eyes.
Adjunct	An adjunct is generally an optional word or phrase that adds information to a sentence. Even after removing the adjunct, the sentence still remains grammatically correct. Adjuncts are occasionally essential. Ex: Our house was built last year. I met my friend in the playground. Sarah put the book on the shelf.
Adverb	A term that alters the meaning of a verb, an adjective, or another adverb is known as an adverb. It usually tells such things as how, when, where, why, and for what purpose. It often ends in -ly. Ex: Probably she is mistaken. Fortunately, he escaped unhurt in the car accident. The village roads are extremely bumpy.
Adverb clause	An adverb clause is a group of words that contains a subject and predicate of its own and functions like an adverb. It indicates such things as time, place or reason. An adverb clause modifies the main verb of the independent clause by answering one of four questions: when, where, how, and why. Ex: Even if I take the cab, I still might be late to my meeting. You may have dessert as soon as you finish the main course in the lunch.
Adverbial	An aspect in a clause or sentence that gives additional meaning to the reported occurrence or state of events. Adverbials are the least significant of the clause parts that make up the structure of a clause: subject (S), verb phrase (V), object (O), complement (C), and adverbial (A). They can be omitted without affecting the meaning and structure of the phrase as a whole.

	An adverbial can be an adverb (e.g. joyously, often, here), an adverb phrase (e.g. quite blissfully, very often, over here), or a prepositional phrase (e.g. with happiness, at the weekend, on a table). Ex: She found an envelope <i>on the table</i>.
<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Affirmative	Affirmative statements express (or claim to represent) the truth. A declarative and positive clause or sentence is known as an affirmative clause or sentence. Ex: Canopus and Sirius are the brightest stars in the night sky. Seema ran up the hill.
Agent	In a passive-voice construction, the action's source is known as an agent. Ex: The launching of India's satellite Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C51 will be viewed by <i>millions</i>.
Agreement	The fact that two (or more) parts in a clause or sentence have the same grammatical person, number, gender, or case is referred to as grammatical agreement. The most common sort of agreement in modern English is between the subject and the verb of a clause. Ex: This Alphonso mango tastes delicious. (Both subject and verb are singular.) A plural noun (or sense of a noun) can sometimes agree with a singular verb. Ex: Politics is fascinating to watch. (Politics – plural; is – singular verb)
Anaphora	The word anaphora comes from Greek which means "to carry back." It's a relationship between two linguistic expressions in which the second one relates back to the first. Ex: '<u>Bob</u> arrived late, so the teacher was really annoyed with <u>him</u>.' I asked <u>Mary</u> to <u>check the documents</u> and <u>she did</u>. (<u>She</u> and <u>did</u> are anaphors, taking their interpretation from their antecedents <u>Mary</u> and <u>check the documents</u>.)

Antecedent	A word or words to which a subsequent word or phrase grammatically refers. Antecedents are usually noun phrases to which personal and relative pronouns refer. Ex: '<u>Bob</u> arrived late, so the teacher was really annoyed with <u>him</u>.' (Bob is the antecedent of him.) I asked <u>Mary</u> to check the documents and <u>she</u> did. (Mary is the antecedent of she.)
Term	Definition
Apposition	Two or more grammatical units (particularly nouns or noun phrases) in a sentence are said to be in apposition when they relate to the same person or thing and (usually) play the same role within the sentence. Ex: For example, in 'Her father, the manager, has been selected to handle the project', the noun phrases 'Her father' and 'the manager' are in apposition: they refer to the same person and both function as the subject of the sentence.
Appositive	The compound 'X-Y' denotes 'both X and Y' in an appositive compound (i.e. the two elements are in apposition). Nouns or adjectives can be combined in this way. Ex: baby girl (a girl that is a baby), rhythmic-melodic (both rhythmic and melodic)
Article	An article is one of a small group of words (the, a, and an in English) that restricts the use of nouns. Two types of articles are: definite and indefinite. The definite article (in English, the) specifies the noun, whereas the indefinite article (in English, an or a) indicates that the noun is general. Ex: Waterman is an excellent pen brand. The drama played for the school annual day is perfect. I need a kilogram of ghee.

Aspect	Aspect is a characteristic of certain verb forms that refers to time duration or completion; verbs can have no aspect (simple), continuous or progressive aspect (expressing duration) ex: has been painting , or perfect or perfective aspect (expressing perfection) (expressing completion) ex: has painted .
Assertive	An assertive or declarative sentence is one that makes a statement or assertion. Ex: Varun is always punctual.
Asyndeton	Asyndeton signifies the omission of connectives. It refers to the habit of omitting and, or, or but from sentences. Ex: I'm not scared, but you are. I'm not scared – you are.
<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Attributive	An attributive adjective modifies a noun or noun phrase directly, generally before it (e.g., 'a sunny day'), but sometimes after it (e.g., 'the cricketer royal ').
Auxiliary verb	Auxiliary verbs are a small category of grammatical verbs that are used in combination with other verbs to generate specific tenses and constructions. In the sentence 'They have bought a villa,' for example, have is an <u>auxiliary verb</u> (forming the perfect) that is used with the <u>main verb</u> bought .
Bare infinitive	Without the particle "to," an unmarked form of the verb (no indication of tense, mood, person, or aspect) is commonly used following modal auxiliary verbs. Ex: Help me open the lid. She should come .