

Grammar

Adjectives

An adjective points out or describes a noun.

Adjectives That Compare

Adjectives can be used to make comparisons. To compare two people, places, or things, *-er* is often added to an adjective. To compare three or more people, places, or things, *-est* is often added to an adjective.

A horse is **taller** than a deer.

A moose is **bigger** than a horse.

An elephant is the **largest** land animal.

Some adjectives that compare have special forms.

Vanilla ice cream is **good**.

Strawberry ice cream is **better** than vanilla.

Chocolate ice cream is the **best** flavor of all.

The girl had a **bad** cold on Sunday.

The cold was **worse** on Monday.

It was the **worst** cold she'd ever had.

Adjectives That Tell How Many

Some adjectives tell how many or about how many.

Only **six** members came to the meeting.

A **few** members were sick.

Some adjectives tell numerical order.

I finished reading the **sixth** chapter.

Articles

Articles point out nouns. *The*, *a*, and *an* are articles. *The* points out a specific person, place, or thing. *A* and *an* point out any one of a group of people, places, or things. Use *a* before a consonant sound and *an* before a vowel sound.

The man ate **a** peach and **an** apple.

Demonstrative Adjectives

Demonstrative adjectives point out or tell about a specific person, place, or thing. The demonstrative adjectives are *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those*.

	Singular	Plural
Near	This flower is red.	These bushes are tall.
Far	That flower is yellow.	Those bushes are short.

Descriptive Adjectives

A descriptive adjective tells more about a noun. It can tell how something looks, tastes, sounds, feels, or smells. It can tell about size, color, shape, or weight.

A descriptive adjective often comes before the noun it describes.

A **tall** tree stood beside the **red** barn.

A descriptive adjective can follow a being verb as a subject complement. It describes the subject of the sentence.

The tree is **tall**.

The barn was **red**.

Possessive Adjectives

A possessive adjective shows who or what owns something. A possessive adjective is used before a noun. The possessive adjectives are *my*, *your*, *his*, *her*, *its*, *our*, and *their*.

I have **my** camera, and Lucy has **her** cell phone.

Proper Adjectives

Proper adjectives are formed from proper nouns. A proper adjective begins with a capital letter.

When we went to Mexico, I ate **Mexican** food.

Adverbs

An adverb tells more about a verb. Many adverbs end in *ly*.

Some adverbs tell when or how often an action takes place.

I went to the mall **yesterday**. I **sometimes** go to the toy store.

Some adverbs tell where an action takes place.

I went **outside** after dinner. I played **there** until it was dark.

Some adverbs tell how an action takes place.

My new skateboard goes **fast**. I ride it **gracefully**.

Negative Words

Some adverbs form negative ideas. Use *not*, *n't* for *not* in a contraction, or *never* to express a negative idea. Do not use more than one negative word in a sentence.

He will **not** be ready on time. He **can't** find his sneakers.

He **never** remembers where he left them.

Contractions

A contraction is a short way to write some words. An apostrophe (') is used to show where one or more letters have been left out of a word. Many contractions are formed with the word *not*.

do not = don't

cannot = can't

was not = wasn't

will not = won't

Coordinating Conjunctions

A coordinating conjunction joins two words or groups of words. The words *and*, *but*, and *or* are coordinating conjunctions.

My dad **and** I went to the pool. I can swim **but** not dive.

The pool is never too hot **or** crowded.

Nouns

A noun is a word that names a person, a place, or a thing.

Collective Nouns

A collective noun names a group of people or things.

My **class** saw a **herd** of buffalo.

Common Nouns

A common noun names any one member of a group of people, places, or things.

My **cousin** saw a **dog** run down the **street**.

Plural Nouns

A plural noun names more than one person, place, or thing.

The **boys** have some **puppies** and some **fish**.

Possessive Nouns

The possessive form of a noun shows possession or ownership.

A singular possessive noun shows that one person owns something. To form the singular possessive, add an apostrophe (') and the letter *s* to a singular noun.

friend	friend's	book report
baby	baby's	bottle
Tess	Tess's	soccer ball
woman	woman's	purse

A plural possessive noun shows that more than one person owns something. To form the regular plural possessive, add an apostrophe (') after the plural form of the noun.

friends friends' book reports
babies babies' bottles
the Smiths the Smiths' house

To form the plural possessive of an irregular noun, add an apostrophe and *s* (*'s*) after the plural form.

women women's purses
mice mice's cheese

Proper Nouns

A proper noun names a particular person, place, or thing. A proper noun begins with a capital letter.

