active voice. Indicates the subject of the sentence performs the action when action verbs are used; the subject, or noun, of the sentence is doing the action.

adjective. Describes a noun or a pronoun and may provide details that give you a better understanding of the person or thing.

adjective pronoun. An adjective that acts as a pronoun.

adverb. A word that describes a verb, adjective, clause, or another adverb; adverbs tell how, when, or where something is done and can also limit or qualify a description.

antecedent. The word replaced by the pronoun.

article. An adjective that limits the noun or pronoun it modifies.

clause. A group of words within a sentence that has a subject and a predicate.

collective noun. Refers to a group or unit that contains more than one person, place, or thing.

common noun. Describes a person, place, or thing in general terms.

comparative adjectives. Compare two people or things.

comparative adverbs. Compare two actions, conditions, or qualities by adding er or more to the original adverb.

complete predicate. Includes the verb and other information that tells what the subject is or does.

complete subject. The simple subject and other words that describe it.

complex sentence. A sentence that has an independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.

compound predicate. Contains two or more verbs joined by and or some other conjunction; both verbs describe action or state of being for the subject.

compound-complex sentence. A sentence that has two independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

compound sentence. A sentence that has two independent clauses joined by a conjunction, such as and or but.

compound verb. A compound verb consists of two or more verbs in the same sentence; the verbs can be main verbs and helping verbs or contain two or more main verbs and no helping verbs.

conjunction. A word that connects other words, phrases, or sentences.

conjunctive adverbs. Words like however and also that connect or introduce clauses or phrases in a sentence.

coordinate adjectives. Two or more related adjectives that appear before a noun or pronoun and equally modify it.

coordinating conjunctions. Join two or more sentence elements that are of equal importance; they include and, or, not, but, and yet.

correlative conjunctions. Two or more words that work together to connect words, phrases, or clauses in a sentence such as neither/nor or rather/than.
dangling participle. A writing error in which a participle phrase modifies nothing or the wrong person or object.

definite article. Refers to a specific person or thing; a common definite article is the.

demonstrative adjective. Typically refers to a person or thing in a general way such as this, that, or those.

demonstrative pronouns. Identify or direct attention to a noun or pronoun.

dependent clause. A clause that requires the rest of the sentence to provide a complete thought.

direct object. Someone or something that receives the action of the verb.

first person. Refers to someone who is speaking or writing.

future perfect tense. Formed by adding will have to the past tense; it expresses that something will happen over or during a certain time.

future tense. Indicates that the action or state of being will occur at a later time.

gerund. A verb form used as a noun that is formed by adding ing to the present tense of a verb.

helping verbs. Verbs that work with a main verb to show action.

imperative mood. Denoted by the speaker or writer, it states a command or direct request.

indefinite article. Typically refers to a person or thing in a general way such as a or an.

indefinite pronouns. Refer to an object or person that has been identified earlier or does not need specific identification.

independent clause. A clause that presents a complete thought and could stand alone as a separate sentence.

indicative mood. Denoted by the speaker or writer, it expresses a straightforward statement or poses a question.

indirect object. Names something or someone for whom the action of the verb is performed.

infinitive. Comprised of the word to and a verb in its simple present form, such as to make; an infinitive or infinitive phrase can serve as a noun, adjective, or adverb.

interjection. A word that expresses strong emotion, such as surprise, fear, anger, excitement, or shock; it can also be used as a command.

interrogative pronouns. Pronouns that are used to ask a question and typically do not have a known antecedent, such as whose, what, or whom.

linking verbs. Verbs that show a state of being when they relate a subject to a subject complement.

nominative case. Pronouns that are used as the subject in a sentence or as subject complements.

nonrestrictive clause. Provides information that may be helpful, but is not essential to the meaning of the sentence.

noun. A word that names a person, place, or thing.

objective case. Pronouns that are used as direct objects, indirect objects, or objects of prepositions.

passive voice. Indicates the subject of the sentence is acted upon when action verbs are used; the subject, or noun, of the sentence receives the action.
past participle. Indicates that action has been completed.

past perfect tense. Formed by adding had to the past tense, it expresses that something has happened over or during a certain time.

past tense. Indicates that the action or state of being has already occurred.

phrase. A group of words that act together to convey meaning in a sentence.

positive adjectives. Describe, but do not compare, people or things.

positive adverbs. Describe, but do not compare, actions or qualities.

possessive case. Pronouns that show ownership.

possessive nouns. Indicate ownership by the noun or an attribute of the noun.

predicate. Describes an action or state of being for the subject.

preposition. A word that connects or relates its object to the rest of the sentence; examples include to, at, beside, during, and under.

present participle. A verb form that indicates action is in progress or ongoing.

present perfect tense. Formed by adding have or has to the past tense, it expresses that something happens over or during a certain time.

present tense. Indicates that the action or state of being takes place now.

pronouns. Words that replace nouns in a sentence such as he or she.

proper noun. A word that identifies a specific person, place, or thing.

relative pronouns. Pronouns used to begin dependent clauses in complex sentences.

restrictive clause. A type of dependent clause that identifies a particular person or thing and is essential to the meaning of the sentence.

second person. Refers to someone who is being addressed.

sentence. A group of words that expresses a complete thought.

sentence fragment. A writing error, a sentence fragment is a dependent clause used alone.

simple predicate. Includes only the verbs that show action or state of being.

simple sentence. A sentence that has one independent clause and no dependent clauses and often contains one or more phrases.

simple subject. The nouns or pronouns about which the sentence gives information.

split infinitive. Useful for emphasizing an adverb, it occurs when the adverb is placed between the word to and the verb.

subject. The person speaking or the person, place, or thing the sentence describes.

subject complement. An adjective that describes the subject or a noun that renames or tells what the subject is.

subjunctive mood. Expresses an idea, suggestion, or hypothetical situation.

subordinate clause. A dependent clause that is joined to the rest of the sentence with a subordinating conjunction, such as since, because, when, if, or though.
**subordinating conjunctions.** Connect dependent clauses to independent clauses; subordinating conjunctions introduce the dependent clause and include *although, because,* and *unless.*

**superlative adjectives.** Compare three or more people or things.

**superlative adverbs.** Compare three or more actions, conditions, or qualities; formed by adding *est* or *most* to the original adverb.

**third person.** Refers to someone being discussed.

**verb.** A word that shows action or state of being.