



Raymond Wills

English
Grammar

for
foreigners
or children

Learn grammar in an easy way.

Just simple, easy-to-understand concepts

When I was in Year 8, my woodworking teacher, Mr. Bernard, was explaining to a new teacher how to deal with students, and I was standing close by as he was talking.

He said, "*We think that because we, as teachers, know something, we automatically think that the student knows it as well. We always teach students from the basis that the student doesn't know, we treat the student like a blank canvas and that we are teaching them to know something. We are teaching them the correct way to do something and that is why we are here.*"

Some very wise words from Mr. Bernard. He had care and patience and could teach any of us. A mistake many of us make when teaching someone something that we know is that we think that they know it too. And really good educators assume that the person doesn't know and that they will teach them something from the very bottom on up.

Look through the eyes of someone who is trying to understand the ideas for the first time and then work out how best to communicate it to them.

This book is dedicated to Mr. Bernard.

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Why learn grammar?

Grammar is how to talk or write so that others know what you are talking or writing about.

If you want people to understand what **you** are saying or writing, it helps to know how to put words together.

If you want to understand what **others** are saying, it helps to know how they put words together.

Parts of Speech - Words have jobs too

Parts of Speech

The jobs of words are called **parts of speech**.

Speech generally means "to talk".

For grammar;

Speech means when you **say** your thoughts and feelings.

Speech also means when you **write** your thoughts or feelings.

You can say: "I am hungry"

You can write: "I am hungry"

The words "I", "am" and "hungry" are put together in a certain way so that it makes sense.

Words must be put together correctly to make sense.

Putting words together correctly is called the **grammar rules**.

The grammar rules will help you so that when you say or write something, it makes sense.

This book will teach you some of the grammar rules.

But you say: "***I don't like rules!***"

Well, if you write: "***Am hungry I***" people will not understand you and you will get no food. So, following the grammar rules will make sure you get food because you will be saying or writing the right thing – "***I am hungry***"

What is your goal in learning grammar rules?

It is to gain **understanding**. You want perfect and complete understanding.

When you say or write something, you want to say or write exactly what you mean.

When you say "elephant", you mean "elephant", not "cat".

What are the jobs of words?

Some of the jobs words are:

Name things

Describe things

Join things.

This is really all that grammar is about and what the **parts** of speech are about. It is about the jobs certain words do when you talk or write.

Why do I need to know the job of words?

If you know that grammar is all about the jobs of **words**, then you can learn what those jobs are to make your speaking and writing better.

Articles - Three small words

The three small words are: the, a, and an.

The

A

An

These three words are called **articles**.

The word 'article' means 'small **connecting** part'.

What do they connect?

Instead of saying tree, we say: "**a** tree" or "**the** tree."

In this case, the word "the" connects to the word "tree". **The** tree.

When we don't want to be specific, we use: A, an

A, an

When we are **not** saying things specifically, we use the words **A, an**.

These are called indefinite articles.

Indefinite means' **not having limits, not exact.** '

Definite means' having certain limits, exact. '

In-means' not'

Indefinite.

When we say "have **an** apple", we are not saying *what* apple you can have; we are *not* being specific.

Indefinite article

A and an are indefinite articles

A pen

A rabbit

A tree

An apple

An umbrella

We are not writing or saying exactly which one.

What's the difference between "a" and "an"?

The word "an" is *normally* used before words beginning with or *sounding like* A, E, I, O, or U.

The word "a" is *normally* used before words beginning with the other letters of the alphabet, e.g. B, M, Z etc.

Next,

When we want to say *which one*, we become *specific*. This means we are **definite**.

Definite means 'having certain limits, exact.'

When saying or pointing out specific things, we use words;

The word "**the**" makes things more definite.

Definite article (the exact small part)

"**The**" is a word used to point out **specific** people or things.

The pen

The rabbit

The tree

The apple

The elephant

"**The**" is a definite article.

When we say '*have **the** apple*', we are saying *what* apple you can have; we are being specific.

Why do I need to know about articles?

You will use articles in your everyday talk and writing. Sometimes you want to be specific and sometimes you don't want to be specific. Articles will help you be specific.

Next,

Often, you will see or hear a word that is used often; the word is called "**refer**".

Refer

If writing or information **refers** to someone or something, it has to do with that person or thing.

Refer means: It has something to do with someone or something in some way.

You can refer to a person or thing directly:

I saw a dog.

You can refer to something **not** directly.

"An **animal** barked at me" ('animal' refers to a dog).

When you see the word **refer**, it just means it has something to do with it.

Why do I need to know the word "refer"?

Many things in language are not direct and often link or join to other things said before or have something to do with them. Normally, we sort of just 'know' things. If you know things can be referred to, then you can be flexible in your thoughts.

How much?

Sometimes we have one of something.

Sometimes we have too much of something.

When you write or speak, you want people to know if you mean one or many.

When a word refers to one thing, it is called singular.

When a word refers to more than one thing, it is called plural.

Singular and Plural.

Singular - One of something

Singular means just **one** person or thing.

Cat

Dog

Elephant

Pen

Toy.

These are just one of something. Singular.

Plural More than one of something

Plural means *more than* one person or thing.

Cats

Dogs

Elephants

Pens

Toys

There is more than one of something. Then it is *Plural*.

Most words, to make them show **more than one**, have a letter "s" at the end of them to make them plural.

Many words can be made plural by adding an "s" to the end of them. Some other words don't use an "s" but change a bit to show plural. You will learn this as you learn to use different words.

Examples.

Singular (one)	Plural (more than one)
Cat	Cats
Baby	Babies
Lunch	Lunches
Knife	Knives
Woman	Women
Mouse	Mice
Goose	Geese
Tooth	Teeth
Man	Men
Bus	Buses
Hero	Heroes

xxx

No Change	
Singular (one)	Plural (more than one)
Deer	Deer
Moose	Moose
Fish	Fish
Sheep	Sheep

It is important to know the singular and plural forms of a word so that it makes sense when you are talking or writing.

"I saw five *cat*" – confusing

"I saw five *cat***S**" – makes sense.

Why do I need to know singular or plural?

Sometimes you want one of something, sometimes you want more than one of something. Knowing these two words and what they mean will allow you to say or write things better.

Noun - The name of things

Everything in the world and under the stars has a name or can be given a name.

The word that names things is called: **noun**.

Noun

Noun means "**name**".

A **noun** is a word that **names** the things (people, places, objects, things) we are talking about or writing about.

To **name something** means making a person, place or thing **known** or pointing **it out**.

If you don't name something, no one will know what person, place, or thing you are talking about.

A thing that has a name: Dog

"*Dog*" is a noun.

A place that has a name: Beach

"*Beach*" is a noun.

A person that has a name: Bella

"*Bella*" is a noun.

A noun names a person, place or thing.

It is like putting a label or sticker on an object to say what it is.

We say a noun is a **thing** that has a name.

"*Thing*" can mean **object** or **idea**.

"*Dog*" is an object - it can be seen.

"*I have a pain*" = "*pain*" is a noun. Pain is an **idea** and it cannot be seen by others.

Bird, cat, dog, stick Sally, Sydney, are all nouns. They are all names of things, people, or places.

Why do I need to know nouns?

If you know nouns, then you can put a label on things and know that things do have a name, and even if you don't know the object, you can still put a label on it called "thing".

Some nouns are important and different from other nouns.

When you speak or talk about **a thing** that belongs to a **group of things**, it is called a **common noun**.

A chair is a thing which belongs to a group of things called chairs. The word "**chair**" is a **common noun**.

To understand common nouns, we need to look at two words:

Group: If you have one hundred tables in a room, then we can say one hundred tables is a **group** of tables.

Class: If 50 tables in the same room are made of glass, we can say 50 tables in the room are a **class** of tables.

Class means "*things that are the same or similar*".

A class of something could be the same type of thing.

A class of something could be the same colour as something.

A class of something could be the same shape as something.

A class of something could be something that has the same type, colour, and shape.

You can put anything into a class.

You can make your own class of things.

A class of tables = a special group.

These are the two words you need to know: "*group*" and "*class*" so that you can better understand what a common noun is.

Common Noun - General names of things

Common noun

A common noun is the **name** of people, places, or things that are **common**.

Common means "***belonging to all in a group or class of things***"

A common noun is a **word** that shows something ***belongs to*** or is ***shared by*** a group or class of things.

Chair

Table

Pen

Paper

Book

These are common nouns. *See more about common nouns at the end.*

Why do I need to know common nouns?

If you know that almost everything in the universe is a common noun, then you can label things better. You will also understand why things are called what they are called and you can give a name to something even if you don't know what it is.

Some labels we put on things are more important. For example, your name is important.

Your name is a noun, but to show it correctly in grammar, we need to call it a Proper noun.

Proper means "*belonging to a person or thing; **not** common; **not** belonging to all.*"

Proper Noun - Name of people and places

Proper Noun

A proper noun is a specific name given to a person, place or thing.

