

What's in a sentence?

Adjective

A word that describe a noun: monstrous, vivid, delightful, familiar.

Noun

A person, object or animal: garage, Henry, leopard, sofa.

Verb

An action or doing word (which can be present, past or future): trudged, is/was/were, dozes, chuckling.

Adverb

A word that modifies a verb, adjectives or another adverb that describes time, place or cause: anxiously, soon, therefore.

Co-ordinating conjunction

A word that joins two main clauses together. This is called co-ordination: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.

Subordinating conjunction

A word that starts a subordinate clause: after, before, as, that, when, if, because.

Expanded Noun Phrase

Adding modifying adjectives to describe a noun, sometimes with an added prepositional phrase: the wrecked, wooden ship sitting before the water; a cheery, gracious boy with good manners.

Relative Clause

Begins with a relative pronoun (who, whom, which, whose, that, where, when) and gives more information about a noun.

Modal Verb

A verb that shows possibility, asks permission or the ability to do something: can, could, may, might, should, ought, would, will, must.

Parenthesis

Adding additional information or an aside to a sentence (often demarcated with brackets, dashes or commas).

Subordinate Clause

A clause that starts with a subordinating conjunction, which can't make sense on its own: after she fell on the ice, as the tiger prowled, because he'd had an accident.

Fronted Adverbial

An adverbial phrase placed at the beginning of a sentence that needs to be followed by a comma: Like a speeding bullet, Before lunch, Beyond the mountains.

Inverted Commas

Used to punctuate direct speech.

Pronoun

A word used to replace a noun to avoid repetition: they, us, and he/she.

Preposition

A word that combines with a noun or pronoun to show time, location or position: above, from, among.

Determiner

Used to introduce a noun to specify which one or how many: a/an, the, three, most.

Hyphen

Used to join words to indicate that they have a combined meaning or that they are linked in the grammar of a sentence, as in: a pick-me-up, peek-a-boo