**Grammar Glossary**

Do you know the difference between the subject and the subjunctive? Can you identify a relative clause or find a phrase? From active voice to verb tense, the following primary-school grammar glossary offers a complete guide to all the grammatical concepts children are taught in KS2 English.

**bstract noun**

An [**abstract noun**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-concrete-and-abstract-nouns) is a feeling or concept that you cannot touch, such as happiness or education.**bial phra**

**se**

A phrase is a small group of words that does not contain a verb. An [**adverbial phrase**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-phrase) is built around an adverb and the words that surround it, for example: very slowly, as fast as possible.

**e voice**

A sentence is written in [**active voice**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-active-and-passive-sentences) when the [subject](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-subject-and-object) of the sentence is performing the action (for example, "The cat chased the mouse.")

**jective**

An [**adjective**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-an-adjective) is a word used to describe and give more information about a noun, which could be a person, place or object.

**Adverb**

An [**adverb**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-an-adverb) is a word which modifies a verb, which means that it tells you how, when, where or why something is being done.

**ostrophe**

[**Apostrophes**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-an-apostrophe) are punctuation marks used to show possession and to show contraction (also known as omission).

**Article**

[**Articles**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-definite-and-indefinite-articles) are words which tell us whether a noun is general (any noun) or specific. There are three articles: 'the' is a **definite article** and 'a' and 'an' are **indefinite articles**.

**Clause**

[**Clauses**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-clause) are the building blocks of sentences, groups of words that contain a subject and a verb. Clauses can be main or subordinate.

**Common noun**

A [**common noun**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-noun) describes a class of objects (car, friend, dog); unlike proper nouns it does not have a capital letter (Honda, Jenny, Smudge).

**omparative**

The [**comparative**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-comparatives-and-superlatives) form of an adjective or adverb is used to compare one person, thing, action or state to another. Examples of comparatives: sadder, lighter, more famous, worse, more angrily. The comparative is usually formed by adding the [suffix](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-suffix) -er.

**mplex sentence**

A [**complex sentence**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-simple-compound-and-complex-sentences-0) is formed when you join a main clause and a subordinate clause with a connective.

**pound sentence**

A [**compound sentence**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-simple-compound-and-complex-sentences-0) is formed by joining two main clauses with a connective.

**ncrete noun**

A [**concrete noun**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-concrete-and-abstract-nouns) is something you can touch, such as a person, an animal, a place or a thing. Concrete nouns can be common nouns (man, city, film) or proper nouns (Mr Edwards, London, Gone with the Wind).

**onjunction**

A [**conjunction**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-conjunction) is a type of [connective](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-connectives) ('connective' is an umbrella term for any word that connects bits of text). Co-ordinating connectives include the words and, but and so; subordinating connectives include the words because, if and until.

**onnective**

A [**connective**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-connectives) is a word that joins one part of a text to another. Connectives can be [conjunctions](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-conjunction), [prepositions](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-prepositions) or [adverbs](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-an-adverb).

**ontracted words or contractions**

[**Contracted words**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-contracted-words-or-contractions) are short words made by putting two words together. Letters are missed out in the contraction and replaced by an apostrophe, for example I'm (I am) or it's (it is).

**terminer**

A [**determiner**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-determiner) is a word that introduces a [noun](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-noun) and identifies it in detail. Determiners can be [articles](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-definite-and-indefinite-articles) (a, an, the), demonstratives (this, that), possessives (your, his), quantifiers (some, many), numbers (six, sixty).

**ect and indirect speech**

[**Direct speech**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-direct-and-indirect-speech) is a sentence in which the exact words spoken are reproduced in speech marks (quotation marks or inverted commas). [**Indirect speech**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-direct-and-indirect-speech) or reported speech is when the general points of what someone has said are reported, without actually writing the speech out in full.

**bedded clause**

An [**embedded clause**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-an-embedded-clause) is a [**clause**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-clause)**used in the middle of another clause**. It is usually marked by commas.

**onted adverbials**

[**Fronted adverbials**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-fronted-adverbials) are words or phrases at the beginning of a sentence, used like [adverbs](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-an-adverb) to describe the action that follows.

**ophone**

[**Homophones**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/homophones-explained) are words that sound the same but have different meanings. Some homophones are pronounced the same way and spelled the same way but have different meanings; others are pronounced the same way but are spelled differently and have different meanings.

**erative verbs**

An [**imperative verb**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-imperative-verbs) is one that tells someone to do something, so that the sentence it is in becomes an order or command.

**ular verbs**

While most verbs form their different tenses according to an established "formula", some verbs do not form their tenses in a regular way and are called [**irregular verbs**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-irregular-verbs).

**al verbs**

A [**modal verb**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-modal-verbs) is a special type of verb which changes or affects other verbs in a sentence. Modal verbs are used to show the level of possibility, indicate ability, show obligation or give permission.

**ulti-clause sentence**

A [**multi-clause sentence**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-simple-compound-and-complex-sentences-0) is another term for a complex sentence.

**-Standard English**

[**Non-Standard English**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-standard-english) is the vocabulary and sentence structure used in informal English; Standard English is the "correct" form of the language used in schools and in written communication.

**n**

A [**noun**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-noun) is a naming word. It is a thing, a person, an animal or a place. Nouns can be common, proper, abstract or collective.