We say table, we are not being specific.

One way to be **specific** is to call a table "*Betty*".

The word "*Betty*" is a **proper noun**.

In a room of one hundred tables, you put a label on one table and called it "*Betty*". No one will get confused when you say "*Get Betty*".

They will bring you one **specific** table out of one hundred tables.

In grammar, a proper noun always has the **first letter** of *the word* as a capital letter.

Capital letters are letters which look like THIS. It is larger in size.

John

Fred

Sydney

Sally

All proper nouns, no matter **where** they are used in a sentence, will have a capital letter.

E.g. "*I saw **J**ohn walking **R**over this morning*"

John and Rover are proper nouns.

Any object can be referred to as a common noun or a proper noun.

Common Noun	Proper Noun
car	Ford
dog	Rover

man	John
woman	Sally
table	Betty
tree	Oak
pen	Bic

Common mistake: All sentences begin with a capital letter. Any word at the beginning of a sentence will have a capital letter. This doesn't make it a proper noun.

Why do I need to know proper nouns?

Proper nouns cannot be seen when speaking, they can only be shown in writing, and knowing this will make your writing better.

More about nouns

In most cases, the noun is a single word: dog, cat, table, etc.

Sometimes the noun can be *more* than one word.

Toy – Noun

The toys – Noun

Toys I own – Noun

What? Wait a minute – a noun can be **more than one** word? Yes

If ***more than one word shows a complete idea***, then that becomes the 'label'

you put on things.

You could write on a box "*toys I own*".

This **group of words** can be a *type of noun*.

Sentence	Noun group
<i>The hat I like</i> is nice	<i>The hat I like</i>
I wore <i>the blue shoes</i>	The blue shoes
Do you like burnt toast	Burnt toast
Sometimes we look after the wild horses	The wild horses

It is important to know this as you read the next point:

We don't always want to use the same noun and would need to use a word in place of a noun.

If we write:

"John said that John wanted to go see John dance with John's friends and John's family because that is what John liked to do".

We can replace the word "John" with other words.

*"John said that **he** wanted to go see **himself** dance with **his** friends and **his** family because it is what **he** liked to do".*

A word replacing a noun is called a **pronoun**.

Why do I need to know more about nouns?

Knowing this will help you get ideas better and will let you talk better or write about ideas better. When you take a group of words and make them into one idea, it is easier to talk or write about it.

Pronoun - Words used in the place of nouns

Pronoun

A Pronoun is **a word** used instead of a noun or **name**, to prevent the **repetition** of it.

Pro means "***instead of***"

Noun means "*name*".

Pronoun means "*a name instead of*".

Tree is a noun.

John is a noun.

*John looked at the tree. **He** looked at **it**.*

"**He**" is a pronoun. We don't want to repeat the word "*John*", so we use the word "*he*" instead.

"**It**" is a pronoun. We don't want to repeat using the word "*tree*", so we use the word "*it*" instead.

Why do I need to know pronouns?

Nouns are everything and everywhere that has a name. We can't repeat their names all the time. Knowing that you can use other words in place of a noun will improve your speaking and writing.

There are a few different types of pronouns.

The first type has to do with people.

It also has to do with animals and things.

Personal Pronoun - It belongs to us

Personal Pronoun

A personal pronoun is a word we use in place of a person or thing.

Personal usually means "***Belonging to people***".

In grammar "*personal*" refers to people, animals and things.

Personal pronouns are: I, you, he, she, it, we, you, they, me, him, her, us, and them.

Word	What does it refer to?	Personal Pronoun
Man	man	Him , he , his
Woman	woman	Her, she
Dog	Animal	it
Tree	Thing	it

A **personal pronoun** will always use **another word** instead of repeating the **noun** of a person, **animal** or **thing**.

There are many personal pronoun words to be used instead of a noun.

Personal Pronouns	Referring to	Example
I	Oneself	I (oneself) was here this morning
You	The person you are talking to	Susan to Paul “ you must come”
She	Female	Mary, she laughed
They	Male Female <i>Animals</i> <i>Things</i>	Boys, they danced all night The girls, they cried The cats, they make too much noise The stars, they shine bright
Him	Male	Give it to John, give it to him

Her	Female	Give it to Jane, give it to her .
Us	A group that includes <i>oneself and other people</i> in general	John, Peter and Sue said: "Please let us play!"
Me	Oneself	Give it to me (oneself)
He	Male	John, he can run.
It	An Animal A thing When someone is not defined as boy or girl	Mouse! It ran into the corner The pen, it is broken The baby is here. It looks so happy
We	A group that includes <i>oneself and other people</i> in general	Mary, Bob, Peter and Ann said: " We want more ice-cream"
Her	Female	Give it to Jane, give it to her .

Them	A group that includes <i>people</i> in general	Their soccer team. Don't let them score.
	A group that includes <i>animals</i>	The mice; catch them
	A group that includes <i>things</i>	Boxes, I don't need them

Personal pronouns: I, you, he, she, it, we, they, me, him, her, us, them.

Example:

*"I would like **you**, Sally, to come with John, Mary and me to play soccer. It is a fun game. John can kick well. Mary can run fast. **We** can play against another team. **They** will not win against **us**. What **you** do is kick the ball to **me** and **I** will kick it to **him**. **He** kicks **it** to Sally and **she** kicks **it** to **her** (Mary). **We** will beat **them**"*

Why do I need to know personal pronouns?

Knowing personal pronouns will open the door to using these words instead of repeating the person's or thing's name; it will also make who or what you are talking about clearer and automatically tells you if you are talking about a man, a woman or a thing.

To further understand *Personal Pronouns* we have to look at the grammar word: **Person**

Person - Who are all these people?

First Person, Second Person, Third Person.

A person is a human being.

When we say **person**, we mean: *man*, *woman*, or *child*.

A person in grammar is a little bit different.

Sometimes animals and things can be named "person" too, but only in grammar.

A Grammar "Person"

Man - He

Woman – She

Boy - He

Dog – It

Tree – It

"*Person*" originally meant "*a character in a story*".

In a story, **you** could be speaking.

"**I** am happy"

You could speak to **someone**.

"Are **you** happy, Jane?"

You could speak to your friend about **someone else**.

"Jane, how is Bill? Is **he** happy? "

When people are talking or writing, the term **person** is used to show this:

The person **speaking**.

The person being **spoken to**.

The person being **spoken about** or **referred to**.

In grammar, this is called:

(First person) The person **speaking**.

(Second person) The person **spoken to**.

(Third person) The person being **spoken about**.

Example:

The word "**I**" refers to **First person**.

The word "**you**" refers to **Second person**.

The word "**he**" refers to **Third person**.

Another example:

The word "**me**" refers to **First person**.

The word "**you**" refers to **Second person**.

The word "**it**" refers to **Third person**.

The word "**It**" refers to **third person** for animals.

*"The cat, I saw **it**".*

Sometimes **things** can be **person** too.

Things cannot be a real person, but only be a **grammar person**

The word "**it**" refers to **third person** for things.

"The tree, it fell over".

Singular Person

Singular is one.

One person can talk.

"I am happy"

You can talk to **one** person.

*"**You are** happy!"*

You can talk about **one** person.

*"**He** is happy!"*

Plural Person

Plural is more than one.

Many people as **one group** speaking.

*"**We are** happy"*

Many people as **one group** being spoken to.

*"Are **you** happy?"*

Many people or things as **one group**, being spoken about.

*"**They are** happy"*

Person in grammar, can be **singular** (one) or **plural** (more than one).

Singular

First Person	Second Person	Third Person
I	You	He
Me		She
		It
		Him
		Her

Xxx

Plural		
First Person	Second Person	Third Person
We	You	They
Us		Them

Let's look at this again.

It's all about me.

Singular person

First Person Singular

In "first person singular", there is only **one** person speaking or being referred to.

"I am hungry".

"I kicked the ball".

"I jumped".

These are all first person singular (I).

It's all about you.

Second Person Singular

In "second person singular" there is only **one** person being spoken to being referred to.

*"Are **you** hungry?"*

*"**You** should kick the ball"*

*"**You** should run"*

These are all second person singular (you).

It's all about him, her or it.

Third Person Singular

In "third person singular", there is only **one** person being spoken about or being referred to.

*"**He** kicked the ball"*

*"**She** kicked the ball"*

"**It** kicked the ball"

"Tell **him**"

"Tell **her**"

These are all third person singular (it, him, and her).

It's all about us.

Plural person

First Person Plural

In "**first person plural**", there is **more than** one person speaking or doing an action.

"**We** are hungry"

"Kick the ball to **us**"

"**We** want to know"

These are all first person plural (we, us).

It's all about you

Second Person Plural

In "**second person plural**", there is **more than** one person being spoken to or doing an action.

"Are **you** (group) hungry?"

