

Uncountable (mass) nouns – a noun is uncountable if it has no plural form; *milk, wood, water, air...*

Noun phrase – this is either a single noun or pronoun, or a group of words containing a noun or pronoun that function together as a noun or pronoun, as the subject or object of a verb; *John was late* (*John* is the noun phrase functioning as the subject of the verb); *the people that I saw coming in the building at nine o'clock have just left* (*the people...nine o'clock* is a lengthy noun phrase, but it functions as the subject of the main verb *have just left*).

Subject – the subject of a sentence is the noun, pronoun or noun phrase that precedes and governs the main verb; *he is a really nice guy* (*he* is the subject, controlling the verb and the complement); *my dog attacked the burglar* (*my dog* is the subject, controlling the verb and the rest of the sentence).

Parts of speech

Interjections – an interjection is a word or short phrase used in speech to gain attention, to exclaim, protest, or command. Interjections can be used to show emotion such as surprise or shock. Interjections are often found at the beginning of a sentence, especially in speech, and are commonly followed by an exclamation mark or comma.

Passive

Passive voice – the passive occurs in most aspects and tenses and changes the emphasis; *my roof was damaged by the storm* (the damage to the roof is more important than the cause).

Phonetics

Diacritic – a diacritic is a mark added to a letter to change the pronunciation and can be either below or above the letter. Modern English does not use diacritics, though è is used in old poetry to show that *-ed* is to be pronounced as a syllable. Sometimes a diacritic is still used, even though the pronunciation is not often followed. Sometimes a diacritic is still used, even though the pronunciation is not often followed.

Phonetics – this is the study of the sounds of the spoken language.

Affixes

Diminutive – a diminutive is an affix added to a word to mean little, small, young etc.; *piglet, starlet, duckling*.

Inflection – an inflection alters a word's form via an affix. Nouns in English can be changed to show plurality; the third-person singular of most verbs is inflected by the addition of *-s* etc.

Prefixes – prefixes are a group of letters that can be placed before a word to modify its meaning; *impossible* (*im-* modifies the meaning to produce a negative sense).

Suffix – suffixes are groups of letters placed after a word to modify its meaning or change it into a different word class; *gladly* (*-ly* changes it from an adjective into an adverb); *approached* (*-ed* changes the verb from the present into the past tense).

Tmesis – tmesis is when a word is split into two and another word is added in the middle to give extra emphasis; *abso-bloody-lutely*; *fan-freaking-tastic*.

Prepositions

Complex prepositions – a complex preposition is a group of words that functions as a single preposition; *in front of*.

Preposition – a preposition is a word that links a noun, pronoun, or gerund to other words. They can have a variety of meanings; *he's going to the shops* (direction); *it's in the box* (location); *he left after the lesson finished* (time); *the government of Italy* (possession).