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 moose is bigger than a horse.
- An elephant is the largest land animal.

Some adjectives that compare have special forms.

- These grapes are good.
- These blueberries are better than those grapes.
- These raspberries are the best fruit in the salad.
- The girl had a bad cold on Sunday.
- The cold was worse on Monday.
- It was the worst cold she’d ever had.

Some adjectives that compare use more and most. More and most are used with adjectives of three or more syllables and with some adjectives of two syllables.

- Carla is a more careful worker than Luis.
- Marta is the most intelligent student in class.

The comparative adjectives fewer and fewest are used with plural nouns that you can see, touch, and count. The comparative adjectives less and least are used with nouns that cannot be seen, touched, and counted.

- I have fewer pencils than Hannah does.
- Mark has the fewest pens.
- I have less experience.
- Bo has the least curiosity.
**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 is the definite article. It points out a specific person, place, or thing. A and an are indefinite articles. They 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>this flower</td>
<td>these bushes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>that flower</td>
<td>those bushes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This and these point out things or people that are near. That and those point out things or people that are farther away.

- This flower is red. (singular and near)
- Those bushes are tall. (plural and far)

**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, number, color, shape, or weight.

A descriptive adjective often comes before the noun it describes.

- A tall tree stood near the red barn.
A descriptive adjective can follow a linking verb as a subject complement. It describes the subject of the sentence.

The tree near the red barn was **tall**.

**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 always begins with a capital letter.

When we went to China, I ate **Chinese** food.

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

An adverb of time tells when or how often an action takes place.

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

An adverb of place tells where an action takes place.

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

An adverb of manner tells how an action takes place.

My new skateboard goes **fast.**
I ride it **gracefully.**
Adverbs That Compare

An adverb can compare the actions of two or more people or things. To compare the actions of two people or things, -er is often added to an adverb. To compare the actions of three or more people or things, -est is often added to an adverb.

Sam went to bed later than Henry.
Luke went to bed latest of us all.

Some adverbs that compare use more and most. Use more and most with adverbs ending in ly and with adverbs of three or more syllables.

Sam answered more sleepily than Henry.
Luke answered most sleepily of us all.

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.

Antecedents

The noun to which a pronoun refers is its antecedent. A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in person and number. The pronouns he, him, and his refer to male antecedents. The pronouns she, her, and hers refer to female antecedents. The pronouns it and its refer to animals or things.
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

Many contractions are formed with personal pronouns.
- I am = I’m
- you are = you’re
- he is = he’s
- we have = we’ve

Coordinating Conjunctions

A coordinating conjunction joins two words or groups of words that are similar. 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.

Direct Objects

The direct object in a sentence is the noun or pronoun that receives the action of the verb. To find the direct object, ask whom or what after the verb. Two or more direct objects joined by and or or form a compound direct object.

My mom made pasta and salad.
I helped her.
Nouns

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

**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. Most plurals are formed by adding -s or -es to the singular form. Some nouns have irregular plural forms. Some nouns have the same form in the singular and plural.

The children have some turtles 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 begins with a capital letter and names a particular person, place, or thing.

*Mia* 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*.

**Number**
The number of a noun or pronoun indicates whether it refers to one person, place, or thing (singular) or more than one person, place, or thing (plural).

**Person**
Personal pronouns and possessive adjectives change form according to person—whether they refer to the person speaking (first person), the person spoken to (second person), or the person, place, or thing spoken about (third person).

**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.

Jenna *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. See NUMBER, PERSON.

**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 can be the direct object of a sentence. The object pronouns are *me*, *you*, *him*, *her*, *it*, *us*, and *them*. Two or more object pronouns can be joined by *and* or *or* to form a compound direct object.

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

**Plural Pronouns**
A plural pronoun refers to more than one person, place, or thing.

*They* are helping *us*. 
**Possessive Pronouns**
A possessive pronoun shows ownership or possession. 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.

**Singular Pronouns**
A singular pronoun refers to one person, place, or thing.

- *I* gave *it* to *her.*

**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.* Two or more subject pronouns can be joined by *and* or *or* to form 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.

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

- Ming is eating, but Lili is sleeping.

**Declarative Sentences**
A declarative sentence makes a statement. It tells something. A declarative sentence ends with a period (*.)*

- Your jacket is in the closet.
Exclamatory Sentences
An exclamatory sentence expresses strong or sudden emotion. An exclamatory sentence ends with an exclamation point (!).

How cold it is today!

Imperative Sentences
An imperative sentence gives a command or makes a request. The subject of an imperative sentence is generally you, which is often not stated. An imperative sentence ends with a period (.).

Please wear your jacket.

Interrogative Sentences
An interrogative sentence asks a question. An interrogative sentence ends with a question mark (?).

Are you ready?
Where is your jacket?

Subject Complements
A subject complement follows a linking verb in a sentence. A subject complement is a noun or a pronoun that renames the subject or an adjective that describes the subject. Two or more subject complements joined by and, but, or or form a compound subject complement.

That police officer is a hero.
His actions were brave and skillful.
The officer with the medal for bravery was he.