"**You** (group) should kick the ball"

"This letter is for **you** (group)."

These are all second person plural (you).

It's all about them

Third Person Plural

In “**third person plural**” there is **more than** one person or thing being spoken about or doing an action.

“**They** kicked the ball”.

“Kick the ball to **them**”.

“**They** chased the rabbit”.

These are all third person plural (they, them).

	Singular	Plural
First Person	I, me	We, us
Second Person	you	You
Third Person	She, her, he, him, it	They, them

Personal pronouns: I, you, he, she, it, we, you, they, me, him, her, us, them; theirs, ours.

Example:

*"I would like **you**, Sally, to come with John and Mary and me to play soccer. It is a fun game. John can kick well. Mary can run fast. **We** can play against another team. **They** will not win against **us**. What **you** do is kick the ball to*

me and I will kick it to him. He kicks it to Sally and she kicks it to her (Mary). We will beat them".

Personal pronouns are not: *mine, my, yours, his, hers, or its*: all these words mean "belonging to" and are **possessive** pronouns and are used to show what the noun **owns**. (Possession)

And those are personal pronouns.

And that is all there is to Person, singular and plural. Got it?

Why do I need to know Person?

You want to know Grammar Person so that you can talk or write correctly. You want to be understood and be clear about what you are saying or writing. You want to let people know that you are talking about one person, animal or thing, or that you are talking about more than one person, animal or thing.

Another type of pronoun shows you that someone *owns* something.

When you have a toy, you say the toy is **mine**.

Mine is a possessive pronoun.

Possessive Pronoun - Who owns it?

Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns show that something **belongs** to somebody or something.

Possessive means showing **ownership**.

The possessive pronouns are: **my, your, his, her, it, our, their, mine, yours, hers, ours, and theirs**.

I have a bed. It belongs to me, so I say: "**My Bed**".

You have a bed. It belongs to you, so I say: "**Your bed**".

He has a bed. It belongs to him, so I say: "**His bed**".

Sally has a bed. It belongs to her, so I say: "**Her bed**".

The dog has a bed. It belongs to the dog, so I say: "**It is a bed**".

We have beds. They belong to us, so I say: "**Our beds**".

My friends have beds. They belong to them, and so I say: "**their beds**".

Possessive pronouns can also be used in the following way:

I have a bed. It belongs to me, so I say: "*The bed is mine*".

You have a bed. It belongs to you, so I say: "*The bed is yours*".

Sally has a bed. It belongs to her, so I say: "*The bed is hers*".

The dog has a bed. It belongs to the dog, so I say: "*The bed is its*".

John has a bed. It belongs to him, so I say: "*The bed is his*".

We, John, Sally, and I have beds. They belong to us, so I say: "*The beds are ours*".

My friends have beds. They belong to them, so I say: "The beds are **theirs**".

Possessive Pronouns	
My	My apple
Mine	The apple is mine
Your	Your apple
Yours	The apple is yours
His	His apple The apple is His
Her	Her apple
Hers	The apple is hers
Our	Our apple
Ours	The apple is ours
Their	Their apple

Theirs	The apple is theirs
Its	Its apple The apple is its

The possessive pronouns are: **my, your, his, her, its, our, their, mine, yours, hers, ours, and theirs.**

*"I found **my** hat and you found **your** hat. Jim once lost **his** hat and Sally lost **her** hat. The dog lost **its** hat, so they all said and barked, 'We lost **our** hats', then Jim found **his** hat and Sally found **hers**, and the dog found **its**. Then they said and barked, 'The hats, we found **ours**'. I am happy they found **theirs**".*

Why do I need to know possessive pronouns?

Well, you don't, but if you don't need to know about them, then you will find that people will just come and take your stuff because it doesn't belong to anyone. If you learn to say "*It is mine*", they will know that you know something about owning things and you can show this in your speaking or writing.

Sometimes we want to show that there is a difference between people; we want to show who is doing an action and who is receiving an action.

I pinched **myself**.

Myself is a reflexive pronoun

Reflexive pronoun - It is always me!

Reflexive Pronoun

Reflexive pronoun uses words that **show** that the ‘*person*’ who **does** the action is also the person who is **affected** by the action.

Reflexive means "**turning back**"

The reflexive pronouns are: **myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, themselves, and yourselves.**

Any word that ends in ‘**-self**’ or ‘**-selves**’.

For example, ourselves, themselves are reflexive pronouns.

Reflexive Pronouns		Means
Myself	I will go <i>myself</i>	No one else but me
Ourselves	We will go <i>ourselves</i>	No one else but us
Yourselves	You should go <i>yourselves</i>	No one else but you (group)
Himself	He should go <i>himself</i>	No one else but him
Herself	She should go <i>herself</i>	No one else but her

Yourself	You should go <i>yourself</i>	No one else but you
Themselves	They should go <i>themselves</i>	No one else but them
Itself	It should go <i>itself</i>	Nothing else but the animal or thing

The word "*but*" means except or only.

-**Self** is used to emphasize **the same person or thing** and is **singular**.

She should go **herself**. Meaning she should go on her own and **not** with other people.

-**Selves** is used to emphasize **the same people or things** and **plural**

They should go by **themselves**. Meaning, they should go on their own and **not** with other people.

The reflexive pronouns are: myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, themselves, and yourselves.

*"I, **myself** will drive John, Jess and Owen to town to eat. You will drive Mike and Peter and the cat to town to eat. We will eat by **ourselves** and you will eat by **yourselves**. Jess eats by **herself**. Owen can eat by **himself**. The cat can eat by **itself**. Mike and Peter can eat by **themselves**".*

Why do I need to know reflexive pronouns?

Sometimes you want to show the same person or thing. If you did a job well, on your own, you want someone to know this, so you will say "*I did it myself*"; if you didn't know reflexive pronouns, you would say "*I did it!*" and they might think... maybe someone helped you....

Sometimes we use the words "*who*", "*what*" and other words, but we are not asking a question.

For example, the boy **who** ate my apple is a thief.

We are not asking a question but referring to a boy using the pronoun **who**.

The word **who**, in this case, is a **relative pronoun**.

Relative Pronoun - Let's Link things

Relative Pronouns

A relative pronoun is a word used to **link** or **connect** in some way.

When we get into relative pronouns, we start to understand that **pronouns**, in their *basic definition*, are **words** used to **replace** nouns.

A type of noun can be two words. For example, "*the cat*".

A noun can also be a group of words.

"*The big yellow cat*" can be a noun.

What? Can a noun be a group of words?

Yes!

If we said: "*I saw a big yellow cat sitting on a mat, **it** wasn't very yellow*".

What does the word "**it**" mean?

Well, it would mean **cat**.

So if we replace the word "**it**" with the word "*cat*", the sentence will read.

"I saw a big yellow cat sitting on a mat. The cat wasn't very yellow.

This makes sense, but it could be misunderstood as to *the cat* you are talking or writing about.

If we make "**big yellow cat**" into a noun, **one idea**, and now we say:

"I saw a big yellow cat sitting on a mat. The **big yellow cat** wasn't very yellow."

We now know which cat is being talked or written about.

Relative means "**linked** or **connected** with something **in some way**."

In a sentence, some things can be linked or connected.

In the sentence "The boy **who** ate my apple."

Who is being used **differently**? It links the words "*the boy*" and "*who*".

It tells us something specific about the boy.

The **word who**, in this case, is a **relative** pronoun. It is **not** asking a question.

A relative pronoun can **also** replace **another pronoun**.

"**That** is not clear, **it** is so not clear"

'**It**' replaces the word '**that**'.

(Remember: the word 'it' refers to whatever the word 'that' refers to).

The relative pronouns are: who, whom, which, whose, and that.

Pronoun	Sentence	Refers to
Who	The boy who helped is gone	Who refers to " <i>the boy</i> " and is linking " <i>the boy</i> "

		with “ <i>helped</i> ”
Whom	The baby, whom we cared for, is with her mother	Whom refers to “ <i>the baby</i> ” and is linking “ <i>The baby</i> ” with “ <i>we cared for</i> ”
Which	The cat, which jumped, is the one I like	Which refers to “ <i>the cat</i> ” and is linking “ <i>the cat</i> ” with “ <i>jumped</i> ”
Whose	This is the shop whose lollies I like	Whose refers to “ <i>the shop</i> ” and is linking “ <i>the shop</i> ” with “ <i>lollies</i> ”
That	This is the cat that I wanted	That refers to “ <i>the cat</i> ” and is linking “ <i>the cat</i> ” with “ <i>I wanted</i> ”

The relative pronouns are: who, whom, which, whose, and that.

*"The doctor, **who** was here this morning, **whom** I personally talked to, brought his bag, **which** looked heavy. He saw Jane, **whose** hand had a small cut. A hand **that** didn't look hurt to me".*

The words "who", "whom" and "whose" should **mostly** be used when

referring to people.

