

words for talking about grammar

active and **passive**: *I see, she heard* are **active** verbs; *I am seen, she was heard* are **passive** verbs.

adjectives: for example *big, old, yellow, unhappy*.

adverbs: for example *quickly, completely, now, there*.

affirmative sentences or **statements** are not questions or negatives – for example *I arrived*.

articles: *a/an* ('indefinite article'); *the* ('definite article').

auxiliary verbs are used before other verbs to make questions, tenses etc – for example *do you think; I have finished, she is working*. See also **modal auxiliary verbs**.

comparatives: for example *older, better, more beautiful, more slowly*.

conjunctions: for example *and, but, because, while*.

consonants: see **vowels**.

contractions: short forms like *I'm, you're, he'll, don't*.

conversational: see **formal**.

countable nouns: the names of things we can count – for example *one chair, three cars*; **uncountable** (or 'mass') **nouns**: the names of things we can't count, like *oil, rice*.

determiners: words like *the, some, many, my*, which go before (adjective +) noun.

double letters: *pp, tt, ee* etc.

formal, informal, conversational: We use **formal** language with strangers, in business letters etc: for example 'Good afternoon, Mr Parker. May I help you?' We use **informal** or **conversational** language with family and friends: for example 'Hi, John. Want some help?'

future verbs: for example *I will go, Ann is going to write to us*.

imperatives: forms like *Go home, Come and sit down, Don't worry*, which we use when we tell or ask people (not) to do things.

indirect speech: the grammar that we use to say what people say or think: for example *John said that he was tired*.

infinitives: *(to) go, (to) sleep* etc.

informal: see **formal**.

-ing forms: *going, sleeping* etc.

irregular: see **regular**.

leave out: If we say *Seen John?*, we are **leaving out** *Have you*.

modal verbs or **modal auxiliary verbs**: *must, can, could, may, might, shall, should, will* and *would*.

negative sentences are made with *not*: for example *I have not seen her*.

nouns: for example *chair, oil, idea, sentence*.

object: see **subject**.

opposite: *hot* is the **opposite** of *cold*; *up* is the **opposite** of *down*.

passive: see **active**.

past perfect tense: see **perfect tenses**.

past progressive tense: see **past tenses**.

past tenses: for example *went, saw, stopped* (**simple past**); *was going, were eating* (**past progressive**).

past participles: for example *gone, seen, stopped*.

perfect tenses: forms with *have/has/had* + past participle: for example *I have forgotten* (**present perfect**); *It has been raining* (**present perfect progressive**); *They had stopped* (**past perfect**).

plural: see **singular**.

possessives: for example *my, your, mine, yours; John's, my brothers'*.

prepositions: for example *at, in, on, between*.

present participles: for example *going, sleeping* etc (also called **-ing forms**).

present perfect tenses: see **perfect tenses**.

present tenses: for example *He goes* (**simple present**); *She is walking* (**present progressive**).

progressive (or 'continuous'): for example *I am thinking* (**present progressive**); *They were talking* (**past progressive**).

pronouns: for example *I, you, anybody, themselves*.

question tags: for example *isn't it?, doesn't she?*

reflexive pronouns: *myself, yourself* etc.

regular: plurals like *cats, buses*; past tenses like *started, stopped*; **irregular**: plurals like *teeth, men, children*; past tenses like *broke, went, saw*.

relative pronouns: *who, which* and *that* when they join sentences to nouns: for example *The man who bought my car*.

sentence: A sentence begins with a capital letter (A, B etc) and ends with a full stop (.), like this one.

simple past tense: see **past tenses**.

simple present tense: see **present tenses**.

singular: for example *chair, cat, man*; **plural**: for example *chairs, cats, men*.

spelling: writing words correctly: for example, we spell *necessary* with one c and double s.

subject and **object**: In *She took the money, everybody saw her*, the **subjects** are *she* and *everybody*; the **objects** are *the money* and *her*.

superlatives: for example *oldest, best, most beautiful, most easily*.

tense: *She goes, she is going, she went, she was going, she has gone* are different **tenses**.

third person: words for other people, not *I* or *you*: for example *she, them, himself, John, has, goes*.

uncountable nouns: see **countable nouns**.

verbs: for example *sit, give, hold, think, write*.

vowels: *a, e, i, o, u* and their usual sounds; **consonants**: *b, c, d, f, g* etc and their usual sounds.