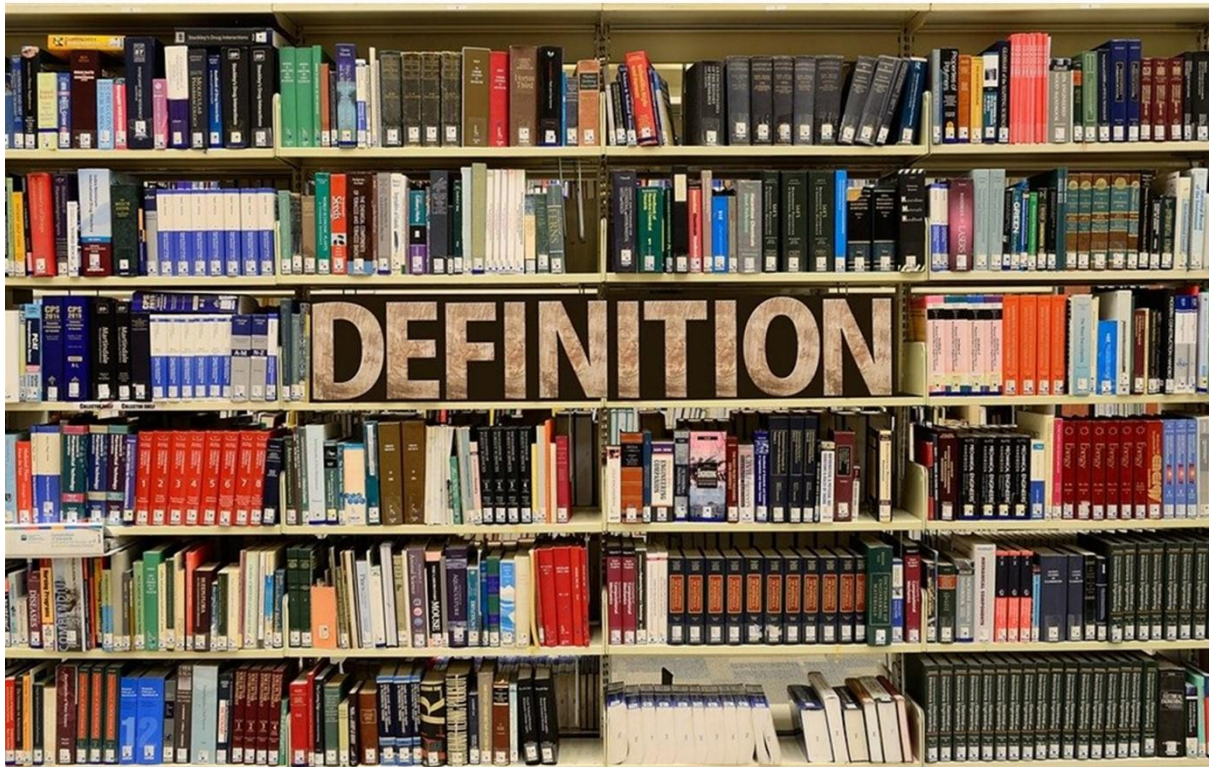


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An exemplified grammar, lexis and phonology glossary for English Language Teachers

* precedes a malformed or wrong example

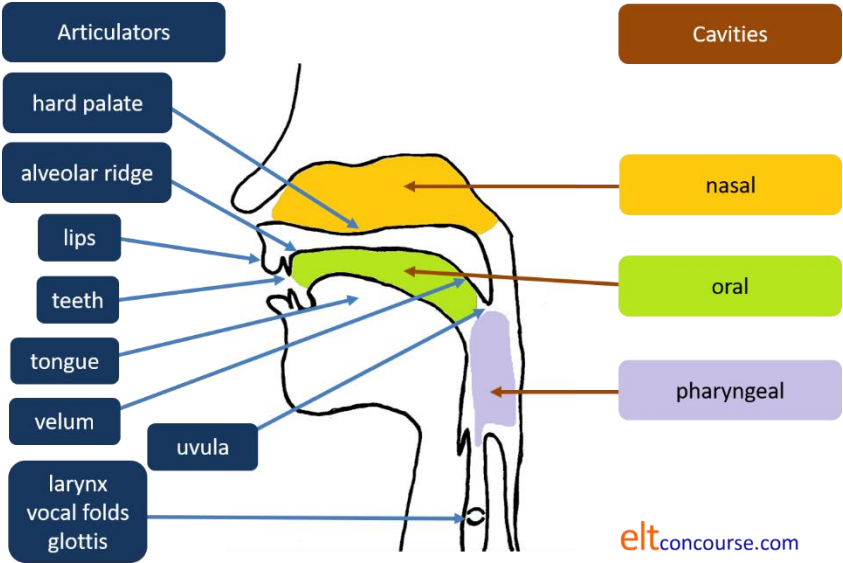
bold face indicates an example of the form or a cross reference

		Examples
<i>a</i>-adjective	A special kind of adjective beginning with <i>a</i> -. These adjectives are nearly always used predicatively . (These adjectives may be used attributively when modified.)	<i>The dog is asleep</i> NOT * <i>The asleep dog</i> Others in this group include: <i>ablaze, afraid, alive, alone, awake, aware</i> (<i>The wide awake children</i>)
ablative	An inflexion which denotes that the case use is to express <i>by, with or from</i> Few modern languages use an ablative case although it exists in, e.g., Turkish, Azerbaijani, Uzbek, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Hungarian.	In Latin, <i>fields</i> translates as <i>agri</i> but <i>from the fields</i> as <i>ex agris</i>
ablaut	A vowel change denoting a grammatical function. This was also called gradation and is known as vowel mutation.	The verb <i>sing</i> changes to <i>sang</i> in the past tense
absolute tense	A tense which can be understood without reference to another time	<i>She left</i>
abstract noun	A noun referring to an intangible concept. These nouns are often mass nouns . Compare concrete noun . Many do not consider the distinction between concrete and abstract nouns is valid.	<i>happiness, economics, love, embarrassment etc.</i>
accent	a) a mark above or below a letter to show its pronunciation. Such marks are also called diacritics. They are used in English on words imported from other languages.	in <i>naïve, façade or café</i>
	b) the place in a word where the heaviest stress falls. This is better referred to as word stress .	<i>exp<u>ort</u></i> (verb) and <i><u>ex</u>port</i> (noun)
	c) a particular way of pronouncing a language in a geographical area or social class or the influence of a first language in the pronunciation of a second.	<i>A Texan accent</i> <i>An upper-class accent</i> <i>An Italian accent</i>
accidence	Changes to the form of a word which show grammatical function. Also used to describe the part of grammar referring to morphological changes. See also ablaut .	<i>smoke → smokes</i> <i>happy → happiness</i>
accusative	A case referring to the direct object of a verb.	<i>She told him</i>
acronym	A word made of the initial letters of a phrase which are pronounced as one word. See initialism .	NATO

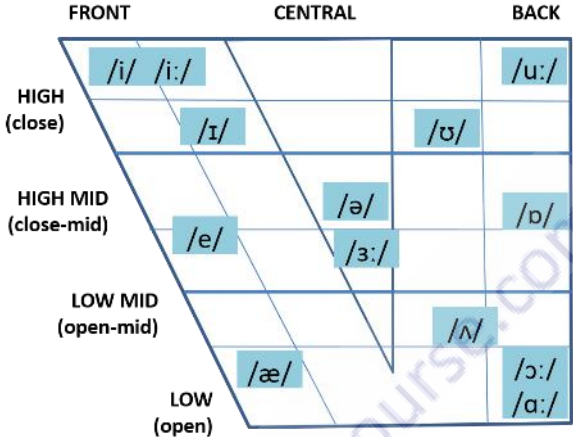
active voice	A verbal structure in which the subject is the person or thing which performs the action or is in the state. Compare passive voice .	<i>John broke the window</i> <i>The window was filthy</i>
adjective adjective phrase	A word or phrase which modifies a noun phrase. They can be attributive or predicative .	<i>The large dog</i> <i>Mary was tired</i> <i>The children were well-fed and happy</i> <i>She had an interesting, old book with her</i>
adjunct	An omissible verb-phrase modifying element in an expression. Adjuncts are integral to the clause in which they occur. By some definitions, adjuncts may also modify noun phrases (as adnominals), adjective phrases (as adadjectivals) and adverbs (as adadverbials).	<i>She ran to the door</i> <i>They fell awkwardly</i> <i>The house on the corner</i> (adnominal) <i>The house was horribly untidy</i> (adadjectival) <i>He spoke quite movingly</i> (adadverbial)
adposition	A general term for connective items: see preposition and postposition .	
adverb	A word which modifies a verb, an adjective, another adverb or a verb phrase.	<i>She walked quickly</i> <i>The book was very expensive</i> <i>He drove idiotically fast</i> <i>He had usually driven to work</i>
adverb of degree	An adverb telling you to what extent. These are sometimes called adverbs of extent.	<i>I really enjoyed the book</i>
adverb of frequency	A subcategory of adverbs of time , expressing how often. There are two sorts: indefinite frequency and definite frequency with different associated grammatical structures.	<i>He usually goes home at 6</i> (indefinite frequency) <i>She delivers the papers daily</i> (definite frequency)
adverb of manner	An adverb expressing the way something happens.	<i>It quickly became dark</i>
adverb of place	An adverb expressing where or in what direction an action happens or state exists.	<i>I came inside</i> <i>She was sitting there</i>
adverb of time	An adverb expressing when something happens or a state exists.	<i>She left then</i> <i>They stayed late</i>
adverb phrase	A group of words doing the job of an adverb.	<i>They walked home slowly and sadly</i>

adverbial	Any word, phrase or clause which modifies a verb phrase.	<i>He went into town</i> (prepositional-phrase adverbial (adjunct) of place) <i>I came to see if I can help</i> (non-finite clause adverbial of purpose) <i>I left when the rain started</i> (finite clause adverbial of time) Honestly , I don't know (adverb (disjunct)) Moreover , I don't think anyone knows (adverb (conjunct))
affect	The emotional meaning of an utterance, often signalled by intonation.	<i>You cannot be serious!</i> ↑
affirmative	A sentence or clause which is not negated.	<i>I am waiting for the rain</i>
affix	A morpheme attached to another word to make a more complex form.	<i>incompleteness</i>
affricate	A consonant sound involving the closure of the vocal tract and its slow release.	/tʃ/ in <i>church</i>
agent agentive (adj.)	In passive clauses, the causer or doer of the action. Agents are often linked with the preposition <i>by</i> . See patient .	<i>The window was broken by them</i> <i>I had the work done by the garage</i>
agent noun	A noun derived from a verb which denotes the person or thing that does the action denoted by the verb. The usual way they are formed is with the <i>-(o)r</i> or <i>-(e)r</i> suffixes although <i>-(o)r</i> is no longer productive of new agent nouns.	<i>editor, doctor, vendor, purchaser, buyer, collector</i>
agreement	See concord .	
alethic modality	Modality concerned with expressing universal truths.	<i>A square must have four equal sides</i>
allograph	An alternative way of representing a letter.	The letter 'g' can be written as that or as 'g'
allomorph	An alternative form of a morpheme.	The past-tense ending in English can be <i>-d</i> , <i>-ed</i> or <i>-t</i>
allophone	A non-phonemic difference in the pronunciation of a sound.	/kʰ/ vs. /k/
alveolar	A consonant formed when the tongue is pressed against the alveolar ridge (behind the top teeth).	/t/, /d/ (tongue tip) /s/, /z/ (tongue blade)
ambiguity	Having the potential of more than one interpretation.	<i>Where's the bank?</i> (lexical ambiguity) <i>She hit the man with the stick</i> (structural ambiguity)