The words "*which*" and "*that*" should be **mostly** used for things and places.

Why do I need to know relative pronouns?

You need to know relative pronouns so that you can understand who or what is being talked about. It would improve your speaking or writing. If you know that a word in a sentence can be linked to the other parts of the sentence, it will improve your understanding in general.

Sometimes we want to ask a question: we want to know who? We want to know what?

The words "*who*" and "*what*" are called interrogative pronouns.

“Who wrote this”? **“Billy wrote it”.**

Interrogative pronoun - Who done it?

Interrogative Pronouns

An interrogative pronoun is a word that is used to ask questions.

Interrogative means "*used in questions.*"

Interrogate means "*to ask questions.*"

When you **interrogate** someone, you will **ask questions** to **find out** something you want to **know**.

Interrogate can have a bad meaning in that it means the questions are asked in a forceful or demanding way. Questions can be asked **gently** and **with care**.

Interrogate originally meant:

A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun. Sometimes we do not know the noun or we want to know more about the noun.

The interrogative pronoun will tell us what the noun is, and, like all pronouns, you can test the answer by replacing the pronoun with the noun.

The interrogative pronouns are: who, whom, which, what, whose.

Interrogative Pronouns	
Which	<u>Used in a question to identify the person</u> With twins, how do you know which is which? <u>Used in a question to identify the thing</u> Which did you eat? Which is yours?
What	<u>Used in general questions to get specific information</u> What is yours? What did you eat?
Whose	<u>Used in a question to identify the person, group or thing something belongs to</u>

	(pointing at a hat) Whose is that? (looking at a horserace) Whose is winning?
Who	<u>Used in a question to identify the person</u> Who took the apple? <u>Used in question to identify the group</u> Who came first in the race? Blue team or red team?
Whom	Used in a question to identify the person Used in question to identify the group To whom do you wish to speak?

Interrogative pronouns are: Who, whom, which, what, whose

Who came to visit this morning? Oh, it was John. **What** did he want? To **whom** did he speak and **whose** apple did he eat? **Which** soft drink did he drink?

The **difference** between “**Who**” and “**Whom**”

You **can** use the **word** “*who*” to replace the **word** “*whom*”. It will make sense.

You **can’t** use the **word** “*whom*” to replace the **word** “*who*”. It will not always makes sense.

<i>Who</i> threw the ball?	Correct
Whom threw the ball?	Incorrect
<i>Who</i> ate my apple?	Correct
Whom ate my apple?	Incorrect

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<i>Whom</i> do we invite?	Correct
Who do we invite?	Correct
<i>Whom</i> do you like?	Correct
Who do you like?	Correct

Whom is used in **formal** writing.

Formal writing is the use of grammar in a very strict way. This type of writing is used in books, university articles, business talks, etc.

Everyday talk or casual conversation is different from formal writing or talking.

Interrogative Pronouns are used to **ask questions**

(**Note:** You can ask questions with the words: Where? When? Why? And how?)

These are **NOT** interrogative pronouns. What? But **Why?**

The **words:** *Why, When, How and Where* when used as a question do **not** replace nouns.

A pronoun is a word that is used in place of a noun. The word "why", for example, **cannot** be replaced with a noun and still make sense.

How did he look? The word "how" *in this sentence does not replace a thing, person or place.*

When did you sleep? The word "when" *in this sentence does not replace a thing, person or place.*

Why did you dance? The word "why" *in this sentence does not replace a thing, person or place.*

Where did you grow up? The word "where" *in this sentence does not replace a thing, person or place.*

The words why, when, how and where cannot replace a noun. Test it.

Why do I need to know interrogative pronouns?

You need to know interrogative pronouns when asking questions about people or things. You need to know what words to use when asking questions that refer to people and what words to use for things. You will be asking a lot of questions all your life. You might as well know a bit about those words you are using to ask questions.

When I want \$10, I can say:

"*Give me \$10*".

When you don't know how much you want and when you are not being specific, you can use words to show this.

"Give me **some** money."

Some is an indefinite pronoun.

Indefinite pronoun - We don't want to be exact

Indefinite Pronouns

An Indefinite pronouns are words that do not refer to any specific person or thing.

Indefinite means "**not** definite, **not** exact"

You can be definite (specific)

"I want **a** pen. Give me **that** pen!"

The word "**that**" is a relative pronoun and it is also specific.

You are saying exactly the pen you want.

You can be indefinite (**not specific**).

"I don't like food. I don't want **any**."

The word '**any**' is an **indefinite** pronoun.

The indefinite pronouns are: anything, everybody, another, each, few, many, none, some, any etc.

There are **many** indefinite pronouns. Below are some of them.

See more indefinite pronoun examples at the end.

Indefinite Pronoun	Usage	Sentence
Anything	Used to refer to a	Did you see a cat? I

	<p>thing, no matter what thing</p>	<p>didn't see anything</p> <p>Cat is the noun. Anything is the indefinite pronoun</p>
Everybody	<p>Used to refer to every person, no matter who</p>	<p>Did you call the man? I called everybody</p> <p>Everybody is the indefinite pronoun</p>
Another	<p>Used to refer to some other person or thing.</p>	<p>Can your friend help or should I ask another?</p> <p>Another is the indefinite pronoun</p> <p>I will win, one way or another Another is the indefinite pronoun</p>
Each	<p>Used to refer to every single one of any number.</p> <p>Each got an apple.</p>	<p>Each is the indefinite pronoun</p> <p>We are not specifying who the each are.</p>

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Indefinite pronouns are: Anyone, Either, Enough, Everybody, Everyone, Everything, Less, Little, Much, Neither, Nobody, No one, Nothing, One, Other, Somebody, Someone, You, Fewer, Many, Several, Other, All, More, Most, None, Some, Such.

Is **anyone** home? John or Peter? I am here to see **either** because I had **enough** of **everybody** and **everyone** telling me **everything** was wrong. Of time, I have **less** money, too **little** to do **much** with. **Neither** John nor Peter could help me. And **nobody**, yes, **no one**, would help. They said "we have **nothing** we can offer you". **One** would think they would be able to help. **Somebody** or was it **someone** once said, "**You either** have a **few** dollars and **fewer** friends, or **several** dollars and **many** friends". I have **other** friends. You think you have heard it **all**. And you know **most** of what people are saying is wrong. **None** can know for sure. **Some** tell the truth. **Such** is the case.

Why do I need to know indefinite pronouns?

You will use indefinite pronouns every day of your life if you are going to be reading something or talking to others or listening to what they have to say. Our language is filled with indefinite pronouns because we have unknown things around us. These things can be known, but while they are unknown, words are used to show them.

Can I know more about pronouns?

Yes you can!

More on Pronouns

A pronoun refers to a noun and like all pronouns you can test the answer by replacing the pronoun with the noun.

Cat. **It** jumped.

A pronoun can replace a noun together with any words describing it.

The black cat. **It** jumped.

Noun Phrases

A phrase is a **group of words** that when you put them together they make a **one** idea, a **new idea**.

An example of a phrase would be:

A (word).

Tall (word).

Man (word).

When you mix these words together, we get: **a tall man**.

This now makes a new idea. This is a noun phrase.

Note: You must still know what the words **individually** mean, otherwise you won't understand what the new idea means when used as a pronoun.

Now that you understand more about pronouns, we can say:

A Pronoun is a word used instead of a **noun** to prevent the repetition of it.

A Pronoun is a word used instead of a **noun phrase** to prevent the repetition of it.

Noun Phrase	Sentence	Why
John the Jogger	I saw John the Jogger this morning. He ran fast	He means “ <u>John the Jogger</u> ”
The boat of Spain	In today’s news, the boat of Spain won. It won the race	It means “ <u>The boat of Spain</u> ”
Julius Ceaser	He came, he saw, he won	He means someone who was mentioned. (<u>Julius Ceaser</u>)
Donald the Duck	I like Donald the Duck, I like him	Him means “ <u>Donald the Duck</u> ”

Why do I need to know noun phrases?

All through school you might have learnt that noun is one word and it mostly is.

But you must also know that nouns can be more than one word and pronouns can relate to the. Only in this way will you really understand what is being talked about or written.

Sometimes you want to show action and there are words of action.

Kick the ball.

Kick is a word which shows action.

Kick is a verb.

Verbs - Do something

Verbs

A verb is a word that shows motion or action; it is a “doing” word.

The verb originally meant "*to speak the word*".

How did "*to speak the word*" became known to mean action word, no one will ever know.

A verb can show this motion or action as:

Physical action

Kick the ball.

Mental action.

Please ***think*** about it.

Kick is a verb.

Think is a verb.

Another type of verb is:

State of being verb.

She **is** happy.

State of being shows how something exists and in what condition it exists in.

Examples of action and state of being words below

Action or state	Verb	Example
Action	Kick	I kick the ball
Action	Stand	I want to stand very still
Action	Thinks	John thinks hard for the answer

State	Is	The cat is black
State	Seems	She seems happy
State	Feels	The dog feels sad

Why do I need to know verbs?

