

Definitions of some English terms:

VERB:

The doing or being words in a sentence. Ask yourself what is being done.

Example: *The cat sat on the mat.*

What did the cat do? It sat on the mat. → The verb is SAT.

NOUN:

The naming words in a sentence. Ask yourself who or what or where. Nouns are the names of things – such as people, places, or things.

Example: *The cat sat on the mat outside my house.*

Who, what and where? There are three naming words → The nouns are CAT, MAT and HOUSE.

ADJECTIVE:

The describing words in a sentence. Adjectives describe nouns. Ask yourself what the noun is like.

Example: *The black cat ate the smelly cheese.*

What are the cat and cheese like? → The adjectives are BLACK and SMELLY.

ADVERB:

Adverbs are describing words (like adjectives) but they describe verbs. Ask yourself how a verb was done.

Example: *The bird flew quickly.*

How did the bird fly? → The adverb is QUICKLY.

CONJUNCTION:

Conjunctions are joining words. Two separate sentences can be joined with a conjunction. Some common ones are: and, or, yet, but, for.

Example: *The wind blew sleet. My nose froze.* → *The wind blew sleet AND my nose froze.*

ANTONYM:

Words that are opposite in meaning.

Example: BIG is the opposite of SMALL. → They are **antonyms**.

SYNONYM:

Words that are similar in meaning.

Example: LITTLE is similar to SMALL. → They are **synonyms**.

HOMONYMS:

Words that sound the same but are spelt differently.

Example: *READ and RED; MADE and MAID.* → They are **homonyms**.

SUBJECT: The noun that the sentence is about. Ask who or what is doing the action.

Example: *James ate his dinner.*

Who is the sentence about? → JAMES is the **subject** of the sentence.

OBJECT: The noun that the subject acts on. Ask who or what the subject does its action to.

Example: *James ate his dinner.*

What did James eat? → HIS DINNER is the **object** of the sentence.

PREDICATE: The predicate is all the information about the subject. It starts with a verb.

Example: *James ate his dinner.*

What is the information about James? → ATE HIS DINNER is the **predicate** of the sentence.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE:

The part of the sentence which can stand alone. It makes sense by itself.

Example: *She screamed when the ghost appeared.*

Which part can stand alone? → SHE SCREAMED is the **independent clause** of the sentence.

DEPENDENT CLAUSE:

The part of the sentence which cannot stand alone. It does not make sense by itself.

Example: *She screamed when the ghost appeared.*

Which part cannot stand alone? → WHEN THE GHOST APPEARED is the **dependent clause** of the sentence.

DIRECT SPEECH: The exact words spoken by someone, and recorded in a sentence.

Example: *Peter said "I have lost my kitten," and then he cried.*

The exact words from Peter have been included, and surrounded with Quotation Marks.

INDIRECT SPEECH:

The things that someone said, but not their actual words.

Example: *Peter said that he lost his cat and then he cried.*

No Quotation Marks are used.