

1 Glossary of grammatical terms

■ adjective

An adjective is a word that describes a noun. For example:

*It is a **big** house. The windows are **big**.*

■ adverb

An adverb is a word that adds information about the verb, or about another adverb or adjective. For example:

*She read the text **carefully**. [manner]*

*Please wait **here**. [place]*

*The exam is **tomorrow**. [time]*

*The exam was **very** difficult. [degree]*

*Do you come here **often**? [frequency]*

■ article

In English, *a* and *an* are the **indefinite articles**, and *the* is the **definite article**.

■ conditional

A conditional sentence contains a clause beginning with *if*, *unless*, etc. which states what must happen before the action of the other clause can be done. For example:

***If it rains**, we will have to go home.*

*You can't go to university **unless you pass your exams**.*

■ conjunction

A conjunction is a word which makes a connection between words, phrases or clauses. For example:

*My present was small **but** nice.*

■ gender

Gender shows whether a word is masculine or feminine.

■ infinitive

The infinitive form of the verb is the base form, and the form that usually appear in dictionaries. In English, the infinitive is often used with *to*, e.g. *I'd like **to go***.

■ interjection

An interjection is a word which shows an emotional state or attitude. For example:

***Hey!** Come back here. **Oh!** That's terrible news.*

■ interrogative

An interrogative sentence has the form of a question. For example:

Did you open the window?

■ modal

Modal verbs are used with another verb to distinguish between possibility and actuality. For example:

*I **may** be late tonight. [possibility]*

*They **can** play outside. [permission]*

■ mood

The mood of a verb can reveal a particular attitude to what is said or written, or towards the person being addressed. For example, in English you use the **indicative mood** to state or question what you consider to be facts:

*She **sat** down.*

Are you coming?

You use the **imperative mood** when you are telling or ordering someone to do something:

Be quiet!

Put it on the table.

You might use the **subjunctive mood** when you want to express wishes, possibilities or doubts:

*It is essential that you **be** there.*

*If I **were** you, I'd do it.*

■ negative

A word, phrase or sentence which denies something is negative. In English, the most common way of showing this is with *not*. For example:

*I am **not** very happy!*

■ noun

A noun refers to a person, a thing, or an abstract idea such