No sentence can be complete without a verb in the sentence, and you use verbs every time you write or speak. You might as well know a little bit about these words.

Transitive verb - To reach something

A transitive verb

A transitive verb is a word that shows action and always has something receiving the action.

Transitive mean to travel **over** or across. The action is travelling across to something.

With transitive verbs there is the **idea of** distance or **real** distance between two things.

There are two things:

1. The thing causing the action = the subject of the verb
2. The thing receiving the action = the object of the verb

Subject is who or what is doing the action.

Object is who or what is receiving the action.

“I kicked the ball.”

In this sentence there is someone or something starting the action (subject = I) and something receiving the action. (Object = ball)

You should be able to ask the question “**What** is receiving the action **after the verb** in a sentence?”

Transitive verbs	Transitive verb examples	What is the 'something'
Buy	I buy a coffee	Coffee
Pull	He should pull a rope	Rope
Teach	She can teach children	Children
Push	They also can push a cart	Cart
Melt	I melt the ice-cream	Ice-cream
Touch	You touch the keyboard	Keyboard
Dress	I dress myself	Myself

Why do I need to know transitive verbs?

Well, if you don't, you will never get your actions completed. You wouldn't know that an action, for it to be transitive, needs an object, for example. If your mother said "clean your room" and you didn't know that "room" was the object, the thing you needed to clean, you might end up being inactive... possibly lazy, and not clean your room, and we don't want that.

Intransitive verb - To reach nothing

Intransitive verb

An intransitive verb is a word that shows action and **does not** have something receiving the action.

In- means **not**.

So *intransitive* means **not** *traveling over* or *across*. The action does not have an object.

The action is happening **within itself** or *affecting the person or thing itself* and is **not** intended to be received by anyone or anything.

“I sleep”.

The action *is shown* or *is* happening.

Intransitive verbs	Intransitive verb examples	Why?
Rise	The water will rise	The water is not affecting anything
Grow	Each day you grow	You grow but not grow something
Stand	Stand still	The motion affects self and not something or someone else
Yawn	I will yawn	A yawn is not affecting someone or something else
Shout	I shout in my sleep	The shout is not done

		to anyone
Dance	Sometimes I dance	The dance is not going affecting anyone

Many verbs can be made transitive or intransitive by either adding or taking away the something or someone (The Object).

Why do I need to know intransitive verbs?

If you understand intransitive verbs, you will know there are only really two kinds of action: doing an action to something or someone and doing an action **but not** doing the action to someone or something.

Any action takes place in this thing called time.

Time is *when*. If you use the word 'when', then you refer to time.

Tense - When did it happen?

Past Verbs, Present Verbs and Future verbs.

An *action* can happen in: **the present** (now)

An *action* could have happened in: **the past** (yesterday)

An *action* can happen in: **the future** (tomorrow)

Eat is a verb in the *present* meaning you do the action **now**.

Ate is a verb in *the past*; meaning you did this action **in the past**.

Will eat is a verb in the *future*; meaning the action is going to take place **in the future**.

The **time** when the action takes place is called **Tense**.

Tense comes from Latin meaning “*time*”.

Past tense	Present tense	Future tense
ate	eat	Will eat

Let's take an example of drinking water.

If you are drinking water now then it is taking place in Present time.

If the **action** that you are doing **now** is *happening* or *continuing now* = **Present Time**.

If you finished drinking the water, then the action of drinking took place in Past time

If this **action** is **completed**, then *backwards* from its completion, we go into the **past** = **Past Time**.

If you see the water and want to drink it ,the action will take place in future time.

If this **action** has **not started**, then from **now onwards** we go into the **future** = **Future Time**.

Anything happening now = present

Anything that happened a second ago = past

Anything that will happen in a second = future

To show the *different times (tense)*, the verb will need to be changed or words added to it to show the different time.

Present	Past	Future
Know	Knew	Will know
Dance	Danced	Will dance
Eat	Ate	Will eat
Show	Showed	Will show

There is a lot of confusion when using the tense of verbs. One verb can change in many different ways, and the rules for knowing when and how to change it come with practice.

The past tense of a verb can change in many ways.

Sometimes you can change the tense as below:

Present	Past	Future
<i>Know</i>	Had known	Will know
<i>Dance</i>	Had danced	Will dance
<i>Eat</i>	Had eaten	Will eat

<i>Show</i>	Had shown	Will show
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Sometimes you can change tense in this way.

Present	Past	Future
<i>Know</i>	Knew	Will be knowing
<i>Dance</i>	Danced	Should be dancing
<i>Eat</i>	Ate	Would be eating
<i>Show</i>	Showed	Will be showing

The most common area of confusion is how to show a past action and how to change the verb to show this. Practice will get you over this confusion.

Why do I need to know tense?

If you don't know the tense, no one will know what you are talking or writing about. You will be mostly misunderstood. If you wanted ice-cream and said to the shopkeeper, "*I bought an ice-cream!*" he wouldn't know what to do and would just say, "*That's great!*" and then say, "*Now get out!*"

Knowing the tense will make you say, "*I want to buy an ice-cream!*"

There are certain verbs that always follow the same rules when referring to the past.

These are called: regular verbs.

Regular verbs - It happened yesterday

Regular verbs

Regular means *following* a rule;

With regular verbs ending in “e” such as dance, only simply add a ‘-d’

Verb	Add -d to the end	Sentence in past tense
<i>Rake</i>	Raked <u>d</u>	I raked the yard
<i>Bake</i>	Baked <u>d</u>	We baked a cake
<i>Dance</i>	Danced <u>d</u>	They danced all night
<i>Balance</i>	balanced <u>d</u>	I balanced myself

With a regular verb you can always add either a “-d” or “-ed” to the end and you will have the past tense right away.

Verb	Add -ed to the end	Sentence in past tense
<i>Talk</i>	talked <u>d</u>	You talked too little
<i>Jump</i>	jumped <u>d</u>	I jumped high

<i>Play</i>	Played <u>ed</u>	I played the piano
<i>Point</i>	Pointed <u>ed</u>	She pointed the way
<i>Paint</i>	paint <u>ed</u>	I paint ed a donkey

Luckily, many verbs are regular verbs and you can test verbs to see if they are regular or not. Just add ‘-d’ or ‘-ed’ and see if they make sense.

Irregular verbs are verbs that have no set rules and these verbs can end in all sorts of ways.

Ir- means “not”

Irregular means **not** regular, not the rules, meaning the rules change.

Verb	Past tense	Sentence
Run	Ran	I ran fast
Swim	Swam	I swam fast
Forget	Forgot	I forgot to tell you
Know	Knew	I knew him a long time ago

*Future tense words are never single words. They will always be used with another verb, such as **will, could, be**, and so on. I **will** dance, I **could be** driving, and "I **will be** singing".*

*The **main thing** to learn is that **verbs** can refer to **actions** in the present, past, or future.*

Why do I need to know regular or irregular verbs?

You need to know this so that you use the correct ending for many of the verbs. You need to know the rules can change with irregular verbs.

State of being verbs - I shall be

State of being.

A state of being verb is a word that show a *condition* of something or someone. Existence

State means “*the condition something is in*”

Being means existence.

All these words come from **only** one word and **the various forms** of that word.

It is the *word* **BE**.

Be means: To be fixed; to **exist**; to have a real state or **existence**, for a longer or shorter time.

"*To be happy*" means to exist in a state of happiness for a long or short time.

"*To be still*" means to remain fixed for a long or short time.

"*To be there*" means to exist in that place for a long or short time.

From the *word* BE, the other states of being words were formed.

Source Word	Variation	Why	Example
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Be	Be	To <i>exist</i> for a long or short duration First person Second person Third person	So it will be . I will be good You will be good They will be good
Be	Was	Past tense <i>Existed</i> for a long or short duration Single person or thing	She was happy
Be	Were	Past Tense <i>Existed</i> for a long or short duration More than one person or things	They were happy
Be	Is	Present Tense <i>Existing</i> for a long or short duration for a single person or thing	She is happy
Be	Are	Present Tense	They are happy

		To <i>exist</i> for a long or short duration	
		For more than one person or things	
Be	Been	Happened in the past	I have been there. They have been there
Be	Being	To <i>exist</i> in a continuing state	It is nice being happy
Be	Am	To <i>exist</i> for a long or short duration (First person only)	I am good

The state of being verbs are: Am, is, are, was, been, being, were, be.

I **am** here with you. It **is** something I like to do. We **are** friends, always have **been**. He **was** once my friend. We like **being** friends with you. We **are** together as friends. They **were** friends, but we will **be** friends forever.

Why do I need to know State of Being verbs?

Your life will completely change if you really know and understand State of Being verbs and that the one word it is all dependant on is **BE**. With State of

Being verbs, all language comes to life.

