Grammar and **Punctuation Learning Resource**

University of Northampton

Grammar **Definitions**

Abstract noun

A feeling, thought or an idea e.g. She was happy.

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Active voice

A sentence where the subject is doing the action e.g. The wind blew the trees over.

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Adiective

A word that describes a noun e.g. My brother has very smelly socks.

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Adjective phrase

A phrase that describes a noun e.g. The hairy caterpillar chewed the leaves.

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Adverb

A word that adds to a verb and describes how, when and where e.g. The cat meowed loudly.

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Adverbial phrase

A phrase that describes the verb. They tell you how, where, why or when. It can be at the start or end of a sentence e.g. After a while, the door started to open. The troll was waiting under the bridge. Can I use? Collective noun

A group e.g. a **flock** of birds or a herd of cows.

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Coordinating conjunction

Joins two main clauses to make a sentence using and, but, or e.g. I went to the park and I played on the swing.

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Determiner

It comes before a noun and tells you who, what or how many a sentence is about including the, that, this, these, those, a, an, any, all, some, many e.g. I don't like my pudding; I'd prefer **those** cakes instead. Can luse? Metaphor

Directly compares one thing to another e.g. Her bedroom was a pigsty.

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Modal verbs

It is a word that indicates certainty and possibility e.g. I will go shopping today. I might go shopping today.

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Noun

A noun is a person, place or thing e.g. This is a brush.

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Obiect

The person or thing that something is being done to e.g. The giant stepped over the house.

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Passive voice

A sentence where the action is being done to the subject e.g. The trees were blown over by the wind.

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Past perfect tense

Describes one action that happened before another in the past and contains 2 parts: had/hadn't followed by the past tense of the action e.g. The bird **had eaten** its food.

progressive tense

An action that is continuing

the verb to be followed by a

to happen in the present and

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Past progressive tense

An action that continued to happen in the past and contains 2 parts: the verb to be followed by a verb ending in ing e.g. She was running home. I was reading.

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Present perfect tense

Describes an action that started in the past and continues to the present and contains 2 parts: have/has/haven't/hasn't followed by the past tense of the action

e.g. The bird has eaten its food.





e.g. She **is running** home. am reading. Can luse? V

Present

contains 2 parts:

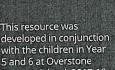
verb ending in ing

Use the tick boxes to track your progress 🗆 🗸 🗆 🗶

Preposition

A word that describes where or when something is happening e.g. The troll lives under the bridge.







How many of these do you remember?.. Test yourself

Pronoun

Replaces a noun using I, you, he, she, it, we, us, they, them e.g. **She** dropped the fork.

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Proper noun

Place or person e.g. London it has to have a capital letter at the front.

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Relative pronoun

Comes before a relative clause using who, which, that, whose, whom e.g. The jumper **that** I'm wearing is my favourite. This is the girl **who** won all of her races. Can I use?

Relative clause

or noun phrase by using a *relative* pronoun e.g. The jumper **that I'm** wearing is my favourite. This is the girl who won all of her races. Can l use?

Simile

Describes something by comparing it to something else using as or like e.g. Snow was covering the floor like a blanket.

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Subject

The person or thing that is doing pronoun. Every sentence has to have a subject e.g. **The giant** stepped over the house. **He** looked very angry. Can luse? 🗌 🗸 🔛 🗶

Subjunctive verb

Used in a sentence that recommends or suggests, and often uses the verb were to sound more formal e.g. She wishes she were still on holiday.

If I were you I wouldn't open that box. Can I use? 🛮 🗸 🔲 🗶

Subordinating conjunction

Joins a main clause with a subordinating clause using words such as if, when because, since, so, although, unless, after e.g. I dropped my lunchbox when I was walking to school. Can I use? 🔲 🗸 📙 🗴

Verb

An action word within a sentence. Every sentence has to have a verb e.g. I like to dance.

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Punctuation Definitions

Apostrophe

An apostrophe is used for possession e.g. They went to the boy's house. It can also be used for contraction to show where a letter is missing .e.g. He didn't like his shoes.

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Colon

Used for lists or instructions e.g. You will need: scissors, paper, glue and string.

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Comma

Separates a clause or items in a list e.g. My car, which was very old, broke down yesterday. I went to the supermarket to buy milk, bread, ham and cheese.

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Ellipses

Three dots that pause your sentence to create an impact e.g. She heard the footsteps getting nearer. She waited ... Can I use?

Exclamation mark

A type of punctuation which ends a sentence but with emphasis. e.g. "What a save!"

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Full stop

Ends a sentence e.g. I am 11 years old.

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Hyphen

It is sometimes used to add a prefex, e.g. I **re-sent** the email. It can also be used to clarify meaning, e.g. He dived from the meaning, e.g. two-metre board. Can luse? **I** 🗸 **X**



Ouestion mark

Ends a sentence that is a question e.g. What is your name? Are you ok?

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Parenthesis

A punctuation mark that adds further information within a sentence. They can be brackets, dashes or commas

e.g. Her sister (an Olympic champion) brought her medals into school. The rabbit - a u y breed - ran through her garden. The dog, which is brown, is eating.

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Speech marks

Used when someone is saying something e.g. "Where are you going today?" asked Sam.

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