

Key Grammar Definitions

1. **Adjective** – A part of speech that describes or limits a noun or pronoun. An adjective may precede the word modified or follow a linking verb (adjective complement)
 - **Descriptive Adjectives** describe a noun or pronoun.
 - **Limiting Adjectives** either points out an object or indicates number. Limiting adjectives may be subdivided as follows.
 - ✓ The **articles** a, an, the
 - ✓ **Numeral adjectives** that indicate exact numbers: third, ten, eighty-eighth.
 - ✓ **Pronominal adjectives** that may also be used as pronouns. The Pronominal adjectives include:
 - **Demonstrative** – that point out a definite person, place, or thing. [this, that, these, those]
 - **Distributive** – that refer to each and every thing separately. [each, either, every, neither]
 - **Indefinite** – that point out no particular person, place or thing. [some, several, few, both, many, etc.]
 - **Possessive** – that denote ownership. [my, his, our, yours etc.]
 - **Interrogative** – that are used in asking questions. [which, what, whose.]
2. **Adverb** – A part of speech that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. Adverbs may precede the word modified, but when modifying the verb, they may be moved to various positions in the sentence without changing the meaning of the sentence.
 - Adverbs of time answer the question when or how often. [always, today etc.]
 - Adverbs of place answer the question where. [forward, down, etc.]
 - Adverbs of degree answer the question how much or how little. [very, seldom, etc.]
 - Adverbs of manner answer the question how, or in what manner. [gracefully, etc]
 - Adverbs of affirmation assert something. [yes, indeed, undoubtedly, certainly]
 - Adverbs of negation express the negative of an alternative choice or possibility. [no, not, never]
3. **Adverbial Objective** – noun used as an adverb. An adverbial objective tells time, distance, measure, weight, value, or direction. An adverbial objective may follow the verb, or be located elsewhere in the sentence
4. **Antecedent** – An antecedent is a word, phrase, or clause to which a pronoun refers.
5. **Auxiliary verbs** – Auxiliary verbs help to form tense, voice, emphasis, and mood.
6. **Case** – The quality of a noun or pronoun that shows its relationship to the verb. There are three cases of nouns/pronouns: Nominative (which names), Objective (receives an action), and Possessive (shows ownership)
7. **Clause** – A group of related words containing a subject and a predicate, and used as part of a sentence.
 - **Principal Clause**- an independent clause that expresses a complete thought
 - **Subordinate Clause** – a dependent clause that does not express a complete thought and cannot stand alone.
 - ✓ An adjective subordinate clause is a dependent clause used as an adjective. They are usually introduced by a relative pronoun, and are joined to their antecedent in the principal (main or independent) clause. Adjective clauses may also be introduced by a relative adverb (where, why, when). The

clause introduced by a relative adverb must modify a noun of time, place, or reason and the relative adverb can be replaced by the prepositional phrase *in which*. Adjectival clauses **cannot** start a sentence because the relative follows its antecedent.

- ✓ An adverbial subordinate clause is a dependent clause used as an adverb. They are usually introduced by subordinate conjunctions, and may be in front of or after the main clause of the sentence.
 - ✓ A noun clause is a subordinate clause used as a single part of speech. It is often introduced by a subordinate conjunction, and always has syntax.
 - **Elliptical** Clause – a clause with an unexpressed, but understood word or words. [Sam can run faster than I, instead of, Sam can run faster than I can run]
8. **Comparisons of modifiers** – both adjectives and adverbs have three stages of comparison: Positive Degree, Comparative Degree (2 items), and Superlative Degree (more than 2 items).
 - Small, smaller, smallest
 - Often, more often, most often
 - Likely, less likely, least likely
 9. **Complex Sentence** – A sentence that contains one principal clause and one or more subordinate clauses. [Since it rained last night, there were puddles in the road.]
 10. **Compound Sentence** – A sentence that contains two or more independent clauses. [Andy played baseball and Tom played basketball.]
 11. **Compound-Complex sentence** – A sentence that contains two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent clause. [Alex lives in Princeton and his sister lives in Trenton which is the capital of New Jersey.]
 12. **Conjunction** – A part of speech used to connect words, phrases, or clauses in a sentence.
 - **Coordinate Conjunctions** connect words, phrases, or clauses of equal rank. The primary coordinate conjunctions are: and, but, yet, or, nor.
 - **Correlative Conjunctions** are coordinate conjunctions used in pairs. The correlative conjunctions are: both/and, either/or, neither/nor, whether/or, not only/but also
 - **Conjunctive Adverbs** connect two independent clauses and follow a specific pattern: first clause; conjunctive adverb, second clause. The more common Conjunctive adverbs are however, moreover, nevertheless, until, still, consequently
 - **Subordinate Conjunctions** introduce subordinate adverbial or noun clauses.[see subordinate clauses]
 13. **Form** – The quality of a verb that tells if it is regular or irregular
 - Regular verbs form the past tense by adding d or ed .[walk, walked]
 - Irregular verbs do not form the past tense by adding d or ed. [sing, sang]
 14. **Gender** – The quality of a noun or pronoun that tells the sex of the person or animal. The choices are Male, Female, Neuter, Male or Female.
 15. **Gerund** – A verbal ending in –ing that is used as a noun. *Swimming* is good exercise.
 16. **Infinitive** – A verbal used as a noun, adjective, or adverb. Many infinitives are introduced by to. *To build* a sandcastle is the reason that I came to the beach.
 17. **Interjection** – A part of speech that expresses some strong and sudden emotion – delight, disgust, pain, assent, joy, impatience, surprise, sorrow, awe. An interjection is grammatically distinct from the rest of the sentence.

