

Glossary of Grammatical Terms

Adjective

Adjectives are words that give additional information about the noun. They can be used before a noun, e.g. **Stubborn** teenagers will not heed **sensible** advice, or after a verb, e.g. teenagers can be **stubborn**.

Adverb

Adverbs give additional information about verbs, adjectives and other adverbs. They tell how, when and where something happens. E.g. he walked **slowly** / the dog ran **away** / I'll see you **tomorrow** / he arrived **extremely** late

Figurative Language

Figurative language refers to the techniques of language which help construct associated images in the mind of the reader. Examples of figurative language are similes and metaphors.

Metaphor

A metaphor is a figure of speech that likens one thing to another. Metaphors say that one thing is another, they do not use 'like' or 'as'.

The work done by the volunteers is the glue that holds a community together

My fingers are ice

Noun

Nouns are words that name people (James Blunt), places (London), things (chair, family, sunshine) and concepts (hope, frustration, liberty)

Preposition

Prepositions are positional words such as: below, for, down, above, to, near, under, since, between.

Prepositional phrases...*with tears in her eyes*

Pronoun

A pronoun stands in place of a noun or a noun group. A pronoun refers to something that has been named and has already been written about. For example: the harbour is a popular place. It is mostly used by fishermen.

Pronouns work only if they are not ambiguous (that is, there is a clear line of reference) and are not used too repetitively. Examples of pronouns are:

She, he you, mine, hers, yours, himself, yourself.

You can't keep all the apples yourself!

This, that, these, those.

These are mine

Each, any, some, all

some will be given to Peter

Who, which, what, whose, whom.

Who is visiting tomorrow?

Simile

A simile is a figure of speech which compares one thing with another, usually beginning with 'like' or 'as'. E.G.

Without the business that teenagers bring, the shopping centre would be like a wasteland. The two things being compared must be different e.g. in the example, the distant building looked like a castle' would not be a simile if the building was in fact a castle.

Verb

Verbs are the basis of any message communicated. They are the engine of the sentence or the clause and provide movement or action or a sense of what is happening. Different types of verbs are used depending on the purpose of the sentence. Verbs are generally seen as action words – doing, seeing, laughing, singing, talking, acting.