Compound verbs - You can mix actions together!

Compound verbs

Compound means **to mix** or **unite two** or **more** things to make **one thing**.

A compound verb uses two or more verbs to make one verb, one idea.

She is running.

Is (verb) + *running* (verb) = *is running* (one verb idea).

Compound verbs can even be more than two verbs.

She *will be going* to the movies.

In this case, the idea: "*will be going*" is **one idea**.

Verb	Verb	Verb	Compound Verb	Sentence
Is	running		Is running	She is running
Was	dancing		Was dancing	He was dancing
Will	Run		Will run	We will run
Is	Raining		Is raining	In the town it is raining
Were	Talking		Were talking	The girls were talking
Will	Be	Swimming	Will be swimming	They will be swimming
Should	Be	Speaking	Should be	I should be

			speaking	speaking
Could	Be	Running	Could be running	We could be running
Can	Be	fixed	Can be fixed	This can be fixed
Would	Be	Dancing	Would be dancing	By now they would be dancing

Why do I need to know about compound verbs?

It's the same as asking: "*Why do I need to breathe oxygen?*" If you don't know compound verbs and you try to understand the individual verbs, it will make your head spin. You could die! So learn compound verbs and live.

Sentences

A sentence is a **group of words** that, when put together, **tell you something**.

A sentence *tells* a **complete** thought or *idea that makes sense*.

"I ate the..." This is not a complete thought.

"She will take a..." This is not a complete thought.

" ! " This is not a complete thought.

"Over" This is not a complete thought.

I ate the apple = complete thought.

She will take a pen. = complete thought.

Come over here = complete thought.

Stop! = complete thought.

Run! = complete thought.

A sentence can be long or short.

Get an ***idea of doing*** something. Now write this idea down.

If you did that and it was a complete thought, then it would be a sentence.

You have many complete thoughts every minute.

On a page you will read many complete thoughts.

You use complete thoughts every time you speak and say something.

These are all sentences.

There are more to knowing sentences, but this is the basic understanding.

Why do I need to know sentences?

Your whole life depends on sentences. Every time you talk, write, listen or read, there are sentences you will see. You cannot escape the sentence, so you might as well master it and know it for what it is... a group of words that mean something.

Subject - Who is doing what?

Subject

In grammar, the **subject** of a sentence is the **main person** or **thing doing** the action or being described.

Sarah is going shopping.

Who is the main person doing the shopping (action)?

Sarah. Correct.

Sarah is the **subject** of the sentence.

Sarah is beautiful.

Who is the main person being **described**?

Sarah. Correct.

Sarah is the **subject** of the sentence.

The subject **does not** have to be one word.

Mary and Sue play tennis.

Mary and Sue will be the subject of the sentence.

The cat called Nibbles fell into the water.

The cat called Nibbles is the subject.

Why do I need to know subject?

You need to know about it as every grammar book or dictionary will mention it, and when they do, you know it is about someone or something that is doing the action, and that's all you need to know about "subject".

More on Sentences

A sentence should have a subject and verb. If it has a verb, it should have a subject. If the sentence has a subject, there should also be a verb.

Sometimes the verbs or the subject will be **hidden. (Implied)** – implied means to suggest something but not to say it directly.

Sentence: "Stop!"

This could mean “**(you)** stop”.

The subject "you" is hidden, it is implied.

Sentence: "John?"

This could mean “**(where is)** John!”

The words "Where is" is hidden and implied.

Why do I need to know more about sentences?

There are many grammar ideas that you should know. Not everything is covered and it is not as fancy as some other grammar books. "*More about sentences*" is just telling you about the hidden things in grammar.

Agreement - Words in a sentence must agree

Agreement

When putting sentences together, **the subject** and **the verbs** must '*agree*'.

Plural for nouns usually means you add an **-s** at the end.

Toy (*singular*; one toy).

Toys (*plural*; more than one toy).

If the **subject** is **singular**, the **verb** must also be *singular*.

He *is* tall.

If the **subject** is **plural**, the **verb** must also be **plural**.

They *are* tall.

Examples below:

All "Be" related verbs: Am, is, are, was, been, being, were, be

Sentence	Subject Singular	Verb Singular
The pot <i>is</i> hot	Pot	Is
She <i>is</i> beautiful	She	Is

xxx

Sentence	Subject Plural	Verb Plural
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The pots <i>are</i> hot	Pots	Are
They are beautiful	They	Are

Two **singular** *subjects* can become **plural** when you join them with the word "**and**".

Jack **is** starting school (singular).

Jack **and** Jill *are* starting school.

Jack and Jill is the same as saying '**they**' (plural).

They are starting school.

Using the word "and" with two subjects and what verb to use.

A **subject** can be a **compound** (several words mixed together to make one idea).

Living in Sydney **is** what I like best (singular subject).

Living in Sydney is one idea and is **singular**.

Living in Sydney **and** being able to enjoy shopping **are** what I like best.
(Plural subjects).

Living in Sydney and (and means plus) being **able to enjoy shopping** =
Plural.

-

Using the word "or" with two subjects and what verb to use.

The **subject** can be **compound** (several words mixed together to make one idea).

Living in Sydney **is** what I like best (singular subject).

Living in Sydney is one idea and is **singular**.

Living in Sydney or being able to enjoy shopping **is** what I like best.
(Singular subjects).

Living in Sydney or ("or" means **one** of them) **being able to enjoy shopping**
= singular.

Why do I need to know agreement?

Here again, is the difference between life and death. Your sentences will read better, feel better, and be better if you really get agreement. Study it well.

Language has many holes you can fall into. This is one of them. There are tens of thousands of non-be verbs and they can be learnt over time if you want to learn them.

The rules for verbs are important because English is a crazy language. You might as well get on board and win over this language. A way to do this is to study it well. Conquer the crazy!

Modifiers - Makes words beautiful

Modifiers

A modifier is a word that describes something.

Modify means "*to give a new form of being to*".

You can say "*apple*".

Or you can turn the apple into:

The **red** apple.

Red is a **modifier**.

The word "*red*" describes the apple.

Modifiers can be **short** or long.

The *yellow, lazy, good for nothing fox*.

Yellow, lazy, good for nothing (This is a **long** modifier).

You can modify any **noun**.

Red apple.

You can modify a **pronoun**.

Silly him.

You can modify a **verb**.

Run **fast**.

A modifier always tells you **more** about the noun, pronoun or verb.

When you **modify a noun**, it is called an **adjective**.

Adjective means "**added to a name**".

Boy is a noun.

Big Boy.

Big is an adjective.

When you **modify a verb**, it is called an **Adverb**.

Adverb originally meant "**added to the spoken word**".

Sleep is a verb.

Very sleepy.

Very is an adverb.

Why do I need to know modifiers?

Without modifiers, the world would be a very very very dull place. Modifiers are what make nouns beautiful and verbs go faster. If you didn't use modifiers, your writing and talking would be like that of a corpse. Learn them well.

Preposition - Where is something?

Preposition

A Preposition is a word that shows relationship of words in a sentence.

Pre – means "before".

Position means “to put or set”.

Preposition means ‘to put before’.

A preposition is a word used before a noun to tell how the noun or the pronoun relates to some other word in the sentence. .

Common Prepositions are: on, at, by, in, to, over, up, along, near, below, against, under.

There are many others prepositions; some prepositions have many ***different*** meanings. The meanings below are just one of the meanings for example only.

Preposition	Meaning	Sentence
On	Contact with the upper surface of something	The cat is on the TV
Near	Close, not far	Stand near the wall
At	Means location in time or place	He is at the river Wake me up at 7am
By	Close to ; not a far distance in from	Sit by me
In	Surrounded or enclosed ; inside of something	We live in a house
To	In the direction of ; movement towards	Go to the wall

Over	Higher in place or position	Jump over the puddle
Up	To a higher place	Go up the tree
Along	In a line with the length	Walk along the river
Below	At a lower place	Put the cat below the table
Against	In physical contact with	Put him against the wall
Under	Below, beneath so as to be covered by	Put the cat under the table

And there are many more prepositions.

*One way to understand most prepositions is to think of **location**.*

(Where will something happen?)

*Another way to understand some prepositions better is to think of **time**.*

(When will something happen?)

*You can walk **by** the river = close to the river.*

*You can walk **in** a river = inside the river and surrounded by water.*

*You can walk **on** a river = on the surface of the river like Jesus.*

*We will meet **at** 4pm = at the time of 4pm.*

*I will see you **on** Friday = the day which is Friday.*

*Location is one method of using prepositions; ask yourself "**Where** is the object?" "Where will it happen? "How far away is the object?*

Ask yourself "When did it happen? "What time?

Why do I need to know prepositions?

If you didn't know prepositions, then you would not be able to explain anything to anyone, and when you play hide and seek, you would never be able to find anyone, even if they gave you tips.