**hrase**

A phrase is a small group of words that does not contain a verb. A [**noun phrase**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-phrase) includes one noun as well as words that describe it, for example: the red shoe.

**ect**

The [**object**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-subject-and-object) of a sentence is the thing or person that is involved in an action, but does not carry it out ("The cat chased **the mouse**.").

**assive voice**

A sentence is written in [**passive voice**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-active-and-passive-sentences) when the [subject](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-subject-and-object)of the sentence has something done to it by someone or something. For example: "The mouse was being chased by the cat."**ast continuous (or progressive)**

The [**past continuous**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-the-present-continuous-and-the-past-continuous) is the [verb tense](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-verb-tense) we use to describe actions that continued for a period of time in the past (I was walking / I was singing).

**t perfect**

The [**past perfect**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-the-present-perfect-and-the-past-perfect) is the [verb tense](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-verb-tense) we use to describe actions that were completed by a particular time in the past.

**onal pronoun**

A [**personal pronoun**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-pronoun) is a word which can be used instead of a person, place or thing: I, you, he, she, it, we, they, me, him, her, us and them.

**ase**

A [**phrase**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-phrase) is a small group of words that does not contain a [verb](http://www.theschoolrun.com/powerful-verbs-explained).

**ral**

A [**plural**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-singular-and-plural)word indicates there is more than one noun.

**ssessive pronoun**

[**Possessive pronouns**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-pronoun) are used to show ownership. Some can be used on their own (mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs, whose); others must be used with a noun (my, your, his, her, its, our, their, whose).

**refix**

A [**prefix**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-prefix) is a string of letters that are added to the beginning of a root word, changing its meaning.

**Preposition**

[**Prepositions**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-prepositions) are linking words in a sentence. We use prepositions to explain where things are in time or space.

**repositional phrase**

A phrase is a small group of words that does not contain a verb. [**Prepositional phrases**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-phrase) contain a preposition, for example: on the mat, in the morning, under the chair, during the film.**sent continuous (or progressive)**

The [**present continuous**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-the-present-continuous-and-the-past-continuous) is the [verb tense](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-verb-tense) we use to describe actions that continue for a period of time (I am walking / I am singing).

**sent perfect**

The [**present perfect**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-the-present-perfect-and-the-past-perfect) is the [verb tense](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-verb-tense) we use to describe actions that are completed by the present.

**noun**

A [**pronoun**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-pronoun) is a word used to replace a noun. Examples of pronouns are: he, she, it, they. Pronouns can be personal and possessive.

**per noun**

A [**proper noun**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-noun) identifies a particular person, place, or thing (for example, James or Brazil or Monday or Glasgow). Proper nouns always start with a capital letter.

**ative clause**

A [**relative clause**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-relative-clause) is a type of **subordinate clause that adapts, describes or modifies a noun by using a relative pronoun** (who, that or which).

**t word**

A [**root word**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-root-word) is a basic word with no prefix or suffix added to it. By adding prefixes and suffixes to a root word we can change its meaning.

**nce**

A [**sentence**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-sentence-level-work) is one word or a group of words that makes sense by itself (a grammatical unit). Sentences begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop, a question mark or an exclamation point. Sentences usually contain a subject (doing something) and a verb (what is being done).

**ple sentence**

A [**simple sentence**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-simple-compound-and-complex-sentences-0) has a subject and one verb. A [**compound sentence**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-simple-compound-and-complex-sentences-0) is formed when you join two main clauses with a connective. A [**complex sentence**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-simple-compound-and-complex-sentences-0) is formed when you join a main clause and a subordinate clause with a connective.

**Singular**

When a noun is [**singular**](https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-singular-and-plural), it means there is only one person, place or object.

**andard English**

[**Standard English**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-standard-english) is the usual "correct" form of English, taught in schools and used in formal written communication.

**bject**

The [**subject**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-subject-and-object) of a sentence is the thing or person who is carrying out the action described by the verb ("**The cat**chased the mouse.").

**junctive**

The [**subjunctive**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-the-subjunctive) is a verb form used to express things that could or should happen, for example: If I *were* to go... / I demand that he *answer*!

**dinate clause**

A [**subordinate clause**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-clause) needs to be attached to a main clause because it cannot make sense on its own, although it contains a subject and a verb.

**ffix**

A [**suffix**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-suffix) is a string of letters that go at the end of a word, changing or adding to its meaning. Suffixes can show if a word is a noun, an adjective, an adverb or a verb.

**perlative**

The [**superlative**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-comparatives-and-superlatives) form of an adjective or adverb is used to compare one person, thing, action or state to all the others in its class. Examples of superlatives: saddest, lightest, most famous, worst, most angrily. The superlative is usually formed by adding the [suffix](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-suffix) -est.

**me connectives**

[**Time connectives**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-time-connectives) are words or phrases which tell the reader when something is happening. They can also be called temporal connectives.

**rbs and powerful verbs**

A [**verb**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/powerful-verbs-explained) expresses a physical action, a mental action or a state of being. Powerful verbs are descriptive, rich words.

**rb tense**

[**Verb tenses**](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-verb-tense) tell us the time when an action took place, in the past, the present or the future.