

GRAMMAR FOR a CONFIDENT START

Section A - Some basic grammatical terminology

If you know all this stuff already; that's great. But a few people get nervous about grammatical terminology, so this is here to help.

Most of these words are quite simple to grasp, and once you understand and learn it, you can learn a language much faster. Why? Because you're learning the rules of how the language works rather than just memorizing a list of phrases parrot fashion!



Below are a few of the most important terms.

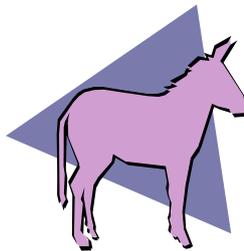
A noun:

A person, eg. Robert

A thing, eg. Bread

A concept, eg. Courage

An animal, eg. Donkey



A verb:

A word which refers to an action, eg. (he) swims

Or a state, eg. (we) are.

When you look it up in a dictionary or write it into a vocabulary list, you will see the:



Infinitive of the verb: to swim, to laugh, to enjoy, etc.

However, generally when you use a verb the infinitive changes to suit the person doing the action (I, you, they, etc), and when the action takes place (past, present, future, etc).

Persons: First person singular = I

Second person singular = you

Third person singular = he, she, it

First person plural = we

Second person plural = you (more than 1 person)

Third person plural = they

Some tenses: Present = I go, I am going

Perfect = I have gone, I went

Imperfect = I was going, I used to go, I went

Pluperfect + I had gone

Future = I will go, I'm going to go

Future Perfect = I will have gone

Conditional = I would go

Conditional Perfect = I would have gone

An adjective:

A word which describes a noun, eg. Robert is lovely, the bread is stale, courage is difficult to achieve all the time, there are some sweet donkeys on the beach.

An adverb:

Adverbs do one of 3 things:

Either they describe a verb, eg. We ran fast, they all lived happily, etc

Or they describe an adjective, eg. Robert is very lovely, the bread is incredibly stale, etc.

Or they describe another adverb, eg. I'm unusually early

A pronoun:

There are many different pronouns and we won't go into them all here. Basically though, a pronoun takes the place of a noun in a sentence when you need to avoid constantly repeating the noun.

For example, take the following:

I love John. John is one of the nicest people I've ever met. John really listens to people. People think the world of John.

This is long-winded and tedious because of constant repetition. With pronouns you avoid the problem:

I love John. He's one of the nicest people I've ever met. He really listens to people, and they think the world of him.

The subject and the object of a sentence:

Most sentences are variations of a simple model:

Subject, eg Anna kicks the ball. Or I love you (Actor)

Verb, eg Anna kicks the ball. Or I love you (Action)

Object, eg. Anna kicks the ball. Or I love you (Acted on)

In some sentences there are 2 objects, a **direct** and an **indirect object**:

eg. *I give the book to Milly.*

The book is the direct object (it is directly acted on – I give IT)

Milly is the indirect object (she is indirectly acted on – I give it TO HER)