Meg saw **Shadow** run down **Pine Street**.

Singular Nouns

A singular noun names one person, place, or thing.

The **girl** has a **kite** and a **skateboard**.

Predicates

The predicate of a sentence tells what the subject is or does.

Complete Predicates

The complete predicate of a sentence is the simple predicate and any words that go with it.

Tom **rode his new bike**.

Compound Predicates

Two predicates joined by *and*, *but*, or *or* form a compound predicate.

Karen **got a glass and poured some milk**.

Simple Predicates

The simple predicate of a sentence is a verb, a word or words that express an action or a state of being.

The boys **ran** noisily down the street. They **were** happy.

Pronouns

A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun.

Personal Pronouns

A personal pronoun refers to the person speaking or to the person or thing that is spoken to or about. In this sentence *I* is the person speaking, *you* is the person spoken to, and *them* are the people spoken about.

I heard **you** calling **them**.

Object Pronouns

An object pronoun is used after an action verb. The object pronouns are *me, you, him, her, it, us, and them*. An object pronoun can be part of a compound object.

Karen will help **them**. Chris will help **her** and **me**.

Possessive Pronouns

A possessive pronoun shows who or what owns something. A possessive pronoun takes the place of a noun. It takes the place of the owner and the thing that is owned. The possessive pronouns are *mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, and theirs*.

My cap is here, and **your cap** is over there.

Mine is here, and **yours** is over there.

Subject Pronouns

A subject pronoun can be used as the subject of a sentence. The subject pronouns are *I, you, he, she, it, we, and they*. A subject pronoun can be part of a compound subject.

She is a great tennis player. **She** and **I** play tennis often.

She and **Tom** like to play video games.

Sentences

A sentence is a group of words that expresses a complete thought. Every sentence has a subject and a predicate. Every sentence begins with a capital letter.

Commands

A command is a sentence that tells what to do. The subject of a command is *you*. The subject is not stated in most commands. A command ends with a period (.).

Please wear your jacket.

Compound Sentences

Two sentences joined by a comma and *and*, *but*, or *or* form a compound sentence.

Ming is eating, but Lili is sleeping.

Exclamations

An exclamation is a sentence that shows strong or sudden emotion. An exclamation ends with an exclamation point (!).

How cold it is today!

Questions

A question is a sentence that asks something. A question ends with a question mark (?). A question often starts with a question word. Some question words are *who*, *when*, *where*, *what*, *why*, and *how*.

Are you ready?

Where is your jacket?

Statements

A statement is a sentence that tells something. A statement ends with a period (.).

Your jacket is in the closet.

Subject Complements

A subject complement is an adjective that comes after a being verb in a sentence. A subject complement describes or tells more about the subject. Two or more subject complements can be joined by *and*, *but*, or *or* to form a compound subject complement.

The sky is **blue**. The clouds are **white** and **fluffy**.

Subjects

The subject of a sentence is who or what the sentence is about. The subject can be a noun or a pronoun.

Complete Subjects

The complete subject is the simple subject and the words that describe it or give more information about it.

The little gray kitten is playing.

Compound Subjects

Two or more subjects joined by *and* or *or* form a compound subject.

Bob and **Lisa** went to the movies. **Nora** or **I** will sweep the floor.

Simple Subjects

The simple subject is the noun or pronoun that a sentence tells about.

His little **dog** likes to chase the ball. **It** runs very fast.

Tense

The tense of a verb shows when the action takes place.

Future Tense

The future tense tells about something that will happen in the future.

One way to form the future tense is with a form of the helping verb *be* plus *going to* plus the present form of a verb.

I **am going to make** toast. Dad **is going to butter** it.
They **are going to eat** it.

Another way to form the future tense is with the helping verb *will* and the present form of a verb.

We **will go** to the museum. The guide **will explain** the exhibits.

Past Progressive Tense

The past progressive tense tells what was happening in the past. This tense is formed with *was* or *were* and the present participle of a verb.

I **was feeding** the cat. My parents **were reading**.

Present Progressive Tense

The present progressive tense tells what is happening now. The present progressive tense is formed with *am*, *is*, or *are* and the present participle of a verb.

