

## Language Terms

**abstract noun** names an idea, quality, action, or feeling

**active voice** a sentence in which the subject acts

**adjective** modifies a noun

**adverb** modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb

**antecedent** the word to which a pronoun refers

**antonym** has the opposite meaning of another word

**apostrophe** a mark used to show where a letter or letters have been left out of a contraction

**appositive** a noun or phrase that identifies or explains the noun it follows

**clause** a group of words that contains a subject and a predicate

**collective noun** names a group of persons or things

**common noun** names any one of a class of objects

**complete predicate** the part of a sentence that includes all the words that state action or condition of the subject

**complete subject** the part of a sentence that includes all the words that tell who or what the sentence is about

**complex sentence** contains one independent clause and one or more subordinate clauses

**compound predicate** two or more simple predicates

**compound sentence** two or more independent clauses

**compound subject** two or more simple subjects

**compound word** a word made up of two or more words

**concrete noun** names things you can see and touch

**conjunction** a word used to join words or groups of words

**connotation** suggests something positive or negative

**contraction** a word formed by joining two other words

**declarative sentence** a sentence that makes a statement

**demonstrative adjective** points out a specific person or thing

**demonstrative pronoun** points out a specific person or thing

**denotation** the exact meaning of a word

**descriptive adjective** tells what kind, which one, or how many

**direct object** who or what receives the action of the verb

**exclamatory sentence** expresses strong emotion

**gerund** a verb form ending in -ing used as a noun

**helping verb** used to help the main verb of the sentence

**homograph** has the same spelling as another word, but a different meaning and sometimes a different pronunciation

**homonym** sounds like another word, but has a different meaning and is spelled differently

**idiom** an expression that has a meaning different from the usual meanings of the individual words within it

**imperative mood** expresses a command or a request

**imperative sentence** expresses a command or a request

**indefinite pronoun** does not refer to a specific person or thing

**independent clause** a clause that can stand alone as a sentence because it expresses a complete thought

**indicative mood** states a fact or asks a question

**indirect object** tells to whom or for whom an action is done

**infinitive** the base form of the verb, usually preceded by to

**interrogative sentence** a sentence that asks a question

**intransitive verb** does not need an object

**inverted order** the order of a sentence when all or part of the predicate comes before the subject

**limiting adjective** the articles a, an, and the

**mood** verb form that shows the manner of doing or being

**natural order** the order of a sentence when the subject comes before all or part of the predicate

**noun** a word that names a person, place, thing, or quality

**object of the preposition** noun or pronoun in the prepositional phrase

**object pronoun** used after an action verb or preposition

**participle** a present or past tense verb used as an adjective

**passive voice** a sentence in which the subject receives the action

**possessive noun** shows possession of the noun that follows

**possessive pronoun** used to show ownership

**predicate** tells what the subject does or what happens to the subject

**prefix** a syllable added to the beginning of a base word that changes the meaning of the word

**preposition** a word that shows the relationship of a noun or pronoun to another word in the sentence

**prepositional phrase** a group of words that begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun

**pronoun** a word that takes the place of a noun

**proper adjective** adjective formed from a proper noun

**proper noun** a noun that names a particular person, place, or thing and is capitalized

**relative pronoun** a pronoun that can introduce a subordinate clause

**run-on sentence** two or more independent clauses that are run together without correct punctuation

**sentence** expresses a complete thought

**simple predicate** the verb in the complete predicate

**simple sentence** contains only one independent clause

**simple subject** the main word in the complete subject

**subject** tells who or what the sentence is about

**subject pronoun** a pronoun used in the subject of a sentence and after a linking verb

**subjunctive mood** can indicate a wish or a contrary-to-fact condition

**subordinate clause** has a subject and predicate but is not a sentence because it does not express a complete thought

**suffix** a syllable added to the end of a base word that changes the meaning of the word

**synonym** a word that has the same or nearly the same meaning as one or more other words

**transitive verb** has a direct object

**verb** a word that expresses action, being, or state of being

**verb phrase** a main verb and one or more helping verbs

**verb tense** tells the time of the action or being

**voice** relation of a subject to the action expressed by the verb