

## Useful grammar terms

### Articles

There are two kinds of article: definite and indefinite. Articles go before a noun or an adjective + noun.

*The* is a definite article.

*The house is in Sheep Street.      The black dog is mine.*

*A* and *an* are indefinite articles.

*That's a camel.      Do you want an orange?      I'm reading a good book.*

(See *Test it, Fix it: Grammar Pre-intermediate*, pages 9, 13 and 17.)

### Adjectives

Adjectives tell you more about nouns. Adjectives can go before a noun or after the verb *be*.

*Nick is a man.      →      Nick is an **intelligent** man.*

*Nick is **intelligent**.*

There are also comparative adjectives, e.g. *bigger, easier, more interesting*, and superlative adjectives, e.g. *biggest, easiest* and *the most interesting*.

(See *Test it, Fix it: Grammar Pre-intermediate*, pages 21, 25 and 33.)

### Adverbs

Adverbs tell you more about verbs. They can describe the following things:

- how often something happens (adverbs of frequency), e.g. *never, rarely, occasionally, sometimes, often, usually, always, still*, etc.
- how certain something is (adverbs of certainty), e.g. *possibly, certainly, definitely*, etc.
- how you do an action (adverbs of manner), e.g. *carefully, slowly, fast*, etc.
- when something happens (adverbs of time), e.g. *yesterday, today, tomorrow*, etc.
- where something happens (adverbs of place), e.g. *here, there*, etc.

(See *Test it, Fix it: Grammar Pre-intermediate*, pages 21, 29 and 37.)

### Nouns

Nouns are words you use to talk about people, animals, things, places and ideas.

*Patrick is my brother.      I've got a dog.      What's that box for?*

*We live in a village.      Everybody needs love.*

Nouns can be the subject or object of a sentence.

*My dog bit the postman.* (The subject, *my dog*, is a noun. The object, *the postman*, is also a noun.)

Nouns are either countable, e.g. *apple, house*, etc., or uncountable, e.g. *advice, information, bread*, etc. Most common nouns are countable. You need to learn the uncountable ones. Many uncountable nouns in English are countable in other languages, so be careful!

(See *Test it, Fix it: Grammar Pre-intermediate*, pages 45 and 49.)