ambitransitive verb	A verb which may or may not take an object (be either transitive or intransitive). Such verbs may retain the same meaning, change meaning or be associated with different forms of subjects in the two roles.	<i>I read his letter</i> <i>I read for an hour</i> <i>The glass broke</i> <i>I broke the glass</i> <i>He ran fast</i> <i>He ran the business</i>
anaphora anaphoric (adj.)	With reference back to an earlier item. Compare cataphora .	<i>When the rain finally came it was heavy</i>
antecedent	An item to which a later item refers. Strictly, the term antecedent refers only to the noun phrase to which a relative pronoun refers. In other cases, pronouns refer to referents . See referent .	<i>That's the man whom I asked</i>
anticipatory	The grammatical subject of a clause which anticipates the notional subject.	In <i>It is nice to be here</i> The pronoun <i>it</i> anticipates the real complement of the verb <i>be</i> . It could be rephrased as <i>To be here is nice.</i>
antonym	a) A gradable word of opposite meaning. b) A converse word c) A complementary opposite	a) good vs. bad b) <i>mother</i> vs. daughter c) open vs. shut
aphesis	The omission of an unstressed sound at the beginning of a word.	<i>until</i> → <i>till</i> <i>around</i> → <i>round</i>
apocope	The omission of a section from the end of a word.	<i>photograph</i> → <i>photo</i>
apposition	When two elements have the same meaning and grammatical status, they are in apposition.	<i>My brother, the manager, will help</i>
approximant	A sound produced when two organs of speech are close together but without audible friction. See also fricative .	the /j/ in <i>yet</i>
argot	A term less disparagingly used than jargon to refer to the use of terms specific to a particular group or class.	Teenager English
article	A class of determiners which modify noun phrases for number or reference. There are three in English: <i>a(n)</i> (the indefinite article), <i>the</i> (the definite article) and \emptyset , the zero article.	<i>She bought a house on the hill with \emptyset money from her father</i>

articulator	<p>An organ or mouth part involved in the production of sounds.</p>  <p>eltconcourse.com</p>	
aspect	<p>How an event or action is perceived relative to time (as opposed to in time). There is not always a one-to-one relationship between aspect and form. See tense.</p>	<p><i>He lives in London</i> (continuous aspect) <i>He was working</i> (progressive aspect) <i>He has worked</i> (perfect aspect) <i>He used to work</i> (habitual (past) aspect)</p>
aspiration	<p>The addition of an audible breath to a consonant sound.</p>	<p>/k^h/ not /k/ at the beginning of <i>cash</i></p>
assemblage noun	<p>A special type of collective noun for particular animals. See collective noun.</p>	<p><i>a pod of whales</i></p>
assertive forms	<p>Pronouns, adverbials and determiners which are conventionally used in positive sentences. Compare non-assertive.</p>	<p><i>I want some time to myself</i> <i>I have already finished</i> <i>Let me have a few</i></p>
assimilation	<p>The effect of one sound on the production of another so that they become more alike.</p>	<p><i>ten + pin</i> pronounced as /tem.pɪn/ not /ten.pɪn</p>
assonance	<p>The phenomenon of two words sharing a common vowel sound but with different consonants.</p>	<p><i>hurly-burly</i></p>
assumptive modality	<p>A form of epistemic modality expressing the speaker's view of the truth based on previous experience.</p>	<p><i>She'll be at work at this time of the morning</i> <i>Don't call now. They'll be having dinner.</i></p>
asterisked form	<p>The conventional way to denote a malformed expression. Also called a starred form.</p>	<p><i>*He goed last week</i></p>
asyndetic	<p>Omission of a conjunction. The opposite is the inclusion of the conjunction and is called syndetic coordination.</p>	<p><i>Tired, frustrated, he walked out</i> <i>They went home poorer but wiser</i></p>
atelic	<p>See telicity.</p>	

attitudinal disjunct	See disjunct .	
attributive	This describes an adjective which comes directly before or after the noun and is not linked to it by a copular verb . See predicative .	<i>The green house</i> <i>The people responsible</i>
autoantonym	A word which has two opposite meanings. Also called contronym / contronym .	cleave can mean <i>split</i> or <i>stick together</i> with
autonomous language	An independent language or dialect defined by notions of non-mutual comprehensibility with other languages dialects or by political, ethnic or cultural divisions.	<i>British and American English</i> <i>Japanese and Italian</i>
autonym	A word used by a group of people to describe themselves. Compare exonym .	<i>Brit</i> is often used by British and other people to describe people from Britain
auxiliary verb	a) Primary auxiliary verb: A verb which has no meaning alone but works with main verbs to express aspect or voice .	<i>I have finished</i> <i>He was cycling</i> <i>They were sold</i> <i>I had it repaired</i>
	b) Modal auxiliary verb: A verb which has no meaning alone but works with main verbs to express the speaker's perception of truth, necessity, obligation etc.	<i>We should leave</i> <i>I must go home now</i> <i>She needn't have troubled</i>
back	Describing sounds made at the back of the mouth. Compare front .	/h/ and /p/
back formation	The formation of a word by the removal of an assumed but non-existent affix from another.	edit from editor
base form	The form of a word from which other forms are derived. Base forms of adjectives and adverbs may be referred to as positive forms. See stem .	speak, write, open, decide etc. long (base form) and <i>longer</i> (derived form) decide (base form) and <i>decision</i> (derived form)
bilabial	A consonant made with both lips.	/m/ and /p/
bilingualism	The ability to speak more two languages with native-like ability. Multilingualism refers to the ability to speak two or more languages.	Switching between English (at work) and Spanish (at home) in the USA.
binding	When clauses are unequal, they are connected by binding. (See linking)	<i>The room was a mess because I'd been too busy to clear up.</i>
blend	A word formed by combining two other words. Sometimes called a portmanteau word.	smog (from <i>smoke</i> and <i>fog</i>)
boulemic modality	A form of deontic modality referring to that which is necessary given a person's wants and desires.	<i>I must go now and get something to eat</i> <i>You don't have to stay if you have work to do</i>

bound base bound root	A base form subject to affixation but which is no longer an independent element in the language.	tangible edible
bound form bound morpheme	A morpheme which cannot stand alone but always appears in combination with a base form.	denationalise
calque	A word or expression borrowed from another language but translated into the receiving language.	lightning war (from <i>Blitzkrieg</i>)
canonical word order	The usual unmarked ordering of items in a language. Languages vary.	English is Subject-Verb-Object, Adjective-Noun, Determiner-Noun etc.
cardinal vowels and English vowels	<p>Cardinal vowels are a set of reference sounds to identify vowels in <u>any</u> language. The following are not cardinal vowels, they are the vowels in English.</p> 	
case	The form of nouns, pronouns and adjectives which show their relationship to other items. English has a very limited case structure grammar but other languages are more sophisticated and complex in this area.	She wants to go (subject or nominative case) I want to talk to them (object or accusative case) That is mine (possessive or genitive case)
cataphora cataphoric (adj.)	With reference to a following item. Compare anaphora .	When it was finished, I admired the work he had done
catenation catenative (adj.)	The phenomenon of verbs occurring in a chain.	She came to help to organise the room
causative	A form of passive sentence in which the producer of the language is not responsible for the action performed.	I was made to wait I had / got the car repaired
cavity	A chamber in the oral tract employed to make sounds. See under articulators or vocal tract for the diagram.	nasal, oral and pharyngeal
central	a) Describing sounds made in the centre of the mouth. Compare Back and Front .	/ɜ:/ and /tʃ/
	b) Referring to items which exhibit all the defining characteristics of their class.	beautiful is a central adjective may is a central modal auxiliary verb

circumstance	In functional grammar any expression which signals extent, location (in time and place), contingency, cause, accompaniment, matter, role, manner or angle. Compare adverbial .	<i>for a week</i> <i>in the park</i> <i>for a change</i> <i>by car</i> <i>quietly</i> etc.
classifier	Also known as a noun adjunct, a classifier determines the nature of a noun rather than describing it although it is often seen as adjectival. Classifiers may not usually be modified with adverbs.	<i>It's a brick wall</i> <i>She's an English language teacher</i>
clause	A group of words containing a verb form. The verb may be finite or non-finite .	<i>She came because she wanted to help</i> (finite clause) <i>I came hoping to help</i> (non-finite clause)
clear /l/	Describing the front consonant sound at the beginning of the word <i>leak</i> . Compare dark /l/ . ([ɫ])	The first sound in <i>lull</i> (/lʌl/)
cleft	A type of sentence into which, for emphasis, a second verb phrase is inserted.	<i>It was to the restaurant she took her mother</i>
clipping	A process of word formation involving the abbreviation of a longer word.	<i>perambulator → pram</i>
clitic (n.) cliticised (adj.)	A form which cannot stand alone. In some analyses many function words such as <i>the, an, by</i> etc. are referred to as clitics (but not on this site).	<i>'m, n't</i> and <i>'s</i> are clitic forms in the cliticised words <i>I'm, don't</i> and <i>she's</i>
closed-system items	These are word class to which it is very rare to make additions and which can, therefore, in theory, be exhaustively listed.	prepositions, determiners, pronouns, conjunctions
close vowel	A vowel produced with the tongue in the highest position.	/i/ and /u/
cluster	A series of consonants.	/kr/ and /sps/ in <i>crisps</i>
coalescence	The fusing of sounds.	<i>would you</i> pronounced as /wʊdʒu/
coda	a) Consonants following the nucleus of a syllable (which is preceded by the onset).	/p/ in <i>top</i>
	b) The final piece of a text which sums up or presents the writer / speaker's view etc.	<i>So, in the end, it came out alright</i>
code switching	Changing language, dialect, style, register or accent to suit the social or linguistic setting	<i>Changing to a formal style and older dialect when in church and using completely different style or dialect among family members.</i>
coherence	Logical or functional connectedness. Compare cohesion .	<i>Where's she gone?</i> <i>She needed to get to the shop</i>

cohesion	The use of grammatical or lexical connectors to maintain connectedness in language. Compare coherence . Items which contribute to or structure cohesion are called cohesive devices often mistakenly referred to as discourse markers .	<i>Where's Mary?</i> <i>She went to the shops</i>
coinage	See neologism .	
collective noun	A noun which refers to a group of things or people. This expression is sometimes used also for assemblage nouns . Collective nouns are often confused with partitives which have an opposite function.	<i>The army is helping</i> <i>The jury are considering the verdict</i> <i>A flock of sheep</i>
colligation	The tendency of some words to enter into characteristic grammatical relationships.	<i>I hid behind the door</i> not <i>*I concealed behind the door</i>
collocation	The tendency of words to co-occur.	<i>He ran a risk</i> <i>She took a risk</i> <i>*She made a risk</i>
combining form	A form resembling an affix but which adds to rather than altering the meaning or changing word class.	<i>geopolitical</i>
commissive modality	A form of deontic modality referring to an obligation placed on the speaker by the speaker.	<i>I will pay you back, I promise</i> <i>I have to thank you</i>
comment clause	A type of disjunct .	<i>The answer, I must say, is not clear</i>
common noun	A type of noun contrasted with a proper noun to refer to objects or concepts.	<i>chair, happiness, people etc.</i>
comparative	The form which is used to show a greater or lesser degree of a quality. There are two sorts: inflected and periphrastic . Comparatives may be made with adjectives or adverbs but most adverbs take the periphrastic forms.	<i>A bigger house (inflected comparative)</i> <i>A more beautiful cat (periphrastic comparative)</i>
complement	A word or phrase which tells us something about the subject or object of a clause. Complements are often linked with a copular verb . See Object complement and Subject complement . Complements also refer to any item which completes the meaning of another.	<i>They elected him chairman (referring to the object, him)</i> <i>She is happy (referring to the subject, she)</i> <i>John is the manager (referring to the subject, John)</i> <i>He called me stupid (referring to the object, me)</i> <i>That is mine (referring to the subject, that)</i> <i>The house is over the hill (referring to the subject, the house)</i> <i>She is keen on opera</i>