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.

- *Gerald* and *Cathy* went to the movies.
- *Henry* or *I* will sweep the floor.

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

- His little *dog* likes to chase balls.
- *It* runs very fast.

**Subject-Verb Agreement**
A subject and verb must agree, whether the verb is a main verb or a helping verb.

- *I* like chicken soup.
- My brother *likes* split pea soup.
- Our parents *like* lentil soup.
- *I am building* a birdhouse.
- He *is building* a shed.
- They *are building* a garage.

A collective noun is generally considered a singular noun though it means more than one person or thing; therefore, the verb agrees with the singular form.

- Our *class* is entering the contest.

When a sentence starts with *there is, there are, there was,* or *there were,* the subject follows the verb. The verb must agree with the subject.

- There *is* a *book* on the desk.
- There *were* some *pencils* in the drawer.
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.

- Our class *will go* to the museum.
- The guide *will explain* the exhibits.

**Future Perfect Tense**
The future perfect tense tells about an action that will have been completed by some time in the future. The future perfect tense is formed with *will* plus *have* plus the past participle of a verb.

- I *will have finished* my homework by dinnertime.
- I *will have made* a salad by that time too.

**Past Perfect Tense**
The past perfect tense tells about an action that was finished before another action in the past. The past perfect tense is formed with *had* and the past participle of a verb.

- She *had come* straight home after school.
- She *had finished* her homework before dinner.
**Past Progressive Tense**
The past progressive tense tells what was happening in the past. The past progressive tense is formed with *was* or *were* and the present participle of a verb.

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

**Present Perfect Tense**
The present perfect tense tells about an action that happened at some indefinite time in the past or about an action that started in the past and continues into the present. The present perfect tense is formed with a form of *have* and the past participle of a verb.

- He has finished his homework.
- They have lived in that house for three years.

**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 simple past tense of regular verbs is formed by adding *-d* or *-ed* to the present form of a verb.

- We cooked breakfast this morning.
- Mom fried the eggs.
**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 *is singing.*
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.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sing</td>
<td>sang</td>
<td>sung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>send</td>
<td>sent</td>
<td>sent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>write</td>
<td>wrote</td>
<td>written</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Linking Verbs**

A linking verb joins the subject of a sentence to a subject complement. Being verbs can be linking verbs.

- My aunt *is* a professional writer.
- Her stories *are* excellent.
- The winner of the writing award *was* she.

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Present Participle</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>walk</td>
<td>walking</td>
<td>walked</td>
<td>walked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wave</td>
<td>waving</td>
<td>waved</td>
<td>waved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Present Participle</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td>doing</td>
<td>did</td>
<td>done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fly</td>
<td>flying</td>
<td>flew</td>
<td>flown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>put</td>
<td>putting</td>
<td>put</td>
<td>put</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- We *are walking* to school.
- I *was doing* my homework.

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

- We *have walked* this way before.
- He *has done* his homework.
Regular Verbs

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>jump</td>
<td>jumped</td>
<td>jumped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>listen</td>
<td>listened</td>
<td>listened</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verb Phrases

A verb phrase is made up of one or more helping verbs and a main verb.

I should have shown you my drawings.
I am entering them in the art contest.
You can see them there.
Mechanics

Capital Letters

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 Peg let me play with her ferret, Nibbles.

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

I live on Roscoe Street.

My cousin lives in Guadalajara, Mexico.

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

This year Thanksgiving is on Thursday, November 25.

Use a capital letter to begin a proper adjective.

I like to eat Chinese food.

Use a capital letter to begin people’s titles.

Mrs. Novak

Dr. Ramirez

Governor Ferdinand Marcic

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. Short words such as of, to, for, a, an, and the are not capitalized unless they are the first or last word of the title.

The Secret Garden

“Sing a Song of Cities”

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 before the coordinating conjunction 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 Anthony, “where are you going?”
- “I’m going to the movies,” Helen answered.

Use a comma after the word yes or no that introduces a sentence.
- No, I can’t go to the movies tonight.
**Exclamation Points**
Use an exclamation point after an exclamatory sentence.

We won the game!

**Italics**
Titles of books and magazines are italicized when they are typed and underlined when they are handwritten.

*Charlotte’s Web*
*Mr. Popper’s Penguins*

**Periods**
Use a period after a declarative or an imperative sentence.

The cat is hungry.
Please feed it.

Use a period after most abbreviations.

Ave. St. gal.     oz.

Periods are not used after abbreviations for metric measures.

km    cm

Use a period after a personal title.

Mr. Frank Cummings
Mrs. Joanna Clark
Dr. Hilda Doolittle
Sgt. Barry Lindon

Use a period after an initial.

John F. Kennedy     U.S.A.
J. K. Rowling       B.S.A.

**Question Marks**
Use a question mark after an interrogative sentence.

Where are you going?
**Quotation Marks**

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

Carly said, “I can't find my markers.”
“Where,” asked her mother, “did you leave them?”

Use quotation marks around the title of a poem, story, or magazine article.

“Paul Revere's Ride”
“Kids to the Rescue”