Conjunction - Let's join things together

Conjunction

A conjunction is a word that joins sentences together to make one continuous sentence with more than one idea and related in some way.

Con- means “together”.

Junction means “to join”.

Conjunction means “to join together”.

Common conjunctions are: and, or, so, but, if, while.

There are many other conjunctions; some conjunctions have **many different meanings**.

The meanings below are just one of the meanings of conjunctions.

Conjunction	Meaning	Sentence
And	In addition to; plus	Jack sat and Jill sat
Or	One of two	Jack sat or Jill sat
So	In order that	Eat lunch so we can leave
But	Except for	All can come but Jack can't come
If	Assuming that	You can come if you eat your food
While	During the same time	Eat your food while I

	that	do the dishes
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And there are many more conjunctions.

To understand conjunctions better, think of **joining** words.

Idea **one**.

Idea **two**.

Idea one **or** idea two.

Sentence **one**.

Sentence **two**.

Sentence one **and** sentence two.

Idea **one**.

Idea **two**.

Idea one **so** idea two.

Sentence **one**.

Sentence **two**.

Sentence one **if** sentence two.

Why do I need to know these conjunctions?

Why not? I say! Because with a conjunction in a sentence, the sentence can just go on and on and on. Conjunctions make what you say more interesting. If you were in the army, you would not need conjunctions because the army doesn't allow them. You are only allowed to say "Yes sir!" or "No sir!"

Punctuation - It's not swearing!

Punctuation

Punctuation is the use of **marks** to show the breakup of a sentence so that its meaning is clearer.

Punctuate means “*to have pauses or stops shown*” or “*interrupt at intervals*”

Punctuation marks are: (see the definitions on the chart below)

. is a period or full stop.

, is a comma.

? is a question mark.

! is an exclamation mark.

' is an apostrophe or single quote mark.

" is a quotation mark.

: is a colon.

; is a semicolon.

... is an ellipsis mark.

- is a hyphen.

– is an en dash.

— is an em dash.

() are parentheses or curved brackets.

[] are brackets or square brackets.

Symbol	What is it?	Use	Example
.	Full stop	used at the end of a sentence to show it is complete	Come here please.
,	Comma	Used to show a pause between parts of a sentence	I was here, she was here, and he was here.
?	Question Mark	Used to show a question is being asked	Who was here?
!	Exclamation point	Used to show emotion, surprise, fear, etc.	No! No! No!
“	Double quotation marks	Used when repeating what	“He is from Sydney,” said the

		someone said or wrote	man
‘	Single quotation mark	Used inside when repeating what someone said or wrote	“ <i>He is a ‘Toy soldier’ from Sydney,</i> ” said the man
:	Colon	used to show a list of items, a quotation, or an expansion or explanation	Shopping list: Bread Milk Red: a colour Think: means using the mind to solve problems
;	Semi Colon	Used to pause when writing, it is a longer pause than a comma but not a full	I like to show you roses; I’d like to show you daisies.

		stop like a period. The use is as clear as mud.	
...	Ellipses	Used when leaving out a word, line, paragraph	I want to ...
()	Parenthesis	Used to put around a word group of words or sentences in a piece of writing to show that what is inside them should be thought of as separate from the main part	The doctors visited (they always visit) my father.
[]	Brackets	Used to put around a word group of words or sentence in a piece of writing to show that what is inside them should be thought of as separate from the main part	Whenever we go fishing [my family loves fishing], I would catch two fish.

Why do I need to know punctuation marks?

You need to know what the symbols and marks found on a page mean. These can only be used in writing and when you see them, they do have a meaning. Don't be left behind not knowing what they mean.

Interjections - Aha!

Interjections

An interjection is a word or symbol to **show emotion** such as **excitement, crying, upset, joy** or **surprise** etc.

A symbol is a sign or thing that tells you something e.g. The symbol “+” means plus or add.

‘Inter’ means “*between*”.

‘Jection’ means “*to throw*”.

Interjection means *to throw in between*.

Examples of interjections would be the used of the! (Exclamation symbol).

You can say “Hey” or you can say “Hey!”

“Hey” could mean a normal tone of voice.

Hey! Could mean a slightly more surprised tone of voice.
You can say what or you can say WHAT!

Aha!

Ouch!

Aww!

Wow!

Boo!

Dang!

Duh!

These are all interjections.

More on Grammar:

Literal meanings - I mean what I say

Literal

Literal means exactly what the words say.

Literal means following the letter or exact words; not free.

“*Stand up*” *literally* means moving from a seated position to an upright position.

“*Go!*” *Literally* means leaving a place.

Literal meanings mean you do not have the freedom to think of what is being said in a different way.

Language is literal but many times it is **not** literal.

Why do I need to know what literal is?

Many times, you want writing or talking to mean exactly what you are saying or writing, and to be understood exactly. Sometimes, you want people to get a hint or suggestion of what you are saying. In informal conversations, especially, you want to be more expressive or make what you say colourful..

Literal language can be boring and dull.

The opposite of literal is Figurative

Figurative meanings - That's not what I mean

Figurative

Figurative means that the words are used in a **different way** from that in which they are ordinarily used.

Much of the language we use is figurative.

Figurative language is **colourful** and **expressive**. It is **interesting** and **describes** what you are saying better.

"My brother and sister *fought like cats and dogs.*"

Trying to understand this literally gets you into trouble and will leave you confused.

They fought like cats and dogs, which means figuratively, or what you actually mean is that your brother and sister **were arguing constantly**.

She is as playful as a kitten.

Literally, it would be confusing as a person is not a kitten.

Figuratively, it means the person is quite **fond of games and light-hearted**.

Some examples of figurative meanings

Examples	Literal Meaning (incorrect)	Figurative Meaning
She is as sweet as honey	A person is honey that comes from bees	Charming and pleasant
You sing like an angel	A person is an angel (supernatural thing) and sings	The person sings in a sweet and gently manner
What's up?	What is high in the air	Greeting , asking about the current situation
How's it going?	Which direction is how moving	Asking in which condition the person is in
It's raining cats and dogs	Cats and dog are rain	Heavy rain

Note: Many words have different meanings and definitions. When **speaking**, words that have the same sound, such as write/right or piece/peace, can create confusion.

Practice, knowing what words mean, and knowing the difference between literal and figurative meanings will help.

Why do I need to know figurative?

Figurative meanings causes the most misunderstanding. The way to think about figurative is that it is sort of a secret language between people. You need to sort of understand what they mean, not pay attention to what they are saying.

The Advanced Section .

More on Articles

We are writing or saying exactly which one.

For **general** things such as life, friendship, success, happiness, we don't use the word "the".

You **don't say**:

The life is beautiful.

The friendship is important.

The success is smart work.

The happiness is in you.

These are wrong.

It is just:

Life is beautiful.

Friendship is important.

Success is smart work.

Happiness is in you.

Gerund says "G-run-nd".

Gerund means "to do"

It looks like a verb but is actually a noun.

A verb is a doing verb.

When you **turn a verb** into a **noun**, it is a **gerund**.

Eat is a verb.

When you are not actually going to eat or having something to eat right now and just talking about it – you turn the verb into a noun. It looks like a verb but is a noun; a naming word.

We are putting a label on the action. Not doing the action.

All gerunds end with –ing.

Running, washing, playing etc. when used as a NOUN.

It is important to remember that running, washing, and playing can still be verbs if someone or something is **doing** the action.

More on common nouns

A common noun is the **name** of people, places, or things that are **common**.

Common means "***belonging to all in a group or class of things***."

A common noun is a **word** that shows something ***belongs to*** or is ***shared by*** a group or class of things.

Chair

Table

Pen

Paper

Book

These are common nouns.

Why are these common nouns?

To understand this, you need to understand the difference between a **word** and an **object**.

Table is a common noun

The **word** table is a **label** you put on an object that has a flat top and four legs, and so you give this object a name. You put a label on it called "Table".

A Table (name) is a **word** that refers to any **object** that looks, feels, or smells like a table.

Take one hundred objects that have a flat top and legs: round ones, square ones, rectangular ones, short ones, long ones, coloured ones, broken ones, new ones, old ones, and place them in a room.

When you say the **word "table"**, you mean *any* one of them.

You are not being specific.

Remember, the **word** "table" and the object table are not the same thing.

The **word** "table" is just a word, it is a label.

In fact, when you say the **word "table"**, you mean **any** object that is *known as*, looks like, feels like, or smells like a table in the whole world.

What?

Yes, that's right.

An object is just an **object** until someone puts a **label** (a word) on it. The label is **not** the object. A word is only a label.

You can say the label or you can write the label.

When we say the **word** "table", we mean any table under the sun, moon, or stars, and therefore it is a common noun.

An example:

In the room where you are sitting, look at the objects around you. You can call each one "object" and the next one "object" and the next one "object" and you will be one hundred percent correct as each one is just an object.