complex preposition	A preposition consisting of more than one word.	<i>because of</i> <i>in spite of</i>
complex sentence	A sentence consisting of at least one main and one subordinate clause .	<i>She came although she was tired</i>
compound	A word or phrase formed by combining the meanings of words which represents a single sense	<i>door + man = doorman</i>
compound sentence	A sentence consisting of two coordinated clauses.	<i>I came but you were out</i>
compound-complex sentence	A sentence consisting of both subordinated and coordinated clauses.	<i>I came to see you but you were out so I left this note</i>
compositionality	See non-compositionality .	
concession	A function of subordination which concedes a point.	<i>She went although she didn't really want to</i>
concord	A grammatical relationship whereby one form requires a change in another. In English, this usually applies to verbs and their subjects. In other languages, it may apply to, e.g., gender marking on adjectives or case marking on nouns. In the latter cases it is often called agreement. Concord may be ungrammatical in English because of notion (viewing a singular entity as plural or vice versa) or proximity (a plural or singular form being close to the verb).	<i>It breaks easily</i> <i>The army is helping</i> <i>The jury are divided</i> <i>None of his friends are here</i>
concrete noun	Nouns which refer to physical entities. They may be mass or count nouns . Many do not consider the distinction between concrete and abstract nouns is valid.	<i>book, wind, mountain, paper etc.</i>
conditional	A clause whose truth is contingent on the truth of another clause.	<i>Give me the money and I'll buy it for you</i> <i>Come if you can spare the time</i> <i>Should you get lost, call me</i>
conditional sentence	A sentence which consists of two clauses at least, one of which expresses the condition (the protasis) and contains the conditional conjunction or other marker of condition and one which expresses the consequence of the fulfilment of the condition (the apodosis).	<i>If you come to the party (protasis), you'll be able to meet his sister (apodosis)</i>
conjugate	To give the inflexions of a verb showing voice, mood, tense, number and person.	<i>She arrived yesterday and Steve was happy to see her</i>
conjunct	An adverbial which performs a connective function.	<i>It's raining and cold. However, I'll take the dogs out</i>

conjunction	A word to join two ideas (clauses, verbs, nouns etc.).	<i>She went home because she felt ill</i> (subordinating) <i>We ate bread and butter</i> (coordinating) <i>They not only cleaned but polished the car</i> (correlating)
connotation	An additional meaning of a word (usually negative or positive) (Cf. denotation)	<i>doctor</i> (positive or neutral) vs. <i>quack</i> (negative)
consonant	A sound made by wholly or partially closing the vocal tract.	/p/, /b/, /f/, /t/, /h/ etc.
constituent	A unit which forms part of a larger language unit.	<i>The pub over the hill, by the river, where we met</i>
content disjunct	See disjunct .	
content word	A word which has meaning when standing alone (compare function word). These are sometimes called lexical words. Content words are members of open classes: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs.	<i>house, bring, pretty, usually, French</i> etc.
continuant	A sound made by semi-closing the vocal tract.	/f/ in <i>fox</i>
continuous	An aspect of a verb tense to describe something on-going or happening in the background. There is a technical difference between continuous and progressive aspects.	<i>I was sleeping while she was at work</i> <i>She thinks I love her</i>
contour	The sequence of pitch and other factors in an utterance.	Depicted as a wavy line or in other ways
contraction	The omission of a letter or letters in a word or phrase, usually denoted with an apostrophe.	<i>can't, o'clock, Mary'll</i>
contrastive stress	A special stress to mark an item as emphatic. Also known as special stress .	<i>She went with her mother</i>
contronym	A word which has two opposite meanings. Also called an autoantonym or contranym.	<i>cleave</i> (cut) vs. <i>cleave</i> (stick together)
conversational maxims	The assumed rules for maintaining coherent and cooperative communication.	maintain relevance, do not over inform etc.
converseness	The relation between antonyms in which the existence of one logically implies the existence of the other.	<i>brother / sister</i>
conversion	Word formation consisting only of a change in word class.	<i>clean</i> (adj.) <i>clean</i> (verb)
coordination	The linking of two potentially independent clauses. The conjunction is a coordinator.	<i>I rang but there was no answer</i>

copular verb	A verb which joins together two nouns, a noun and an adjective, a noun and its complement or a noun and a prepositional phrase. These are sometimes called linking verbs.	<i>She became a teacher</i> <i>They grew tall</i> <i>She was in the garden</i>
correlative conjunction	Conjunctions consisting of two connected words.	<i>Either we'll take the car or he'll give us a lift</i>
count noun	A noun which can have a plural and take a plural verb. These are distinguished from mass nouns .	<i>The cats are in the house</i>
creole	A language usually developed from pidgin and having all the characteristics of a full, autonomous language including an elaborate lexicon, full grammar and standard pronunciation. What makes creoles distinct languages is that they are often acquired by children as their first (and sometimes only) native language.	<i>Cape Verdean Creole</i> <i>Jamaican Patois</i> <i>Rabaul Creole German</i>
dark /l/ ([ɫ])	Describing the back consonant sound at the end of <i>full</i> . Compare clear /l/ .	The last sound in <i>lull</i> (/lʌl/)
dangling participle	The often disparaged use of a participle making it unclear what the referent is. This is also called a misrelated participle.	<i>While getting on the bus my wallet fell out of my pocket</i>
dative	The case usually denoting the indirect object or some forms of prepositional relationships.	<i>He sent me a card</i>
dative shifting	The act of moving the indirect object in a clause and linking it with a preposition.	<i>She read the children a story</i> shifting to <i>She read a story to the children</i>
declarative	Expressing a statement.	<i>The rain started</i> <i>The rain didn't stop</i>
declension (Vb. decline)	The variations in morphology of a pronoun, noun or adjective depending on its grammatical function.	<i>She gave the letter to her</i>
deductive / evidential modality	A form of epistemic modality referring to the speaker's view as influenced by evidence.	<i>It might rain later</i> <i>I think it's going to be a difficult job</i>
defective	Describing words which do not follow all the rules of their class.	<i>must</i> is a verb which has no past form. <i>awake</i> is an adjective which cannot be used attributively.
defining	Of relative pronoun clauses, those which define rather than simply add information. These are sometimes called restrictive clauses. They are contrasted with non-defining clauses.	<i>The house which is over the road has been sold (defining)</i> vs. <i>The house, which is over the road, has been sold (non-defining)</i>

deixis (n.) deictic (adj.)	Items which allow the language user to refer to not me, not here and not now. Deixis may be subdivided into personal, spatial, temporal, social and textual deixis.	<i>You went there the previous day</i>
delexicalised verb	A verb which takes its meaning from the noun with which it collocates.	<i>make the beds pay a compliment take a shower</i>
demonstrative	A class of determiner telling us what noun we are talking about. The same words can also be demonstrative pronouns .	<i>This house That garden Those cars These people</i>
demonym	An adjective which refers to the people of a country.	<i>Dutch refers to people from The Netherlands</i>
denotation	A word's general meaning rather than any meaning the speaker or hearer imputes.	<i>A coin is a piece of metal money</i>
dental	A consonant sound produced with the tongue in contact with the teeth.	The last sound in <i>teeth</i> (/ti:θ/).
deontic modality	Modality concerned with expressing duty or obligation (or their lack).	<i>You must be more respectful to your grandfather You don't have to be rude</i>
dependent clause	A subordinate clause which depends for its full meaning on another, main, clause.	<i>She had enough money although she wasn't rich</i>
derivation	The formation of a word from another by a number of processes including conversion, affixation and suffixation.	<i>housing is derived from the word house</i>
determiner	A word which comes before a noun to say what we know about it.	<i>articles: I want to buy a house in the town demonstratives: I want to buy that house interrogatives: Which house do you want to buy? possessives: I want to buy his house quantifiers: I want to buy two houses</i>
devoiced	Describing a sound which is produced with less voicing than is usual.	A final /d/ may be devoiced to /t/ in <i>He had it (/hi.hæt.ɪt/)</i>
diacritic	See accent .	
diachronic variation	Changes occurring across time in a language. Compare synchronic variation .	<i>The loss of inflexions between Old and Middle English.</i>

dialect	A social or regional variety of a language identifiable by both accent and lexical or grammatical forms. Other terms used to describe this are ethnolect, geolect and regiolect.	Southern British English
diglossia	Two standard varieties of a language existing together.	<i>Modern Standard Arabic alongside other varieties of Arabic</i> <i>Literary Kathourevousa versus spoken Demotic Greek</i>
digraph	A combination of two letters representing a single sound.	<i>th</i> and <i>ng</i> in <i>thing</i> (/θɪŋ/)
diminutive	An affix meaning <i>small</i> . Some carry connotations of attractiveness.	<i>leaflet</i> <i>doggie</i>
diphthong	A vowel in which there is a clear change in quality during the syllable.	Vowels in <i>road</i> , <i>shine</i> etc. (/rəʊd/, /ʃaɪn/)
directive	Language used to get someone else to do something.	<i>Open the window</i>
direct object	The entity on which the verb acts. Compare indirect object .	<i>I bought the house</i>
direct speech	The actual words spoken.	<i>He said, "Hello, Mary."</i>
directive modality	See imperative modality .	
discontinuity	The splitting of an item by others.	<i>Put your coat on</i>
discourse	A continuous stretch of spoken or written language longer than a sentence.	Any longer text.
discourse marker	Properly, this refers to the language which speakers use to manage interactions, conversations and other spoken events such as lectures and formal discussions. It is now very loosely used to refer to any item which contributes to coherence and cohesion.	<i>Feel free to interrupt with any questions.</i> <i>Let me respond by saying ...</i> <i>Do you have a view?</i> <i>Firstly, ...</i>
disjunct	An adverbial which expresses the speaker / writer's view of the truth of a proposition (attitudinal or content disjuncts) or how it should be understood (style disjuncts). Also called sentence adverbials or stance adverbials.	<i>On the face of it</i> , it's too expensive (attitude or content, referring to the value of proposition) <i>Frankly</i> , I don't care (style, referring to the speaker)
distributive pronoun distributive determiner	a pronoun or determiner which signals the way in which something is apportioned.	<i>I gave everyone a drink</i> (pronoun) <i>She gave each a new label</i> (pronoun) <i>Each</i> child got a prize (determiner)
ditransitive	Describing a verb which can take both a direct and an indirect object.	<i>He passed me the book</i>

dual	A number in many languages which indicates two of something. The form is vestigial in Modern English.	<i>Both boys are here</i>
durative	a) An aspectual form in many languages which emphasises the length of an event or state. In English the sense is usually achieved with a progressive form and an adverbial. b) A verb whose meaning implies a long-lasting event. When used in the progressive aspect these verbs denote duration rather than iteration. (Compare instantaneous verb)	a) <i>She is still complaining</i> b) <i>read, study, stay etc.</i>
dynamic	a) a use of the verb, distinguished from stative .	<i>John is being silly</i> <i>She is thinking</i> <i>Kirstin is swimming</i> <i>Mary is paying attention</i>
	b) a type of passive clause. This is distinguished from a stative passive.	<i>The garden gets invaded by cats</i> <i>The garden was cleared</i>
	c) a use of an adjective to express the fact that something is under the control of a person. It is contrasted with a stative adjective referring to an unalterable characteristic.	<i>Be more patient</i> <i>*Don't be tall</i>
dynamic modality	Modality expressing ability or willingness. Dynamic modality is sometimes referred to as personal modality because it frequently applies to the speaker / writer.	<i>I'll get that!</i> <i>I can't see the game from here</i>
elision	The omission of sounds in connected speech.	<i>Are you comfortable? as: /ə.ju.'kʌmf.təb.ɪ/</i>
ellipsis	The omission of a word or words.	<i>Can you come?</i> <i>Yes, I can.</i>
embedding	Inserting one clause or phrase within another. The phenomenon is akin to recursiveness .	<i>The woman with the red hair is coming over</i>
empty verb	See delexicalised verb .	
end focus	The tendency in English to place the important or new information towards the end of an utterance.	<i>Yesterday he went to London</i> vs. <i>He went to London yesterday</i>
end weight	The tendency in English to place heavier (i.e., longer and more complex) items towards the end of the utterance.	<i>He worked in London during the time he was trying to save up to open his own business</i> vs. <i>During the time he was trying to save up to open his own business, he worked in London</i>
endophoric	Referring to elements within the text which have occurred or occur later (anaphoric and cataphoric reference, respectively).	<i>When John bought it, he was surprised at the expense of the part</i>