18. **Kind** – The quality of a noun or pronoun that whether it is proper or common
 - **Nouns:** Proper Common, Collective, Abstract
 - ✓ **Proper** – Expresses a specific person, place, thing, condition, or emotion. John Adams was our second president.
 - ✓ **Common** – expresses no specific person, place, or thing
 - ✓ **Concrete** – something which can be touched. The car was painted red.
 - ✓ **Collective** – a single word used to represent many. The class was quiet.
 - ✓ **Abstract** – expresses a quality/feeling that cannot be touched. Her generosity knows no bounds.
 - **Pronouns:** Personal, Compound Personal, Demonstrative, Distributive, Indefinite, Interrogative, Possessive, Relative
19. **Mood** – The quality of a verb that denotes the manner in which the action, the being, or the state of being is expressed in the sentence.
 - **Imperative Mood** is used to express a command in the second person.
 - **Indicative Mood** is used to make a statement or to ask a question.
 - ✓ **Potential Form** of the indicative mood is used to express permission, duty, obligation, possibility, ability, or necessity. These ideas are expressed by the use of the auxiliary verbs, can, could, may, might, must, should, and would. The use of these auxiliary does not affect tense which is determined by the main verb. He can jump six feet. (ability) (present tense)
 - ✓ **Emphatic Form** of the indicative mood is used to give emphasis to the verb. The present tense is formed by placing the auxiliary do/does before the present form of the verb. After sitting all day, I **do** try to exercise at night. The past tense is formed by placing did before the present form of the verb. The lawyer **did** settle the case out of court. Emphatic is rarely used with questions.
 - ✓ **Progressive Form** of the indicative mood denotes an action as going on or in progress. A progressive verb phrase is made up of a form of the verb “be” with the present participle (ing) of the verb. [Some grammar books list Progressive as a verb tense; the function of the verb remains the same.]
 - **Subjunctive Mood** is used most often to express a wish or desire, or a condition contrary to fact. My sister would sing for us if she was here. **8TH grade only*
20. **Nominative Absolute** – A noun or pronoun used before a participle in an independent participial phrase to express the time, the condition, the cause, or the circumstances of the action expressed by the main verb of the sentence. The noun or pronoun is in the nominative case and the participle modifies it. Winter coming on, the birds flew south.
21. **Nominative of Exclamation** – A noun used as an interjection. It can come at the beginning, middle, or end of a sentence. Pizza! We want pizza.
22. **Noun** – A part of speech that names a person, place, thing, condition or emotion. A noun has several key qualities: kind, person, number, gender, case, and syntax
23. **Number** – the quality of a noun/pronoun that tells whether it is singular (one) or plural (more than one)
24. **Objective Complement** – A syntax that gives more information about the DO or SC and completes the verb. The OC answers the question What? About the DO or SC. [The team voted Alan captain. The insult made Jeremy angry.]
25. **Participle** – A verbal/verb form that does the work of a verb and an adjective
 - Participles have certain characteristics:

