

# 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*.

Singular	Plural
<b>this</b> flower	<b>these</b> bushes
<b>that</b> flower	<b>those</b> bushes

*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* 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*.

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

## 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.

Present	Present Participle	Past	Past Participle
walk	walking	walked	walked
wave	waving	waved	waved

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

Present	Present Participle	Past	Past Participle
do	doing	did	done
fly	flying	flew	flown
put	putting	put	put

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.

<u>Present</u>	<u>Past</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>
jump	jumped	jumped
listen	listened	listened

## 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.

**T**omorrow is my birthday.

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

**A**unt **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.

This year **T**hanksgiving is on **T**hursday, **N**ovember 25.

Use a capital letter to begin a proper adjective.

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

Use a capital letter to begin people's titles.

**M**rs. Novak

**D**r. Ramirez

**G**overnor 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 **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 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.

Sun.          Sept.          ft.          yd.

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"