epicene	Descriptive of a word which is gender neutral.	<i>teacher</i> can apply equally well to a male or female teacher but <i>bridegroom</i> is marked as male
epistemic modality	Modality concerned with expressing a view of the truth of a proposition.	<i>That must be the six o'clock train</i>
epithet	A descriptive rather than classifying adjective. Compare classifier .	<i>That's a good idea</i>
eponym	A word derived from a person's name. See also toponym .	wellington boots boycotting the company
ethnolect	A dialect used by an identifiable ethnic group.	New York Jewish
evidential modality	See deductive modality .	
exclamation	A phrase or clause expressing anger, despair, surprise etc. This is also sometimes called an interjection .	What???! How silly of me!
existential	Applied to the words <i>it</i> and <i>there</i> to express that they emphasise the existence of something.	There is a car outside It is your brother on the phone
exophoric	Referring to items outside the text.	<i>It's like that game you played when we were kids</i>
exponent	The language used to realise a communicative function. Also called realisation.	Offer: Structure: <i>Would you like a / some ...</i> Lexis: <i>cup of tea, cake, more etc.</i>
extrapositioning	Moving an item to the beginning or the end to mark its significance or conform to end weight or end focus.	<i>It's a shame that he couldn't come</i> vs. <i>That he couldn't come is a shame</i>
false cognate	A word in another language which looks and/or sounds similar but is unconnected in derivation (and, often, meaning).	<i>okuru</i> (Japanese = <i>occur</i>) and <i>occur</i> (English)
false friend	A word in another language derived from the same source but having a different meaning.	<i>sensibel</i> (German = <i>sensitive</i>) and <i>sensible</i> (English = <i>rational</i>)
field	See semantic field .	
field	The topic area in which a text is set and its goals, short and long term which determine in part the language which is used.	
filler	Any spoken hesitation device.	<i>He's er, well, you know, difficult</i>
finite	A form of a verb (or a clause) which is marked for tense, number or person. It can stand alone as the only verb or verb phrase in a clause. Finite forms may also be marked by a zero inflexion. Compare non-finite .	<i>John plays tennis</i> <i>Mary lost the game</i> <i>They have been to America</i> <i>They walk</i>

fixedness	The tendency for some idiomatic language to be unalterable. It is a variable phenomenon.	<i>I ran to and fro all day</i>
form	The appearance of a language item without consideration of its meaning, social use or communicative value.	The past of <i>catch</i> is <i>caught</i> , pronounced as /kɔ:t/
fortis	Of sounds produced with relatively greater force. Also unvoiced . Compare lenis .	/f/ and /p/ vs. /v/ and /b/ etc.
free variation	Descriptive of forms of the same item which are different but occur in the same dialect.	<i>The pronunciation of often as /'ɒf.ən/ or /'ɒf.tən/</i>
fricative	A sound produced by friction between two organs of pronunciation. See also approximant in which no friction is audible.	/z/ in <i>zoo</i>
front	Describing sounds made at the front of the mouth. Compare back .	/i/ and /t/
function	a) The communicative value of a language item, utterance or expression.	The imperative clause <i>Have some more</i> functions as an invitation not an order
	b) The grammatical role played by a language element.	<i>That he was allowed home</i> <i>surprised me</i> in which we have a clause functioning as the subject of the verb
function words	Words which have no meaning when standing alone but make the grammar work. The main classes are prepositions, conjunctions, pronouns and determiners. These are sometimes called functors or grammatical words.	<i>at</i> <i>with</i> <i>it</i> <i>this</i>
gender	A way of classifying nouns by certain characteristics such as masculine, feminine, neuter, animate, inanimate, edible, inedible etc. which affects how the grammar of the language (especially inflexions) works.	<i>le soleil</i> (<i>sun</i> , French, masculine gender) <i>la lune</i> (<i>moon</i> , French, feminine gender) <i>die Sonne</i> (<i>sun</i> , German, feminine gender) <i>der Mond</i> (<i>moon</i> , German, masculine gender)
genitive	The possessive case . The genitive does not only apply to possession; it can also apply to origin or description.	<i>The policy of the government</i> <i>My</i> book <i>The man's request</i>
genre	An identifiable communicative function of a text which it shares with others of the same sort.	Recount, Exposition, Narrative etc.
geolect	A dialect characteristic of speakers from a geographically defined area.	Scots English

gerund	A non-finite verb form which functions as a noun formed from a verb with the suffix <i>-ing</i> . The form is the same as that of a present participle. It is sometimes referred to as a verbal noun but technically distinguishable: unlike verbal nouns, gerunds may be modified by adverbs but verbal nouns are more noun-like in being modifiable by adjectives and determiners.	<i>I gave up smoking</i> This <i>-ing</i> form may not <u>normally</u> be used with a determiner.
glide	A transitional sound as a vowel (usually) moves from one quality to another, often forming a diphthong. Also a change in pitch level.	/ɪə/ starts with the short vowel /ɪ/ and glides at the end to the /ə/ sound <i>duty</i> pronounced as /'dju:.ti/, gliding from /j/ to /u:/
glottal glottal stop glottis	A sound made at the back of the throat. A sound made by closing and opening the back of the throat (glottis). Represented as /ʔ/. The part of the throat involved in the production of these sounds. See the diagram under vocal tract .	The /h/ sound in <i>house</i> is a glottal consonant Pronouncing <i>I got it</i> as /'aɪ.'gɒʔ.ɪʔ/
glyph	A readable character in a writing system.	The character <i>g</i> may be written as <i>G</i> or <i>g</i> (These are alloglyphs of <i>g</i>)
goal	The entity affected by the action encoded in a verb. Also called the patient or the recipient.	<i>John made the dinner</i> <i>The dinner was eaten with relish</i>
gradation	See ablaut .	
grapheme	Either: The smallest units of the writing system that represent a sound or: The smallest identifiable units of a writing system.	Either: <i>sh</i> is the grapheme representing the sound /ʃ/ or: <i>s</i> and <i>h</i> are two of the graphemes of the Latin alphabet used in English
habit habitual	An aspect in English which refers to an event or state which exists or existed (semi-)permanently.	<i>She used to be quite helpful</i> <i>We tend to eat quite early</i> <i>She is driving to work these days</i> <i>She teaches in this school</i> <i>They would take offence easily</i>
hard palate	See palate .	
head	The main and obligatory element in a phrase which indicates its grammatical function.	<i>in the rain</i> <i>the brilliant new book</i>
headedness	Referring to which element of a combination determines the meaning in a language. English is right headed because the second, right-hand element determines the meaning. Other languages are left headed.	A <i>wind mill</i> is a kind of <i>mill</i> not a kind of <i>wind</i> In French, a <i>timbre-poste</i> is a kind of <i>timbre</i> , not a kind of <i>poste</i>

heaviness	Referring to the length or complexity of a phrase or clause. Conventionally heavy elements are placed in English towards the end of a sentence.	<i>He lost it while he was travelling on the bus from Spain to Russia with his friends</i>
heterographs	Words which have the same pronunciations but different spellings.	<i>road / rode</i>
heteronyms	a) words which have the same spelling but a different pronunciation and different meanings b) words which refer to the same thing but are used in different dialect or speech communities	<i>lead</i> (go before) and <i>lead</i> (metal) <i>export</i> (verb) and <i>export</i> (noun) <i>elevator</i> (US) and <i>lift</i> (UK)
historical present	The use of the present tense to add immediacy to an event set in the past.	<i>So, I'm waiting for the bus yesterday, when ...</i>
homographs	Words with the same spelling but different pronunciations and/or meanings.	<i>bear</i> (animal) vs. <i>bear</i> (carry) <i>wind</i> (moving air) vs. <i>wind</i> (turn around something)
homonyms	Words with the same spelling and pronunciation but different meanings.	<i>rock</i> (stone) vs. <i>rock</i> (sway from side to side)
homophones	Words with different spellings but the same pronunciation and different meanings.	<i>road</i> vs. <i>rowed</i>
hortative	Encouraging others.	<i>Shall we get this done now?</i>
hypernym	The overarching term which includes the hyponyms.	<i>vehicle includes car, bus, truck, motorcycle etc.</i>
hyponyms	Any of the related terms included under a hypernym or superordinate.	<i>car, bus, truck, motorcycle are the co-hyponyms of vehicle</i>
hypotaxis	The use of conjunctions to link ideas. Compare parataxis .	<i>I ate breakfast before going out</i>
ideogram ideograph ideographic (adj.)	A symbol used to represent a complete idea.	下 = down (Chinese)
idiom	A phrase or clause used as a single concept which usually cannot be understood by understanding the words in it.	<i>It's turned up its toes (died / become useless)</i> <i>It's neither here nor there (unimportant)</i>
illocutionary force	The intended or perceived communicative value of an utterance regardless of its form. See also Speech act . See also Propositional content .	<i>Is this your coat?</i> (meaning or perceived meaning: <i>Please move it so that I can sit down</i>)
imperative	The form of the verb used to tell someone what to do or make offers.	<i>Go home</i> <i>Don't tell her</i> <i>Have some more cake</i>
imperative / directive modality	A form of deontic modality referring to an obligation placed on the hearer.	<i>You should get some rest</i> <i>This has to be done before we can go</i>
impersonal	Having no specified agent.	<i>It was snowing</i>

impersonal pronouns	See indefinite pronouns .	
imprecative	<p>a) a mood which is used to express the hope that something does not happen (a category of optative)</p> <p>a) a mood in some languages which expresses the hope that something bad happens</p> <p>c) a sentence containing a swear word intended to insult</p>	<p>a) <i>If only it wouldn't get so cold</i></p> <p>b) <i>May he lose</i></p> <p>c) <i>You bloody aren't, you know</i></p>
inchoate	Descriptive of a verb which refers to the beginning of a state. Particularly applicable to pseudo-copular verbs.	<i>It's getting dark</i>
incompatibility	A feature of two or more language items which are mutually exclusive.	<i>The paper is thin</i> vs. <i>The paper is thick</i>
indefinite pronoun	<p>Pronouns which do not refer to specific people. There is a large range of different categories of indefinite pronouns.</p> <p>Also called impersonal pronouns.</p>	<p><i>Someone's</i> at the door</p> <p><i>All</i> is well</p> <p><i>Anyone</i> can see it's true</p>
independent clause	See main clause .	
indexical	One of the functions of intonation, speaking or writing which is typical of a person or group of people.	<p>Sports commentary language</p> <p>Paper sellers' intonation</p> <p>Government reports</p>
indicative	Expressing objective statements.	<i>I want some more</i>
idiolect	Language forms distinctive to an individual.	Variations in pronunciation of certain phonemes or the use of particular lexemes unique to an individual.
indirect object	<p>When a verb has two objects, the indirect object usually refers to a person who receives or benefits. In English the indirect object usually precedes the direct object.</p> <p>Compare direct object.</p>	<p><i>She bought me lunch</i></p> <p><i>I read the child a story</i></p>
indirect question	A question expressed in indirect speech or a polite embedded question with a similar structure.	<p><i>She wanted to know where the gate was</i></p> <p><i>Can you tell me where the gate is?</i></p>
indirect speech	<p>Speech which is reported, not quoted directly.</p> <p>See direct speech.</p>	<p><i>He told me to come</i></p> <p><i>She said she felt ill</i></p>
infinitive	A non-finite verb form often preceded by <i>to</i> .	<p><i>I came to help</i></p> <p><i>We should go</i></p>