- ✓ May take an object or be modified by an adverb or an adverbial phrase
 - *Having driven for hours*, we finally saw the beach.
 - ✓ Like an adjective, the participle modifies a noun or pronoun.
 - The poems *written* by Geoffrey Chaucer are in Middle English.
 - ✓ Participles are either present or past in form
 - ✓ Participles may be active or passive in voice
 - Present Participle – form of the verb ending in -ing
 - Past Participle – form of the verb used in forming the perfect tense
 - Participle Adjective – not a true participle even though it is derived from a verb. It has the following characteristics: (our book treats them as participles!)
 - ✓ It is descriptive in character and has the usual position of an adjective
 - ✓ It does not have the force of a verb
 - ✓ It may not take an object
 - Dangling Participle – a phrase or clause that because of its position in a sentence seems to modify a word that it does not make sense for it to modify.
 - ✓ *Running for the bus*, the curb tripped her. (dangling)
 - ✓ *Running for the bus*, she tripped on the curb. (correct)
26. **Person** – The quality of a noun/pronoun that denotes the speaker (first), person spoken to (second), person spoken about (third)
27. **Phrase** – A group of related words used as a single part of speech.
- A **prepositional phrase** is introduced by a preposition and can be used as an adjective, and adverb, or a noun.
 - A **participle phrase** is a participle and any modifiers. A participle phrase is used as an adjective. A noun in an independent participle phrase is called a nominative absolute.
 - A **gerund phrase** is a gerund, its object, and any modifiers. A gerund phrase is used as a noun and always has a syntax.
 - An **infinitive phrase** is an infinitive, its object, and any modifiers. An infinitive phrase can be used as a noun, adjective, or adverb.
28. **Preposition** – A word or group of words that relates a noun, pronoun, phrase, or clause to some other word in the sentence. Some common prepositions are: in, at, to, from, over, under, between, etc.
29. **Pronominal** – A word that can be used as an adjective or a pronoun. The pronominals are: Demonstrative, Distributive, Indefinite, Interrogative, Possessive
30. **Pronoun** – A part of speech that takes the place of a noun. The kinds of pronouns are:
- **Personal Pronouns** can be Nominative, Possessive, or Objective depending on their use
 - **Compound personal pronouns** – Pronouns that are formed by adding –self or –selves to certain forms of the personal pronoun.
 - **Compound relative pronouns** – Pronouns formed by adding –ever or –soever to who, whom, what, and which
 - **Demonstrative pronouns** point out a definite person, place or thing [this, that, these, those]
 - **Distributive pronouns** point out each person, place, or thing separately [each, either, and neither]. The pronominal “every” is used strictly as an adjective! (often listed with Indefinites)

- **Indefinite pronouns** point out no particular person, place, or thing. [some, both, many, one, few, no one, etc.]
- **Interrogative pronouns** are used to ask a question. [who, whom, what]
- **Possessive pronouns** show ownership. [mine, ours, yours, etc.]
- **Relative pronouns** are used to connect an adjectival subordinate clause to the main clause. The diagrams are connected from the relative pronoun to its antecedent in the main clause. [who, whom, whose, which, that]

31. Punctuation

Apostrophe – A punctuation mark (‘) used in the following ways:

- To show possession. The cook’s knife, the horse’s saddle
- To indicate the omission of a letter, letters, or numbers: I’m for I am; the storm of ’96 for the storm of 1996.
- With s to show the plural of letters: Watch your p’s and q’s.

Colon – A punctuation mark (:) used as follows:

- After the salutation of a business letter: Dear Mr. Smith:
- Before a list or enumeration of items: We need several things: bread, eggs, and cheese.
- Before a long direct quotation
- When expressing digital time (12:36) or map coordinates

Comma – A punctuation mark (,) used in the following ways:

- To separate words in a series – Pete, John, and Ed play baseball.
- To set off parts of dates, addresses, or geographical names – Albany, New York
- After yes and no when they introduce sentences; to set off words in direct address
- To set off parenthetical expressions, words, or groups of words that are inserted in a sentence as comments or explanatory remarks, and are not necessary to the thought of the sentence – Their team won, I think, because they tried harder.
- To set off an appositive that is nonrestrictive and is not part of a name – Anne, the team captain, broke her ankle yesterday.
- To set off direct quotations, unless a question mark or exclamation point is required – “Answer the question,” commanded the judge.
- To separate clauses connected by coordinate conjunctions in some compound sentences. He rang the doorbell twice, but no one answered.
- After long introductory phrases and clauses – After the moon had climbed high in the sky, the robbers set about their business.
- To separate nonrestrictive phrases and clauses from the rest of the sentences.
- After the salutation and complimentary close in a friendly letter – Dear Mary,

Dash – A punctuation mark (-) used to indicate a sudden change of thought: He ran – indeed flew – through the air. * Often used as a bullet mark.