We **are watching** TV. I **am eating** popcorn.
My sister **is drinking** juice.

Simple Past Tense

The simple past tense tells about something that happened in the past. The past part of a verb is used for the past tense.

We **cooked** breakfast this morning. Mom **fried** the eggs.
We **drank** orange juice.

Simple Present Tense

The simple present tense tells about something that is always true or something that happens again and again. The present part of a verb is used for the present tense. If the subject is a singular noun or *he*, *she*, or *it*, *-s* or *-es* must be added to the verb.

Prairie dogs **live** where it's dry.
A prairie dog **digs** a burrow to live in.

Verbs

A verb shows action or state of being. See TENSE.

Action Verbs

An action verb tells what someone or something does.

The girl **sings**.

Dogs **bark**.

Being Verbs

A being verb shows what someone or something is. Being verbs do not express action.

The girl **is** happy.

The dog **was** hungry.

Helping Verbs

A verb can have more than one word. A helping verb is a verb added before the main verb that helps make the meaning clear.

We **will** go to the movie.

We **might** buy some popcorn.

Irregular Verbs

The past and the past participle of irregular verbs are not formed by adding *-d* or *-ed*.

Present	Past	Past Participle
sing	sang	sung
send	sent	sent
write	wrote	written

Principal Parts

A verb has four principal parts: present, present participle, past, and past participle. The present participle is formed by adding *-ing* to the present. The past and the past participle of regular verbs are formed by adding *-d* or *-ed* to the present.

Present	Present Participle	Past	Past Participle
walk	walking	walked	walked
rake	raking	raked	raked

The present participle is often used with forms of the helping verb *be*.

We **are walking** to school. Carla **was raking** leaves.

The past participle is often used with forms of the helping verb *have*.

We **have walked** this way before.

She **has raked** the whole backyard.

Regular Verbs

The past and the past participle of regular verbs are formed by adding *-d* or *-ed* to the present.

Present	Past	Past Participle
jump	jumped	jumped
glue	glued	glued

Mechanics

Capitalization

Use a capital letter to begin the first word in a sentence.

Tomorrow is my birthday.

Use a capital letter to begin the names of people and pets.

Aunt **P**eg let me play with her ferret, **N**ibbles.

Use a capital letter to begin the names of streets, cities, states, and countries.

I live on **R**oscoe **S**treet. My cousin lives in **G**uadalajara, **M**exico.

Use a capital letter to begin the names of days, months, and holidays.

Veteran's **D**ay is on **W**ednesday, **N**ovember 11.

Use a capital letter to begin a proper adjective.

I like to eat **C**hinese food.

Use a capital letter to begin personal titles.

Mrs. Novak

Dr. Ramirez

Governor Charles Royce

Use a capital letter to begin the important words in the title of a book or poem. The first and last words of a title are always capitalized.

The **S**ecret **G**arden

"**S**ing a **S**ong of **C**ities"

The personal pronoun *I* is always a capital letter.

Punctuation

Apostrophes

Use an apostrophe to form possessive nouns.

Keisha's skateboard
the children's lunches
the horses' stalls

Use an apostrophe to replace the letters left out in a contraction.

didn't can't wasn't

Commas

Use a comma to separate the words in a series.

Mark, Anton, and Cara made the scenery.
They hammered, sawed, and nailed.

Use a comma or commas to separate a name in direct address.

Carl, will you help me?
Do you think, Keshawn, that we will finish today?

Use a comma when two short sentences are combined in a compound sentence.

Dad will heat the soup, and I will make the salad.
Dad likes noodle soup, but I like bean soup.

Use a comma to separate the names of a city and state.

She comes from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Use a comma or commas to separate a direct quotation from the rest of the sentence.

"Hey," called Mario, "where are you going?"
"I'm going to the movies," Juana answered.

Exclamation Points

Use an exclamation point after an exclamation.

We won the game!

Periods

Use a period after a statement or a command.

The cat is hungry.
Please feed it.

Use a period after most abbreviations.

Sun. Sept. Mrs.
Ave. gal. Gov.

Question Marks

Use a question mark after a question.

Where are you going?

Quotation Marks

Use quotation marks to show the exact words a person says.

Nicole said, "I can't find my markers."
"Where," asked her mother, "did you leave them?"

Use quotation marks around the title of a poem. Underline the title of a book.

"Paul Revere's Ride"
Dawn Undercover