inflexion (also inflection) inflected (adj.)	Changing the form of a word to show grammatical function or other features such as tense, person, case and aspect . In English, this is often achieved by changes to the endings of words but can affect the central vowels. Non-technically, inflexion may be applied to changes in tone, intonation and pitch in speech.	<i>He plays</i> (with the -s inflexion to show third person) <i>She played</i> (with the -ed inflexion to show past tense) <i>They came</i> (an inflexion on the central vowel ('o' to 'a') [ablaut]) <i>The larger problem</i> (inflecting the adjective to show comparative form) <i>The houses were too expensive</i> (with the -s inflexion to show a plural)
-ing form	A common way to refer to the form of the verb which ends -ing and can function grammatically in various ways often lying between verbal, adjectival and nominal functions.	<i>I enjoy eating out</i> <i>We were eating at the time</i> <i>I object to you smoking while I'm eating</i> <i>It's a drilling machine</i>
initialism	A word made of the initial letters of a phrase which are pronounced separately. See acronym .	DVD
instantaneous verb	A verb whose meaning implies a non-durative or progressive event. Such verbs, when used in the progressive aspect imply iteration rather than an on-going event. (Compare durative).	hit, break, snap etc
interjection	A word class signifying emotional state. Also exclamation .	Wow! Really!
interrogative pronoun	A <i>wh</i> -word which functions as a pro-form for the object, clause or person in questions.	Who did you see? What did he do? Where did she go?
intensifier	A language item which affects the force of another.	<i>He is very happy</i> <i>She is slightly depressed</i>
interaction	A language event involving two or more people which has no definable goal and exists to maintain social relationships. See also transaction.	greetings, informal chats etc.
interrogative	A question form.	Do you know her? Don't you like it? Which do you want? That's him, isn't it? That's him?!
intonation	The rise and fall in voice tone in spoken language.	<i>That's right.</i> (falling intonation) vs. <i>That's right!?</i> (rising intonation)

intransitive	Describing a verb which cannot have a direct object .	<i>They arrived</i> <i>She talked</i> <i>He fell</i> We cannot have: <i>*They arrived the hotel</i> <i>*She talked the people</i> <i>*He fell the river</i>
intrusion intrusive (adj.)	Describing the insertion of a phoneme in connected speech. There are three in English: /j/, /w/ and /r/.	In <i>law and order</i> , an intrusive /r/ may be produced (/lɔːr.ənd.'ɔː.də/)
inversion	Reversing the usual order of subject and verb (or using the <i>do</i> operator in simple tenses).	<i>Never have I seen such a mess</i> <i>Scarcely did I sit down when the phone rang.</i>
iterative	An aspect which refers to the repetition of an event. In English, this is usually signalled by the progressive form of an instantaneous verb .	<i>Someone has been stealing vegetables from my garden.</i>
jargon	The use of particular lexemes confined to certain areas of study, trade or interest. A defining characteristic is that such terms are obscure to those unversed in the area of concern.	Certain sports have associated jargon and most trades and professions develop jargon terms understood only by those within them such as legal jargon used by professional lawyers
judgemental / speculative modality	A form of epistemic modality referring to the speaker's judgement or understanding.	<i>I think that's too much</i> <i>That might not be enough</i>
juncture	An interruption of the normal transition between sounds which makes the pronunciation of two different phrases distinguishable.	<i>ice cream vs. I scream</i>
jussive modality	A form of deontic modality referring to an obligation placed on a third person. The jussive mood is also used in some languages with a distinctive verb form to express wishes about the actions of a third person.	<i>He really should try to be more patient with the children</i> <i>Mary has to be the one to do it</i>
key	The tone or manner in which a speech act is produced.	ironic, sarcastic, sympathetic etc.
	The level of pitch combined with the intonation contour.	High key often expresses surprise or contrast.
kinesics	The study of paralinguistic features such as body movements and positions, gesture and facial expressions.	
labiodental	Sounds formed with the lips and teeth.	/f/ in <i>fox</i>
larynx	The part of the throat which contains the vocal folds and is important in the quality of sound production. See the diagram below under vocal tract .	
lect	A term in sociolinguistics to describe varieties of language use.	<i>sociolect, dialect, idiolect etc.</i>

lenis	Referring to a less strong articulation of a consonant. Compare fortis .	/d/ and /b/ vs. /t/ and /p/ etc.
lexeme	The technical term, often used loosely for 'word' and referring to a single unit of meaning. A lexeme is also defined as all the derived words under a dictionary head word (or lemma).	the Houses of Parliament London re-establish don't go, going, gone
lexical field	See semantic field .	
lexical set	A group of words of the same class defined by topic or by syntactical characteristics.	spade, hoe, rake, watering can etc. frequently, seldom, often, rarely etc.
lexical verb	Also called a content or main verb. A verb that is not an auxiliary and has meaning when standing alone.	Go! She wept
lexical word	A word which carries significance rather than performing a grammatical function. Also content word . Compare function word .	She went to the post office
limiter	An adverbial which functions to limit the range of the verb in some way.	I merely asked
linking	When clauses are of equal weight and value they may be joined by linking conjunctions. (Compare binding)	He came home and went to bed
linking verb	See copular verb .	
lip rounding	Describing the extent to which the lips are rounded in vowel production. The phenomenon exists on a cline from fully rounded, through neutral to fully stretched. Combined with notions of vowel height , tongue position and vowel length , vowels can be closely described.	The sounds in <i>foot</i> (/fʊt/) and <i>fit</i> (/fɪt/) rounded and non-rounded respectively.
loan word	A word borrowed from another language to fill a perceived gap (suppletion).	Angst from German into English
locative	A case referring to the position of something. In some languages, the locative is signalled by inflexions, in English by the use of adpositions.	It's in the fridge in German becomes Es ist im Kühlschrank
main clause	The clause which is independent and may stand alone.	I walked the dogs although it was snowing
main verb	A verb which carries lexical meaning and may be used on its own without another verb. Also called a lexical verb. Compare auxiliary verb .	I can't see the stage
manner of articulation	The way in which a sound is produced.	voiced, unvoiced, with friction, plosive etc.

markedness	Any deviation from the simple and prototypical form to note or emphasise.	<i>houses</i> is marked as the plural of <i>house</i> <i>How often do you come?</i> is unmarked whereas <i>How rarely do you come?</i> is a marked question
mass noun	A noun which can have no plural and takes a singular verb. Compare count noun .	<i>The milk is in the fridge</i> <i>We ate pork</i> <i>Money is important in life</i> <i>Reading takes up a lot of my time</i>
matrix clause	The clause in which another is embedded.	<i>She saw that he wanted to ask a question</i>
meronym meronymy	A constituent part of a larger entity which can be used to refer to the whole (see synecdoche).	<i>wheels as a meronym of <i>car</i></i> <i>handlebars, saddle, gears are also meronyms of <i>bicycle</i> even when not used to represent the whole.</i>
metaphor	Figurative language use where a term is used usually associated with a different idea.	<i>She exploded</i>
metaplasma	Spelling an item in the way it is sounded.	<i>Going to as gonna</i>
metonym metonymy	A word used to refer to an entity with which it is closely associated. The device of using a term closely associated with something actually to mean the thing.	<i>Number Ten as a metonym for the British government</i> <i>Downing Street has issued a statement</i>
minimal pair	A pair of words distinguished by a single change to a phoneme in the same place in the word.	<i>butter / putter</i> <i>cat / fat</i> <i>sing / sung</i> <i>for / far</i>
modal auxiliary verb	A verb which tells us how the speaker feels about the main verb in terms of possibility, obligation, ability etc.	<i>I should talk to her (deontic)</i> <i>It may rain again (epistemic)</i> <i>I can't see (dynamic)</i> <i>That must be wrong (alethic)</i>
modality	Descriptive of language use which is concerned with the likelihood, permissibility or obligatory nature etc. of an event or state.	<i>I should be there later</i> <i>It is possible she will be late</i> <i>I imagine it's going to be difficult</i>
mode	The kind of text which is being constructed.	<i>oral, written, emailed, text message etc.</i>

modifier modification	A linguistic item which adds information to the head of a phrase. They can be pre-modifiers or post-modifiers. A modifier is any word or phrase which qualifies or limits another. (In functional grammar, the word modifier is used only for pre-modifiers and the term qualifier is used for post-modifying elements.)	<i>Dogs enjoy games</i> has three unmodified elements but <i>My mongrel dogs really enjoy games of fetch</i> Has the same three elements modified <i>old men</i> (a pre-modifying adjective) <i>men with experience</i> (a post-modifying prepositional phrase)
monophthong	A vowel which does not change during its pronunciation. Also pure vowel .	The /ɪ/ in <i>hit</i> (/hɪt/)
mood	Attitudinal issues with verb phrases (wish, possibility, doubt, statement of fact etc.)	<i>She is in London</i> (declarative) <i>If only she were here</i> (subjunctive)
morpheme	The smallest meaningful unit of language. There are two sorts. Bound morphemes always occur with others but free morphemes can stand alone or form part of a word.	<i>protesting</i> (one free (<i>protest</i>) and one bound (<i>ing</i>) morpheme) <i>bookkeeper</i> (two free (<i>book</i> and <i>keep</i>) and one bound (<i>er</i>) morpheme)
morphology	The study of morphemes (above), their forms and functions vis-a-vis word formation. This also refers to the morphemic system of a language as in <i>the morphology of English</i> .	
move	A term from discourse analysis to describe a unit which is often smaller than a complete utterance but has a communicative function.	<i>That's wrong, pass me the large one</i> contains two moves: a) <i>That's wrong</i> (information) b) <i>pass me the large one</i> (imperative)
multal pronouns	Pronouns which refer to more of the referent. (Compare paucal)	<i>He doesn't have many friends but she has more</i>
multi-word verb	A verb consisting of more than one word. There are three sorts: phrasal, prepositional and phrasal-prepositional.	<i>I give up</i> (a phrasal verb) <i>She complained about the service</i> (a prepositional verb) <i>She caught up with the class</i> (a phrasal-prepositional verb)
multilingualism	Referring to the ability to speak two or more languages at native-speaker-like levels of fluency and accuracy.	<i>Switching between English (at work) and Spanish (at home) in the USA.</i>
mutation	The change in an internal aspect of a word which signals grammatical function. Also known as ablaut , vowel mutation, internal modification, stem modification or mutation, internal inflexion.	<i>sing - sang</i> <i>foot - feet</i>

nasal	Describing sounds made by closing off the airflow and allowing the air to enter and flow out through the nasal cavity.	The sounds /n/, /m/ and /ŋ/
negative negation	A sentence or verb form which refers to something not being or happening.	<i>It didn't rain</i> <i>I refuse to come</i> <i>That's impossible</i> <i>She never comes on time</i>
negator	A word which make an utterance negative.	<i>not, hardly, never, seldom, neither</i> etc.
neologism	The coining of a new word. Also coinage.	<i>chairperson</i>
node	The term in question when studying a word's collocational characteristics in a corpus.	<i>... when we were there we would usually go to ...</i>
nominalisation	Making an element of the language perform the function of a noun.	<i>I want what you offered John</i> <i>I'll take the blue</i>
nominative	The subject case .	<i>She came home</i>
non-assertive forms	Pronouns, adverbials and determiners which are conventionally used in negative sentences, questions and expressions of doubt or uncertainty. Compare assertive .	<i>I don't want anything else</i> <i>I haven't yet finished</i> <i>I'm not sure there are any left</i> <i>Did anyone call?</i>
nonce word	A lexeme invented for the occasion.	<i>Pass me the picker-upper</i>
non-compositionality	Describing the variable quality of idiomatic language, much of which cannot be understood by understanding the elements that make it up. Also referred to as opacity.	<i>He's the black sheep of the family</i>
non-defining	See defining .	
non-finite	A form of the verb not marked for tense, person or number. Compare finite .	<i>She wants to help</i> <i>I watched her enjoying the show</i> <i>Let me go</i>
non-restrictive	See defining .	
notation	Phonemic (broad) or phonetic (narrow) transcription of language sounds.	<i>He came home as /hi.keɪm.həʊm/</i>
notion notional (adj.)	A conceptual category smaller than a communicative function.	weight, temperature, duration etc.
noun	A word for a person, place, thing, feeling or characteristic. Nouns can be subjects or objects of verbs and prepositions. (Also referred to as a substantive)	<i>He went to the station</i> <i>London is my home</i> <i>Envy is an unpleasant emotion</i> <i>Peter broke his glasses</i>
noun phrase	A group of words acting as a noun with a noun as the head.	<i>The old man sailed the fishing boat</i>