Exclamation Point – A punctuation mark (!) used after an exclamatory sentence, and after exclamatory words, phrases, or clauses. Hurry! What a sunset!

Hyphen – A punctuation mark (-) used in three main ways:

- To divide a word at the end of a line when one or more syllables are carried to the next line
- In compound numbers from twenty-one to ninety-nine
- To separate the parts of some compound words: by-product, well-trained

Period – A punctuation mark (.) used as follows:

- at the end of a declarative or imperative sentence

- after an abbreviation – Mrs.
- After an initial – John F. Kennedy

Question Mark – A punctuation mark (?) used after an interrogatory sentence

Quotation Marks – Punctuation marks (“...””) used several ways.

- Before and after every direct quotation, and every part of a divided quotation
- To enclose titles of short stories, poems, magazine articles, television shows, and radio programs.
- When a quote appears inside of a quote, single quotes are used to distinguish the inner quotation. Manny said, “Did you find it strange when the teacher said, ‘the dog ate my presentation notes’?”

Semicolon – A punctuation mark (;) used in the following ways:

- To separate the clauses of a compound sentences when they are not separated by a coordinate conjunction.
- To separate the clauses of a compound sentence connected by a conjunctive adverb
- Before as and namely when these words introduce an example or illustration – Three famous composers of classical music are called the three B’s; namely, Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms.

32. **Sentence** – A group of words expressing a complete thought.

- **Declarative Sentences** state a fact, or make a statement.
- **Exclamatory Sentences** express strong or sudden emotion.
- **Imperative Sentences** express a command.
- **Interrogative Sentences** ask a question. [Sometimes referred to as indicative]

33. **Split Infinitive** – A split infinitive happens when a modifier comes between the sign of the infinitive (to) and the infinitive. Split infinitives are grammatically incorrect. Dan tried to quickly finish his homework. Dan tried to finish his homework quickly.

34. **Subject-verb agreement-** The person and number of a verb must match the person and number of its subject. Benny and I were late for class. She is always early.

35. **Syntax** – The quality of a noun or pronoun that tells its function in a sentence. Syntax is closely tied to Case.

- **Nominative Syntaxes** – Subject, Subject Complement, Direct Address, Apposition, Nominative Absolute, Nominative of Exclamation
- **Objective Syntaxes** – Direct Object, Indirect Object, Object of the Preposition, Adverbial Objective, Cognate Object, Objective Complement, Object of Ger/Inf.

36. **Tense** – The quality of a verb that indicates the time of the action or being.

- **Simple Tenses**

- ✓ Present shows the action/being in present time. [It is sunny]
- ✓ Past shows action/being in the past time. [It was sunny yesterday.]
- ✓ Future shows the action/being in future time. [It will be sunny on Tuesday.]

- **Compound Tenses**

- ✓ Present Perfect shows action/being completed in present time. [It has been sunny.]
- ✓ Past Perfect shows the action/being completed before some specified time in the past. [It had been sunny earlier in the week.]
- ✓ Future Perfect shows an action/being that will be completed before a specified time in the future. [It will have been sunny for our picnic.]

37. **Use** – The quality of a verb that shows its relationship to the subject.
- **Transitive verbs** show the action passing from a doer to a receiver. The receiver can be in the Direct object spot, or in the subject spot. [Carl threw the ball. The ball was thrown by Carl.] Only a transitive verb can be in the passive voice.
 - **Intransitive verbs** do not have a receiver for the action. [He skated on thin ice.]
 - **Linking verbs** join the subject with a noun, pronoun or adjective that completes the meaning of the verb. A linking verb has no voice because there is no action.
38. **Verb** – A part of speech that expresses action, being, or state of being. The qualities that define a verb include: Form, Use, Voice, Mood, Tense, Person and Number (must agree with the subject).
39. **Verbals** – Nonfinite verb forms: gerunds, infinitives, participles
40. **Voice** – The quality of a verb that shows if the subject is the doer or receiver of the action.
- **Active Voice** – the subject is the doer of the action. All Intransitive verbs are in the active voice. A Transitive verb is active voice when the receiver is the direct object.
 - **Passive Voice** – the subject of the verb is the receiver of the action. ONLY a transitive verb can be in the passive voice because only a transitive verb has a receiver.
 - ✓ The passive voice verb is formed by using part of the verb “be” and a past participle.
 - ✓ **Tense** is determined by the **helping verb**, not the main verb.
Sam was shown three paintings. (past tense)
Our dog is walked twice every day. (present tense)
 - Linking Verbs have no voice.