



Glossary

adjective: a word like *short, red, or exciting*, that tells you about the qualities of a person or thing or event.

adverb: a word like *slowly, well, there*, etc. which tells you how, where, or when an event happens.

adverbial: a word or group of words that functions like an **adverb**. Adverbials can be adverb phrases like *very slowly*, or prepositional phrases like *in the corner*, or noun phrases like *yesterday afternoon*.

auxiliary verb: a word like *do, had, was*, etc. used with main verbs (*want, play*, etc.) to form tenses, questions, and negatives.

bare infinitive: the infinitive without *to* in front of it, as in constructions like *it helped me decide*.

clause: a group of words containing a **verb**, forming the main structure of which sentences are built: [*I was working at home*], [*writing the report [my boss had asked for]*], [*when the phone rang*].

collocation: the way words typically combine with other words, as in *take a break, short hair, or get on with*.

conjunction: a word like *and, but, which, so*, that links two clauses, or phrases, or words.

countable noun: a noun that has both singular and plural forms, and which can be used with *a/an* and numbers: *a car, three cars*.

determiner: a word, like *the, some, my, many, no*, etc. that belongs to the class of words that can go at the beginning of a noun phrase: *the black taxi • my many friends*.

discourse marker: a word like *well, anyway, so, however*, that usually goes at the beginning of an **utterance** or **clause** and indicates a link between what has been said and what follows: *It was not a very good hotel. **Still**, it was cheap*.

idiom: an expression or **collocation** whose meaning is different from the literal meaning of the individual words that make it up: *out of the blue* (= unexpectedly); *take after* (= resemble).

if-clause: a clause starting with *if*, which tells us about possible or hypothetical situations. Also called a *conditional clause*. → *if*

-ing: a word ending in *-ing*, such as *walking* or *seeing*, which is used 1. to form verb tenses (*I am **walking***) where it is also called the *present participle*, and 2. like a noun after certain verbs and prepositions: *I like **walking**. • I look forward to **seeing** you*.

irregular verb: see **regular verb**

lexical verb: a verb that is not an auxiliary verb or a modal verb, such as *make, understand, arrive*, etc. (Also called a *main verb*).

linking verb: a verb like *be* or *seem* that joins two ideas, giving more information about the subject: *She **is** a laboratory technician. • It **seemed** like a good idea*.

main verb: = **lexical verb**



modal verb: a verb such as *can, may, should, must*, etc. which is used to express possibility and to make offers, suggestions, commands, etc. Modal verbs function like **auxiliary verbs**.

noun: a word like *bus, driver, journey, fare, request*, etc. that can be used after a **determiner** as the **subject** or **object** of a sentence.

noun phrase (NP): a word or group of words consisting of at least a **noun** or a **pronoun** and which functions like a noun: *last night • your old car • I • those big red London buses*.

object: a **noun phrase** which refers to what or who is affected by the action described by the verb: *I caught **the bus**. • I paid **the driver** (= indirect object) **the fare** (= direct object).*

particle: an **adverb** or **preposition** which combines with a verb to form a **phrasal verb**: *Get **up** • I looked **for** the keys*, etc.

past participle: a verb form that is used to form the present perfect and the passive, for example: *I have **worked**. • The letter was **written***. Regular past participles end in *-(e)d*.

phrasal verb: a verb and **particle** combination, often with idiomatic meaning (see **idiom**), e.g. *I **got up** at ten. • Does he **take after** his Dad?*

possessive: one of the **determiners** such as *my, your, their*, etc. which expresses possession.

preposition: a word, or group of words, like *in, on, behind, in front of*, which often indicate place or time, and are always followed by a **noun phrase**: ***in** the garden; **on** Sunday; **behind** the times*.

pronoun: a word like *she, me, it, you*, etc. that can be used in place of a **noun** as **subject** or **object** of a sentence.

regular verb: a **verb** such as *work, live*, etc. whose past tense and **past participle** are formed by adding *-(e)d* to the **bare infinitive**: *worked, lived*, etc. Irregular verbs do not follow this rule.

set phrase: a type of **collocation** which is fixed and functions as a complete unit, and is often used as a social formula or a **discourse marker**: ***How are you?** • **So, to cut a long story short**, ...*

subject: the **noun phrase** that typically comes before the verb and tells you who or what is the agent or topic of the clause: *I caught the bus. • **The bus** was crowded*.

that-clause: a clause starting with *that*, often functioning as the object of a reporting verb: *I was told **that he was busy***. Often the word *that* can be omitted: *I was told **he was busy***. → *that*

to-infinitive: the form of the verb that has no endings, tense, person, etc., and which is preceded by *to*: *'**To be** or not **to be**.'* → *to*¹

uncountable noun: a **noun** which cannot be counted, and which therefore has no plural form and does not follow *a/an* or numbers: *some **bread** • a lot of **noise***.

utterance: something you say, consisting of one or more words, phrases, clauses, or sentences.

verb: a word or words such as *worked, has, costs, takes off*, that expresses what someone or something does or is (see **subject**).

wh-clause: a clause beginning with a **wh-word**: *I liked **what I saw***.

wh-word (wh): a question word such as *where, when, who*, and *how*.