Now look at the objects in the room and give each object a name:

"**Wall**" and the next one "**chair**" and the next one "**table**".

A **word** on **its own** is only a label put on an object and is not the object itself. In fact, the word has nothing to do with the object at all; these are two separate things. Think about it for a bit. Is the word the object?

In our minds, we connect the words with the objects and this is why it can be confusing.

Back to common nouns.

The **labels** "wall", "chair" and "table" are **common nouns**. They are the name of a thing, either as a group or in a class.

When you just say the **word** "wall", you are not being specific. You could mean any wall in all the walls in the world. Your meaning is so general that it could refer to a brick wall, straw wall, a small wall, a big wall, and so on..

"Wall" is a general word and therefore common. **Common** meaning found everywhere.

When you use words like "that wall", the word "that" makes it a bit clearer which wall you are talking about, but the word "wall" is still a common noun.

More on Infinite pronoun

Reference chart

Infinite Pronoun – list		
Anything	Used to refer to a thing, no matter what kind of thing	Did you see a cat? I didn't see anything "Cat" is a noun. "Anything" is the indefinite pronoun for cat
Everybody	Used to refer to every person, no matter who	Did you call the man? I called everybody "Everybody" is the indefinite pronoun of man
Another	Used to refer to some other person or thing	Can your friend help or should I ask another? "Another" is the indefinite pronoun for friend

		<p>I will win, one way or another</p> <p>“Another” is the indefinite pronoun for way</p>
Each	Used to refer to every single one of any number	<p>They each got an apple</p> <p>“Each” is the indefinite pronoun for them</p> <p>We are not specifying who the “each” are</p>
Few	Used to refer to not many or small number of people or things	<p>I’ve got a few. Here are some toys.</p> <p>“Few” is an indefinite pronoun for toys</p> <p>We are not saying exactly the number of toys. Is it 2 toys, is it 5 toys, or is it 10 toys out of all the toys?</p>
Many	Used to refer to a large amount or number of things or people	<p>I got many toys</p> <p>“Many” is an indefinite pronoun for toys</p> <p>We are not saying exactly the amount of</p>

		toys, is it 5 toys, is it 25 toys or is it 100 toys?
None	Used to refer to not any, no part of .	Money? I have none. “None” is an indefinite pronoun for money
Some	Used to refer to an unspecified number or amount of people or things	Food. Give me some “Some” is an indefinite pronoun for food It means you want food but not saying how much exactly you want
Any	Used to refer to one thing or person and not saying specifically what thing or person	You want a balloon? Take any “Any” is an indefinite pronoun for balloon It means taking one balloon out of a bunch of balloons but not saying which one you can take. You can choose one
Anybody	Used to refer to one person and not say specifically what	I talked to the crowd. Did anybody answer? No

	person	<p>“Anybody” is an indefinite pronoun for crowd</p>
Anyone	Used to refer to one person and not say specifically what person	<p>I talked to the crowd. Did anyone answer? No</p> <p>“Anyone” is an indefinite pronoun for crowd</p>
Either	Used to refer to One of two; the one or the other	<p>Want an apple? A pear? Either?</p> <p>“Either” is an indefinite pronoun for apple or pear</p> <p>Why is this an indefinite pronoun if you know specifically what is being asked for?</p> <p>The words apple and pear are definite</p> <p>The word “either” is not clearly labelling apple or pear</p> <p>Remember a pronoun is used in the place of a</p>

		<p>noun</p> <p>In the sentence, the word either means apple or it could mean pear and you can either have an apple or a pear</p> <p>You can't say I ate "an either"</p> <p>Because it is not specific, it is indefinite in a sentence</p>
Enough	Used to refer to as much or as many as required	<p>Lollies! I didn't get enough</p> <p>"Enough" is an indefinite pronoun for lollies</p>
Everybody	Every person	<p>At my party, I invited my friends and everybody came</p> <p>"Everybody" is an indefinite pronoun for friends</p>
Everyone	Every person	<p>At my party I invited my friends and everyone came</p> <p>"Everyone" is an</p>

		indefinite pronoun for Friends
Everything	All things	My dinner, I ate everything! “Everything” is an indefinite pronoun of dinner
Less	A smaller amount; not as much	Lollies, I got less “Less” is an indefinite pronoun for lollies
Little	Small amount of	Lollies, I ate a little “Little” is an indefinite pronoun for lollies
Much	A large amount	Food, I don’t have much “Much” is an indefinite pronoun for food
Neither	Not the one nor the other of two people or things	An apple? A pear? I like neither “Neither” is an indefinite pronoun for apple or pear
Nobody	No person; no one	I had a party. I invited my friends but nobody came “Nobody” is an indefinite pronoun for

		friends
No one	No person; not a single person	I did a test at my school and no one passed “No one” is an indefinite pronoun for students in a class
Nothing	Not anything; no single thing	Party food. I ate nothing “Nothing” is an indefinite pronoun for party food
One	Indefinitely for any person	Any person can know; one just knows; one sees “One” is an indefinite pronoun for person
Other	Indefinitely for any person or thing	One man came, the other didn't “Other” is an indefinite pronoun for man
somebody	An unknown or unspecified person	John, the Principal wants you. Somebody is in trouble “Somebody” is an indefinite pronoun for John

		<p>Why is it indefinite if we know it is John?</p> <p>The person who said “somebody”, was not directly referring to John. He used the indefinite to mean John, but it could mean anyone. We can only assume it is John</p>
someone	An unknown or unspecified person	<p>There are ten of us in the room. Someone ate my apple</p> <p>“Someone” is an indefinite pronoun for one of us</p>
You	To refer to any person in general	<p>People are smart. Sometimes you just know things</p> <p>“You” is an indefinite pronoun for person</p>
Fewer	A smaller number of	<p>Apples, take fewer</p> <p>“fewer” is an indefinite pronoun for apples</p>
Many	A large number of	Veggies, have many

		<p>“Many” is an indefinite pronoun for veggies</p>
Several	More than two but not many	<p>A jar of pens, take several</p> <p>“Several” is an indefinite pronoun for pens</p>
They	Used to refer to a person of unspecified gender	<p>People are smart, they know so much</p> <p>“They” is an indefinite pronoun for people</p>
All	Every person or thing	<p>Out of my class, all will come!</p> <p>“All” is an indefinite pronoun for student of the class</p>
More	Greater or additional amount or degree	<p>Lollies, have more</p> <p>“More” is an indefinite pronoun for lollies</p>
Most	Greatest in amount or degree	<p>The students ate the most</p> <p>“Most” is an indefinite pronoun for unspecified food</p>
None	Not any	<p>Fish, there is none</p> <p>“None” is an indefinite</p>

		pronoun for fish
Some	Used to refer to someone or something that is unknown or unspecified	Apples, have some “Some” is an indefinite pronoun for apples
Such	Of that kind; of the like kind	Veggies, I do not eat such “Such” is an indefinite pronoun for veggies

More on BE Verbs

The Chart of Confusion				
Be	Person	Singular/Plural	Sentence	Tense

Verb				
Am	First Person	Singular	I am happy	Present
Is	Third person	Singular	She is happy	Present
Are	Second Person	Singular	Jack! You are happy	Present
Are	First Person	Plural	We are happy	Present
Are	Second Person	Plural	All you girls are in trouble	Present
Are	Third Person	Plural	They are happy	Present
Was	First Person	Singular	I was happy	Past
Was	Third Person	Singular	It was happy	Past
Were	Second Person	Singular	Mark, You were happy	Past
Were	Second Person	Plural	You guys were happy	Past
Been	First Person	Singular	Where had I been?	Past Tense
Been	Second Person	Singular	Jack! Where had you been?	Past Tense
Been	Third Person	Singular	Where had he been?	Past Tense
Been	First Person	Plural	It has been a long time since we saw him	Present Tense
Been	Second Person	Plural	We have been here a long time	Present Tense
Been	Third Person	Plural	You have been here a long time	Present Tense
Be	First Person	Singular	(Talking to myself) Be happy!	Present
Be	Second Person	Singular	(Talking to you) Be happy!	Present
Be	Third Person	Singular	(Talking to the cat) Be happy!	Present

Be	First Person	Plural	(Talking to ourselves) Be happy!	Present
Be	Second Person	Plural	(Talking to a group) Be happy!	Present
Be	Third Person	Plural	(Talking about others) Be happy! I said to them.	Present
Being	First Person	Singular	(Talking to myself) Being happy?	Present – continuous
Being	Second Person	Singular	(Talking to another) Being happy?	Present – continuous
Being	Third Person	Singular	(Talking to the cat) Being happy?	Present – continuous
Being	First Person	Plural	(Talking to ourselves) Being happy?	Present – continuous
Being	Second Person	Plural	(Talking to a group) Being happy?	Present – continuous
Being	Third Person	Plural	(Talking about others) Being happy? I said to them.	Present – continuous