nucleus	The centre of a syllable preceded (optionally) by the onset and followed (optionally) by the coda .	The word <i>start</i> (/sta:t/) contains the nucleus vowel (/a:/) preceded by the onset (/st/) and followed by the coda (/t/).
number	The grammatical category which contrasts singular, dual and plural.	<i>They arrived late at my house and they were both hungry</i>
object	The entity the verb acts on.	<i>She read a book (direct object) She told me a story (indirect object) I got the house painted</i>
object case	See accusative .	
object complement	The complement of a verb which acts on the object rather than the subject. See Subject complement and Complement .	<i>They made her Head Girl</i>
onomatopoeia	Descriptive of words which are imitative of the meanings they convey. The phenomenon is variably disputed.	<i>squish woof moo</i>
onset	The first (optional) item of a syllable coming before the nucleus .	The word <i>start</i> (/sta:t/) contains the nucleus vowel (/a:/) preceded by the onset (/st/) and followed by the coda (/t/)
opacity	See non-compositionality .	
open-class items	These are word classes which in theory are limitless and to which additions can be made when the need arises to express a new idea.	nouns, adjectives, adverbs and verbs
operator	The first auxiliary verb in a verb phrase. It is distinguished by being the determiner of the question form. The term is used in other senses in linguistic studies, e.g., to refer to aspect, modality and tense.	<i>Do you want it? What have you seen? John could have done it → Could John have done it?</i>
optative	Wishing and hoping.	<i>If only it would get warmer</i>
orthography	Referring to the conventional spelling and writing system of a language.	BrE doubles the 'l' on some verbs to form participles
palate palatal (adj.)	The roof of the mouth divided into the hard palate towards the front and the soft palate (velum) at the rear. Sounds made here.	The /j/ sound in <i>ship</i> is palatal
paradigmatic	Referring to the vertical relationship between items in a clause. Compare syntagmatic .	In <i>He bought a house</i> , the verb may be replaced with many other transitive verbs: <i>sold, decorated, furnished</i> etc.
parallelism	The use of paired words in constructions.	<i>They walked arm in arm</i>

parataxis	Strictly the non-use of conjunctions. Loosely the use in speaking of very simple and repeated conjunctions. Compare hypotaxis .	<i>I ate bacon, eggs, cheese, toast and butter</i> <i>I went to London and I visited my brother and then I came home and then I realised I had forgotten my keys and I called him and he said ...</i>
paronym	A cognate word in another language.	The words <i>paper</i> , <i>papel</i> , <i>papír</i> and <i>papier</i> are cognates in English, Spanish, Hungarian and French respectively
parsing	Analysing a sentence by identifying its constituent parts and their grammatical functions.	Tree diagrams
part of speech	See word class .	
participles	A non-finite form of the verb. There are two. Participles often act as adjectives.	<i>She was beaten</i> (past participle) <i>He is working today</i> (present participle) <i>She is delighted</i> <i>A falling rock hit the car</i>
partitive	An expression which refers to part of a larger amount. Partitive expressions are often confused with collective nouns which have an opposite function.	<i>A pile of books</i> <i>A can of beer</i> <i>A pane of glass</i>
passive voice	A clause in which the subject undergoes the action. Direct passives are formed by raising the direct object and indirect passives by raising the indirect object. Compare active voice .	Direct passives: <i>They were arrested</i> <i>The house got damaged by the storm</i> Indirect passive: <i>He was given a book</i>
paucal pronouns	Pronouns which refer to less of the referent. (Compare multal)	<i>He doesn't have many friends but she has even fewer</i>
pathetic fallacy	Endowing an inanimate object with an animate trait.	<i>The car is being difficult</i>
patient	In a passive voice clause, the receiver of the action of the agent . See also goal .	<i>John was arrested by the police</i> <i>It was his car that was damaged by the bus</i>
perfect	An aspect of the verb describing its relationship to another time.	<i>He has arrived</i> (setting the past in the present) <i>He had arrived</i> (setting the past in the past) <i>He will have arrived</i> (setting the past in the future)
performative	A verb form which encompasses its effect.	<i>I name this ship ...</i> <i>I promise</i>

periphrastic periphrasis (n.)	The use of a separate word instead of an inflexion especially in the case of forming comparative and superlative forms of adjectives. Periphrasis also refers to any occasion when we have two or more words performing the work of one.	<i>This is even more old</i> vs. <i>This is even older</i> and <i>I took a shower</i> is a periphrastic form of <i>I showered</i> <i>The government's decision</i> has the periphrastic form <i>The decision of the government</i>
person	A grammatical category which indicates who something is about. There are three in English: first person singular and plural (<i>I, we, me, our</i> etc.) second person singular and plural (<i>you, your, yours</i>) third person singular and plural (<i>it, they, their, he, she, her, its, his</i> etc.)	<i>I came home</i> <i>She talked to me</i> <i>We were happy</i> <i>They helped us</i> <i>You didn't come</i> <i>They needed you</i> <i>She hated the film</i> <i>The film delighted him</i> <i>They broke the fence</i> <i>She gave them the bill</i>
personal modality	See dynamic modality .	
personal pronoun	A pronoun for an identifiable person or persons (or thing). The form of personal pronouns varies by case and number although the system is defective in English.	<i>Give it to me</i> <i>Peter did it himself</i> <i>He came home</i> <i>They went to London</i> <i>That's not mine, it's his</i>
phatic	Descriptive of meaning-free language used to establish or maintain rapport and relationships.	<i>Hello, there</i>
phoneme	The smallest contrastive (i.e., meaningful) component of a language's sound system.	<i>/p/ and /b/ in pat and bat</i>
phonetics	The study of speech sounds.	
phonology	The study of the speech sounds of a particular language or languages.	
phonotactics	The study of possible syllable structures in a language.	<i>/vr/ is not possible at the beginning of a word in English but is in Greek.</i>
phrasal verb	See multi-word verb .	

phrase	A group of words with one grammatical function in a sentence.	<i>He went to the shops</i> (prepositional phrase) <i>The three boys left</i> (noun phrase) <i>They have opened the box</i> (verb phrase) <i>She was tired but happy</i> (adjective phrase) <i>They worked extremely hard</i> (adverb phrase)
pidgin	A grammatically and lexically simplified means of communication which is used by groups who do not share a common language. Pidgins are typically used for trading purposes and are not fully formed languages.	<i>Bimbashi Arabic (soldier Arabic used in Sudan)</i> <i>Russenorsk (a pidgin based on Norwegian and Russian)</i>
pitch	The height or frequency of a sound.	
place of articulation	The place where a sound is produced.	labial, dental, velar etc.
plosive	A sound produced by stopping and suddenly releasing the breath. Also stops.	/p/, /g/
plurale tantum (Pl. pluralia)	The term for a noun which almost always appears in the plural.	scissors
polyseme	A word which has more than one connected but distinct meaning. This is often difficult to distinguish from a homonym .	<i>The glue has set</i> <i>Set the clock for 6</i>
portmanteau word	See blend .	
positive adjective or adverb	The form of an adjective or adverb which is unmarked for degree. This is also called the base form or stem .	<i>hot</i> is the positive form from which <i>hotter</i> and <i>hottest</i> (comparative and superlative forms) are derived <i>recently</i> is the positive form from which <i>more recently</i> and <i>most recently</i> are formed
possessive case	See genitive .	
possessive determiner	A type of determiner which refers to origin, possession or description.	<i>His letter upset me</i> <i>That's my car over there</i> <i>The government has its problems</i>
post-modification	An item following the head of a phrase and adding information to it.	<i>The woman in the red shirt</i>
postposition	An item performing the same function as a preposition but which follows rather than precedes its complement or object.	<i>He came two hours ago</i> <i>The expense aside, we must have it</i>

post-vocalic pre-vocalic	A sound produced in this way is audible when following a vowel. Contrasted with pre-vocalic in which the sound is only audible before a vowel.	Pronouncing <i>car</i> as /'kɑ:r/ Pronouncing the /r/ at the end of <i>father</i> in <i>father is here</i> (/ˈfɑ:ð.ɹ.z.hɪər/)
pragmatics	The study of how meaning is achieved <i>via</i> language. It is not clear where the lines dividing pragmatics and semantics should be drawn.	
pre-determiners and post-determiners	A limited set of determiners which can be placed before another determiner or may follow a determiner.	<i>My three friends drank all my beer</i>
predicate	The clause following the subject which provides the information.	<i>I went to London</i>
predicative	This describes an adjective which is linked to the noun by a copular verb . See attributive .	<i>The house is old</i> <i>She grew angry</i>
prefix	A morpheme attached to the beginning of a word which, usually, changes its meaning.	<i>displeasure</i> <i>unhelpful</i> <i>semi-detached</i>
preposition	A word which links the verb to a noun or adverbial .	<i>He walked across the park</i> <i>She arrived at six</i>
prepositional complement or object	A word or phrase (usually nominal) which generally follows the preposition (but can precede a postposition) and denotes the reference for the preposition or postposition.	<i>Go to the cinema</i> contains the prepositional object or complement, the cinema <i>The money aside</i> contains the postpositional object or complement, the money
prepositional passive	A passive construction in which the prepositional object or complement becomes the subject.	The active clause <i>We talked about the problem</i> can become a prepositional passive as <i>The problem was talked about</i>
prepositional phrase	A group of words which includes the preposition as its head and its complement (or object).	<i>over the bridge</i> <i>under the river</i>
presupposition	A truth taken for granted in what someone says. See also implicature and entailment in the guide to pragmatics.	<i>The garden shed was demolished</i> in which the fact that you know what shed and that it was previously extant is assumed.
pre-vocalic	See post-vocalic .	
primary auxiliary verb	An auxiliary verb which forms a tense, voice or aspect with a main verb.	<i>It was destroyed</i> <i>I got my car cleaned</i> <i>I have been to London</i>

productivity	The ability of a language item or rule to continue to generate new examples.	Forming an adjective by adding <i>-able</i> to a verb is productive, using <i>-ible</i> is unproductive. Any newly coined noun may be made plural with the addition of <i>-s</i> or <i>-es</i> .
pro-drop	Descriptive of a language, such as Modern Greek or Italian in which the subject pronoun is routinely omitted.	<i>Sono</i> (<i>I am</i> in Italian, a pro-drop language) <i>Ich bin</i> (<i>I am</i> in German, a non-pro-drop language)
pro-form	A language item that stands for another which may be a word, phrase, clause or longer text.	<i>He told me to eat better and I will do so</i> <i>I won't be able to come but Mary may</i>
progressive	The aspect of the verb which shows that something is ongoing.	<i>I am writing this sentence</i>
prominence	The amount an item stands out in a stream of speech.	<i>That's <u>his</u> car</i>
pronoun	A word which stands for a noun or other nominalised expression.	<i>Give me it</i> <i>We talked among ourselves</i>
proper noun	A noun for a person, place or job. See common noun .	<i>The President</i> <i>Mr. Smith</i> <i>The Alps</i>
propositional content	The meaning conveyed by an utterance rather than the functional effect of the utterance (its illocutionary force). Propositional content is sometimes distinguished from modality insofar as the latter concerns the speaker's view of an event whereas the former simply states a fact.	If I say: <i>There's an apple tree in my garden</i> The propositional force is that a) <i>I have a garden</i> b) <i>the garden contains an apple tree</i> (The illocutionary force might be an offer to allow you to harvest the crop.)
prosody prosodic (adj.)	Concerned with movements in pitch and tone.	
prospective	An aspect which refers to future time. In English, this is often signalled by the progressive form or <i>going to</i> and with adverbials.	<i>I'm seeing her later</i> <i>I think it's going to be cold tomorrow night</i> <i>The train arrives shortly</i>
pseudo-cleft	A type of cleft sentence using a <i>wh</i> -word. Such a cleft may be reversed.	<i>What I wanted was more time</i> <i>More time is what I wanted</i>
pure vowel	A vowel which does not change during its pronunciation. Also monophthong .	The /ɪ/ in <i>hit</i> (/hɪt/).

qualifier	Any term which adds information to a noun phrase. (In functional grammar, this term only applies to item which follow the head of the noun phrase. Items which precede it are referred to as modifiers .)	<i>The man from Berlin</i> <i>The tired dogs</i>
quantifier	A type of determiner which refers to quantity.	<i>Give me a few minutes</i> <i>We don't have a lot of money</i> <i>Would you like some cake?</i>
questions question tags	An interrogative. A phrase attached to the end of a positive or negative sentence to make it a question.	<i>Is she here yet?</i> <i>You are coming, aren't you?</i> <i>You aren't going to eat that, are you?</i> <i>I don't believe she's coming, is she?</i>
realisation	See exponent .	
Received Pronunciation	A high-prestige regionally unidentifiable British accent.	So-called BBC English (once)
recipient	See goal .	
reciprocal pronoun	Pronouns which express mutuality.	<i>They spoke to each other</i>
reciprocal verbs	A distinction sometimes made between verbs concerning the participants in an action. Reciprocal uses imply both subjects were engaged.	<i>Mary was talking to us (non-reciprocal use)</i> <i>Mary and we were talking (reciprocal use)</i>
recursiveness	The ability, confined to human language, to embed an infinite (in theory) number of phrases and clauses within each other.	<i>The people who were in the house which is on the corner of the street where his mother, who was very old, lived were always helpful if she needed anything that ...</i>
redundancy	A measure of the amount of unnecessary information encoded in the language.	<i>These people are not welcome in which the plural is signalled by the form of the demonstrative, the form of the noun and the form of the copular verb (66% redundancy)</i>
reduplication	The repetition of an item (or a closely related form).	<i>Don't shilly shally</i> <i>The car went clunkety clunk</i>
referent	The item to which a pro-form refers. See antecedent . (The term is also used to describe the concept or object to which a sound refers.	<i>The chair was expensive but I bought it</i> <i>(chair (/tʃeə/) = a piece of furniture or the manager of a meeting)</i>
reflexive pronoun	A pronoun which refers to (i.e., is co-referential with) the subject of the verb.	<i>She is talking to herself</i>

reflexive verb	Verb use in which the subject and the object are the same.	<i>She was washing</i> <i>The dog was scratching</i> in which we assume the objects to be <i>herself</i> and <i>itself</i> respectively.
regiolect	A dialect of a macro-language which may not be mutually comprehensible with other regiolects.	Moroccan vs. Egyptian Arabic
register	A variety socially defined by occupation, interest group or field of enquiry.	legal register medical register football register
relative adverb	An adverb which modifies the verb phrase in a complex sentence to say, e.g., where or when something occurred.	<i>This is the house where he lived</i> <i>That was the moment when I understood</i>
relative pronoun	One of the following which refer to the subject or object of a sentence or to possession: <i>who, whom, which, whose, that</i> . The rules for the use of relative pronouns are quite complicated.	<i>He is the man who told me the story</i> (referring to the subject) <i>He bought the car that he saw on the road</i> (referring to the object)
relative tense	A tense which can only be fully understood in relation to another time marker.	<i>She has arrived, so now we can start</i> (relating the past to the present by embedding it in the present)
reported speech	See indirect speech .	
restrictive	See defining .	
retroflex	An /r/ sound made by curling the tip of the tongue backwards. Transcribed phonetically as [ɻ].	The Indian English /r/ sound.
reversed cleft	See pseudo-cleft .	
rheme	The additional information which follows the theme of an utterance or sentence followed by the rheme.	<i>The manager made some new rules</i>
rhotic	Describing an accent in English in which the /r/ sound is usually audible. The opposite is non-rhotic.	Standard American English pronouncing the /r/ non-pre-vocally: <i>my father decided</i> as /'maɪ.'fɑ:ð.ɹ.də.'saɪ.dəd/. Received pronunciation in British English is generally non-rhotic (/maɪ.'fɑ:ð.ə.dɪ.'saɪ.dɪd/).
rhythm	The regular repetition of stress in a language.	
root	See base form .	
rounding	See lip rounding .	
schwa	The commonest vowel in English, variably spelled. It is transcribed as /ə/.	The vowel at the beginning of <i>about</i> (/ə.'baʊt/)
segmental	See suprasegmental .	

semantic component semantic feature	A part of a word's meaning.	The word <i>bachelor</i> includes the components / features <i>male</i> and <i>unmarried</i> .
semantic field	An area of meaning containing a group of semantically related items.	gardening: <i>hoe, fork, spade, planter, mower</i> etc.
semantic space	The prototypical features of a lexeme which determine the limits of its use.	The semantic space of the word <i>machine</i> includes any mechanical device with moving parts such as <i>engine, pump, electric drill, hair dryer</i> etc. but excludes <i>telephone, router</i> and <i>television</i> which have no moving parts and are electronic in nature.
semantics	The study of meaning. It is not clear where the dividing lines between semantics and pragmatics are drawn.	
semi-modal auxiliary verb	A verb which can act both as modal auxiliary verb and as a lexical verb .	<i>I dared not / didn't dare ask again</i>
semi-vowel	A phoneme which may act as either a vowel or a consonant depending on the environment.	'w' in <i>way</i> (consonantal /w/) vs. in <i>how</i> (vocalic /aʊ/)
semiotics	The study of systems of signs.	Human language is the most important semiotic system but there are others such as bird calls, Morse code, semaphore etc.
sentence adverbial	An adverbial which modifies the whole of a sentence rather than only the verb phrase Also called a disjunct or stance adverbial.	Unfortunately , I missed my train
sentence stress	The syllable(s) or word(s) in a sentence where the heaviest stress falls. This is often, unless a special meaning is intended, on the information towards the end of the utterance.	<i>I went home</i> <i>I went home very late</i> <i>I went home by bus</i>
sequencer	An adverbial which signals the ordering of events.	firstly, next, then etc.
shell noun	A noun which serves to encapsulate a range of propositions in order to make cohesive referencing more accurate..	<i>The problem is ... and ... as well as ... which also involves</i> <i>This needs to be addressed in three ways</i>
sibilant	A consonant fricative making a hissing, s-like sound.	/s/ in <i>hiss</i> , /z/ in <i>maze</i>
simile (n.) similative (adj.)	The device of making comparisons, often with the use of <i>as ... as</i> or <i>like</i> . The sense of one item is carried over to the sense of the other so in this way they are synonyms.	<i>He's like a fish out of water</i>

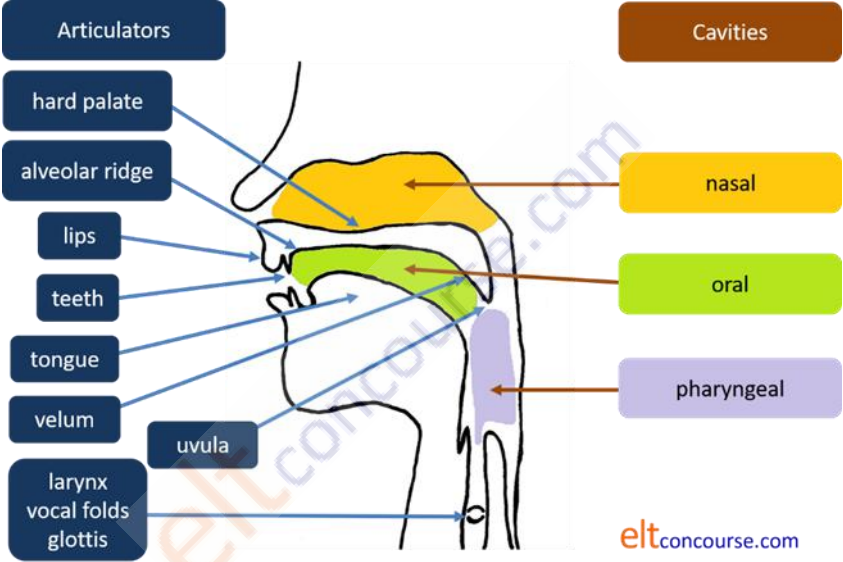
slang	A term often used disparagingly to refer to casual or 'wrong' language use. Slangs are generally spoken forms characterised by very informal uses and often confined to certain class and regional groups.	Cockney Rhyming Slang
sluicing	Reducing <i>wh</i> -clauses to the single <i>wh</i> -word or a short <i>wh</i> -phrase.	<i>I heard someone singing that song but I don't know who</i>
sociolect	A dialect defined by social class or role.	Upper class British pronunciation.
soft palate	See palate .	
special stress	See contrastive stress .	
speculative modality	See judgemental modality .	
speech act	An utterance defined by the intention of the speaker and the response of the hearer.	<i>It's cold</i> (meaning or understood as <i>Please close the window</i>)
stance adverbial	See disjunct or sentence adverbial .	
standard	Something used as a measure, norm, or model in comparative evaluations. A standard form is that which is seen as the baseline from which other varieties differ.	Standard Australian English from Standard British English but also differs from the varieties used by members of certain social and occupation groups within Australia
starred form	See asterisked form .	
stative	a) a use of the verb, distinguished from dynamic .	<i>I think that's a good idea</i> <i>He has been the manager for years</i> <i>She looks unhappy</i> <i>The door was broken</i>
	b) a type of passive clause. This is distinguished from a dynamic passive.	<i>The garden gets invaded by cats</i> vs. <i>The garden was cleared</i>
	c) a use of an adjective to express the fact that something is not under the control of a person. It is contrasted with a dynamic adjective referring to a characteristic under the subject's control.	<i>Be more patient (dynamic)</i> vs. <i>*Don't be tall (stative)</i>
stem	The part of a word to which affixes are added which is responsible for the word's meaning. In many languages, the stem of verb, in particular, is a bound morpheme which cannot stand alone. In other languages, such as English and Chinese, which have few inflexions, the stem is often indistinguishable from the base form of a verb. The stem of an adjective or adverb is sometimes referred to as the positive form. See also base form .	<i>unselfishness</i> <i>smoke-d</i> <i>black-en</i> <i>white-r</i>

stop	A consonant sound made by closing the vocal tract. Also plosive.	/t/ in <i>batted</i>
stress stress shifting	The degree of force with which something is said. Stressed syllables will usually be louder, higher pitched and longer. The opposite is unstressed. Stress may be main (primary) or secondary. Stress shifting frequently occurs on verb-noun pairs.	<i>He came to you?! He travelled to London by train</i> is stressed as follows: /hi. 'træv.lɪ.tə.'lʌn.dən.baɪ. 'treɪn/ The words <i>export</i> (verb) and <i>export</i> (noun) are pronounced as /ɪk.'spɔ:t/ and /'ɪk.spɔ:t/
stress timing	Allowing stressed syllables to be longer than unstressed syllables.	English, Farsi, Dutch are all at the stress-timed end of the cline.
structure words	See function words .	
style	The level of formality on a cline from very informal to very formal with most language somewhere in between (neutral).	<i>Pass the salt</i> (informal) <i>I wonder if I could trouble you for the salt</i> (formal) <i>Please pass the salt</i> (neutral)
style disjunct	See disjunct .	
suasion	Encouraging others to do something or wishing for something. The concept includes the hortative (encouraging) and optative (wishing).	<i>I wish it would rain I'd prefer you not to do that</i>
subject	The doer, animate or otherwise, of the verb.	<i>She came at six The wind howled My car has broken down</i>
subject case	See nominative .	
subject complement	The complement of a verb which refers to the subject rather than the object. See Object complement and Complement .	<i>John is angry</i>
subordinate clause	A dependent clause which depends for its full meaning on another, main, clause and cannot stand alone.	<i>She had enough money although she wasn't rich</i>
subjunctive	A mood which expresses doubt or tentativeness.	<i>It would be good were he to work harder</i>
subordinator	A type of conjunction which introduces a dependent or subordinate clause .	<i>She came because I invited her If you ask me, of course I'll help</i>
substantive	A noun or any language item that functions as a noun.	<i>The poor What you ask for is impossible I enjoy reading It is open The door's open</i>
substitution	The replacement of an item with another.	<i>If you like the shirts, buy one</i>

suffix	A morpheme added to the end of a word which usually affects its word class but can alter its meaning.	<i>resentment</i> (a noun from a verb) <i>slowly</i> (an adverb from an adjective) <i>nationalise</i> (a verb from an adjective)
superlative	The form of an adjective or adverb which means the most or least. See comparative .	<i>The tallest boy in the class</i> <i>The most expensively dressed man</i> <i>The least important point</i>
superordinate	See hypernym .	
suppletion (n.) suppletive (adj.)	Describing the phenomenon of a form which is differently derived and cannot be inferred to be a connected form.	The past tense of <i>go</i> is went which is derived from the verb <i>wend</i> and not from the same root as the verb <i>go</i> . The plural of <i>cow</i> is cattle (with different derivations)
suprasegmental	Concerned with analysing speech above the level of individual sound. The opposite is segmental (analysing speech phoneme by phoneme or syllable by syllable). Also known as plurisegmental.	
syllabic consonant	A consonant without a vowel sound at all which constitutes a syllable.	<i>Nation</i> has the second syllable as a syllabic /n/ and is transcribed as /'neɪʃ.n/
syllabic writing	A writing system in which each symbol represents a syllable rather than a sound.	Japanese Katakana script
syllable	A unit of rhythm in speech. It contains a nucleus (usually a vowel) and optional onset and coda elements.	The word <i>nation</i> has two syllables and is transcribed as /'neɪʃ.n/ (with the second syllable a syllabic consonant).
syllable timing	Forcing all syllables to take the same amount of time to utter.	French, Italian, Spanish and Mandarin are all at the syllable-timed end of the cline.
syllipsis	Referring to a situation where there is a relationship between one word and a number of others but agreement cannot be complete. See also zeugma (which is a term sometimes synonymously used).	<i>I am not sure if Mary or the children know / knows</i>
synchronic variation	Variations occurring at the same time in a language. Compare diachronic variation .	<i>Northern US and southern US English.</i>
syndetic	Referring to the inclusion of a coordinator. See also asyndetic .	<i>She went to the boss and complained</i>
synecdoche	The use of part of something to mean the whole or the whole of something to mean a part (see meronymy).	<i>Take a head count</i> <i>The army is here</i>
synthetic causative	A word which has been made a causative verb with the addition of a suffix.	<i>dead</i> → <i>deaden</i> <i>acid</i> → <i>acidify</i>

synonym	A word which means <u>approximately</u> the same as another.	<i>It's a big house</i> <i>It's a large building</i>
syntagmatic	Referring to the horizontal (syntactical) relationship between items in a clause. Compare paradigmatic .	In <i>He bought a house</i> , the verb may only be followed by a noun phrase to act as the object.
syntax	The study of word combinations and sentence structures. A central concern of the study of syntax is the identification of word and phrase class and the elements of phrases which constitute well-formed clauses and sentences.	
tag	See question tag .	
teleological modality	A form of deontic modality referring to that which is necessary to achieve an aim This form of modality is often expressed with conditional structures.	<i>If you want to get into university you need to study hard</i> <i>We must leave now or we'll miss the train</i>
telicity (a)telic (adjs.)	A use of a form which implies an end to the event or state (telic) or does not (atelic).	<i>The party went on till midnight</i> (telic) <i>The party went on past midnight</i> (atelic)
tenor	The relationship between the speaker and the hearer or the writer and reader of a text which determines in part the language that is used.	<i>Tenant to landlord, boss to subordinate, peer to peer etc.</i>
tense	The form of the verb marked for time or aspect.	<i>He walked</i> (simple past) <i>She has been walking</i> (present perfect progressive)
text	A stretch of discourse of indeterminate length which has an identifiable communicative purpose.	A poem A warning notice A novel
that-clause	A subordinate clause which begins with <i>that</i> . <i>That</i> -clauses may function as direct objects or subjects of verbs or as complements of adjectives (but not prepositions). When <i>that</i> is omitted, the clause is referred to as a zero- <i>that</i> -clause (Ø <i>that</i> -clause).	<i>She expects that we'll get some rain</i> <i>I'm delighted that you could come</i> <i>That he was sent home surprised me</i> <i>I hope you can come</i>
theme	The starting point of an utterance or sentence followed by the rheme .	<i>The manager made some new rules</i>
tone	The pitch of a syllable which is distinctive in some way. Some languages, e.g., Mandarin and Thai, may alter meaning depending on the tone of the production of a lexeme. These are tonal languages.	
tone unit	A sequence of tones in an utterance which identifies a meaning unit.	
tonic syllable	The syllable on which a change of pitch commences.	<i>That's a BAD idea</i>
topic sentence	Usually the first sentence of a paragraph which sets the subject and from which all else is related until a new paragraph is begun.	<i>Now we turn to the nesting habits of flamingos.</i>

topicalising	Placing the topic of the utterance in front.	<i>That manager, he is very strict</i>
tongue height	See vowel height .	
tongue position	In the production of vowels, three horizontal tongue positions are recognised: front, central and back. Combined with notions of vowel height , lip rounding and vowel length , vowels can be closely described.	Front vowels: /e/ and /i:/ Central vowels: /ə/ and /ɜ:/ Back vowels: /ɒ/ and /ɑ:/
toponym	A word derived from the name of a place. See also eponym .	<i>denim trousers</i> <i>bourbon whisky</i>
transcription	Any method of rendering spoken language in writing. Also called a notational system.	
transitive	Describing a verb which can take one or more objects. Compare intransitive .	<i>She smoked cigars</i> <i>He threw me the book</i>
trill	A rapid tapping consonant.	The Spanish trilled /r/ sound transcribed as [r] in, e.g., <i>perro</i> .
triphthong	A disputed category referring to a vowel which contains three separate sounds.	/eɪə/ as in <i>player</i> or <i>mayor</i> , starts with /eɪ/ and glides to /ə/
troponym troponymy	A word which more narrowly defines another concept. The phenomenon.	The word <i>stroll</i> is a troponym of <i>walk</i> because its meaning contains the idea of walking slowly in a relaxed manner
turn	The single contribution of a speaker in an interaction. It may contain one or more speech acts.	<i>So, how are you feeling now?</i> <i>That's his mother. Do you want to talk to her?</i>
uncountable	See mass noun .	
universal pronoun universal determiner	a pronoun or determiner which refers to a complete set of nouns.	<i>I gave all a drink</i> (pronoun) <i>She gave all delegates a label</i> (determiner) <i>Everyone got a prize</i> (pronoun) <i>Every child got a prize</i> (determiner)
unmarked	See markedness .	
unproductive	See productivity .	
unvoiced	See voiced .	
use vs. usage	Use refers to the communicative value of an utterance, usage to its form and denotational meaning.	<i>I have a headache</i> Answer A: <i>Take an aspirin</i> (language use) Answer B: <i>Paper is flammable</i> (language usage only)
uvula	The teardrop-shaped fleshy part at the back of the throat. See the diagram below under vocal tract .	
variety	An identifiable form of the language spoken in a geographical area or unique to certain registers and social classes.	American English legal English

velum velar	The rear, soft section of the palate where some sounds are made (called velar sounds).	The sounds /g/ and /ŋ/ are velar consonants
verb	A word class referring to an event, action or state.	<i>Peter arrived</i> <i>Jill was unhappy</i> <i>It continued raining</i>
verb phrase	A group of words acting as a verb.	<i>She has taken the car home</i>
verbal noun	It is sometimes referred to as a gerund but technically distinguishable: unlike gerunds, verbal nouns, may not be modified by adverbs but are more noun-like in being modifiable by adjectives and determiners. The form is the same as that of a present participle.	<i>Your complaining was not justifiable</i>
vocal folds	Also known as vocal cords. Two folded membranes in the larynx which vibrate to produce voiced or lenis sound.	
vocal tract	<p>The whole of the area where speech sounds are produced.</p> 	
vocative	The form of the noun used when addressing. English does not mark the vocative case.	<i>John, you are wanted on the phone.</i>
voice	a) A form of the verb or clause showing the relationship between the subject and the object (active voice) or the agent and the patient (passive voice).	<i>John (subject) opened the letter (object)</i> <i>The letter (patient) had been written in haste by the manager (agent)</i>
	b) The addition of vibration of the vocal folds to the production of a consonant sound (and all vowels). The opposite is voiceless or unvoiced. See also devoicing .	The distinction between <i>game</i> (/geɪm/) and <i>came</i> (/keɪm/). The first sound of each is respectively voiced and unvoiced.
vowel	A sound made without restriction of the vocal tract or any friction. Vowels may form the nucleus of a syllable. Vowels are classified in four ways: height, tongue position, lip rounding and length. See cardinal vowels for a diagram.	/i/, /e/, /ɛ/ etc.

vowel height (tongue height)	This refers to the position of the tongue vertically in the mouth when making a vowel sound: high, mid or low. Combined with notions of tongue position , lip rounding and vowel length , vowels can be closely described.	/i:/ and /u:/ are high vowels /e/ and /ɜ:/ are mid vowels /ə/ and /ɔ:/ are low vowels
vowel length	Some vowels are represented with a length-mark colon (':') following them. Length is relative and vowels can be made longer or shorter by any speaker of English. Combined with notions of vowel height , lip rounding and tongue position , vowels can be closely described.	The sound /ə/ is formed in the same way as /ɜ:/ but the latter is a long(er) vowel
vowel mutation	See ablaut .	
weak form	The unstressed vowels in connected speech which are usually rendered more briefly and with a different quality.	The transcription of <i>The man has been to see me</i> may be: /ðə.mæn.həz.bɪn.tə.'si:.mi:/ with four weak forms: /ə/, /ə/, /ɪ/ and /ə/.
wh- word wh-question	The words <i>what</i> , <i>who(m)</i> , <i>when</i> , <i>where</i> , <i>why</i> , <i>how</i> and <i>which</i> that perform a variety of grammatical functions.	Where is your car? (adverbial function) Who told you? (pronoun function) When did she go? (adverbial function) That's the man who told me the story (relative pronoun function)
word class word categories	What used to be called parts of speech to classify words by their grammatical function. There are two main categories: a) closed-system words to which we can rarely if ever make additions. See function words . b) open-class items to which we can add new members. See content words .	Function or structural words: prepositions pronouns conjunctions determiners Content or lexical words: nouns verbs adjectives adverbs
word family	The group of words seen under the same dictionary head word or lemma. See lexeme .	happy, happiness, happily
word formation	The process by which new words are formed from existing resources including affixation and conversion.	<i>clean</i> (adj.) clean (verb) nation, national, international
word order	The ordering of elements in a language such as subjects, verbs and objects and nouns and adjectives etc. See also canonical word order .	English is Subject-Verb-Object and Adjective-noun

word stress	The place in a word where the heaviest stress falls. This is sometimes referred to as accent.	Compare, e.g. <i>exp<u>ort</u></i> (verb) with <i><u>ex</u>port</i> (noun) and <i>photograph</i> vs. <i>photographer</i> (/ˈfəʊ.tə.grɑːf/ vs. /fə.ˈtɒ.grə.fə/).
yes-no question	A question usually formed by inversion or the <i>do</i> operator which allows a single word <i>yes-no</i> answer.	<i>Do you like fish?</i> <i>Was he at the party?</i>
zero	The absence of a specific marking in the morphology for an item. The is not the same as absence; it is the absence of marking.	<i>She enjoys ∅ music</i> (zero article) <i>You went ∅ home</i> (zero inflexion on the verb) <i>She went to London and ∅ saw her mother</i> (zero anaphoric marking to the subject of <i>saw</i>)
zero-that-clause	See <i>that-clause</i> .	
zeugma	A figure of speech which exploits polysemy for effect. See also syllipsis .	<i>They grew vegetables and bored</i> <i>He took his hat and his leave</i>