



**English Language Arts Glossary of Terms
Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE)**

The following alphabetical list of grammar terms was taken from the GSE Language Standards.

Term	Definition	Example
Absolute Phrase	A phrase that consists of a noun or pronoun and at least one other word. An absolute phrase modifies an entire sentence and not just a word. It can be found anywhere in the sentence. It is often separated by commas, but may be set apart from the sentence by other punctuation.	The dark mountain, massive head buried in foggy clouds, loomed over the hikers and filled them with trepidation. Massive head buried in foggy clouds, the dark mountain loomed over the hikers and filled them with trepidation.
Active Voice	When the subject is acting, the verb is in the active voice.	The mailman handed the mail to his customer.
Adjectival Phrase (adjective phrase)	A phrase, usually a prepositional phrase, that can modify a noun or pronoun.	The clock with the copper face never missed a beat.
Adjective	A word that describes a noun or pronoun.	Pretty cat, wrinkled face
Adverb	A word that describes a verb, adjective, or other adverb.	She quickly swam the very long distance across the pool.
Adverbial Clause	A dependent clause (includes a subject and a verb) that acts as an adverb in the sentence and begins with a subordinating conjunction	The clock ran incessantly although the battery lost its charge.
Adverbial Phrase	A phrase, usually a prepositional phrase, that modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb	The clock in the tower ran for fifteen years without stopping.
Ambiguous Antecedent	Same as a vague pronoun. The antecedent for the pronoun is not clear.	When the glass ball hit the glass door, it broke. What broke, the ball or the door?



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Apostrophe	A punctuation mark that is used to signify ownership, to join contractions, and to represent the omission of letters from a word in written dialect.	Bill’s one regret is that he can’t catch that ‘possum.
Apostrophe to form Frequently Occurring Possessives	An apostrophe is used to form the possessive of a singular word by adding ‘s. Plural possessives are created by just adding an apostrophe.	Bill’s hat. Jill’s pail. The cats’ mother fed all of them at once.
Appropriate Spacing	When writing, letters in the same word should be spaced closely together. Words should have a letter’s width space between them, and sentences should have a space between them that is the width of two letters.	The team won the championship! We are going to celebrate.
Article	A part of speech used to identify a noun.	a, an, the
Capitalization	Process and rules that determine whether or not a letter is used in its uppercase or lowercase form.	-A,B,C,D,E,F -Earth, earth; Senior, senior; Mother, mother -Capitalize proper nouns, the first word in a sentence, and important words in a title.
Closely Related Independent Clauses	Sentences that deal with the same subject. A semicolon is used to connect the sentences to emphasize their relationship.	Baseball is an American sport; people love to watch their teams play.
Collective Noun	A singular noun that represents many members or parts as a whole.	Team, group, company
Colon to introduce a list/quotation	A colon “:” is used to introduce a longer list of items or a quotation that is more than four lines long.	The following teams made the playoffs: Braves, Mets, Yankees, Diamondbacks, Dodgers, Rockies.



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Comma	A punctuation mark used to set off introductory material, connect independent clauses, separate items in a series, connect dependent clause to independent clauses, and separate city and state in an address.	I love being at school, but summertime is so relaxing. During the summer, I get to sit on the beach, sleep late, and visit with my family in Atlanta, GA. After looking closely at her work, the author decided that he liked the precise diction, the use of figurative language, and the varied syntax, but he was not pleased with the character that entered the story in the third chapter. He made the decision to have the man move from Amarillo, Texas. He wanted his role to be one of a tough, independent, hard- working teacher.
Comma to separate coordinate adjectives	A comma is used to separate two adjectives that modify the same noun. A general rule is that a comma can be used when the word “and” can correctly substitute for it.	The old, blue car. Both “old” and “blue” modify “car.” The long, scary movie. Both “long” and “scary” modify “movie.”
Comma to set off a Direct Address	A comma is used before or after the name of a person that the statement or question is directed to.	Bob, are you home? Are you home, Bob?
Comma to set off a Tag Question	Commas are used to set off Tag Questions which are short questions that are attached to statements in order to prompt confirmation.	We are going to the fair tonight, aren’t we?
Comma used with Introductory Element	Introductory material may be a dependent clause, a person’s name, or an interjection.	Marla, will you come in? Since we won, we were allowed to choose which way we wanted to go.
Common Noun	A noun that does not name a specific person, place, or thing and is not capitalized	the girl, a tree, an elephant



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Comparative Adjective	An adjective that tells the difference between two objects, people, ideas, or places. It can be formed by adding –er to a single syllable word or by using more or less.	My house is wider than the house my neighbors own.
Comparative Adverb	Most adverbs are formed by adding –ly to the word. Comparative adverbs use more and less to compare to what degree two object perform an action. Some irregular adverbs do use the –er ending to make their comparison.	She runs more swiftly around the bases than her sister runs around the bases. She runs faster than her sister.
Complete Sentences	A group of words consisting of at least one subject and at least one verb that express a complete thought.	I am a student. I want to be a good teacher. School is so much fun. John and Jackie both love hamburgers.
Complex Sentence	An independent clause (simple sentence) with a dependent clause coming before or after.	-Since I was in town, I went to see my parents. -I went to see my parents since I was in town. -Because the kitten was tiny and sweet, I wanted it to sleep inside.
Complex Texts	Rhetorically sound essays, articles, novels, poems, short stories, or plays. Texts are said to be complex when they are at the proper level of difficulty to challenge the reader.	
Compound Complex Sentence	A sentence with at least two independent clauses and one dependent clause.	When I go to the store, I like to buy apples, but my little brother always wants to buy candy.
Compound Sentence	Two independent clauses (simple sentences) joined together with the correct punctuation (comma and coordinating conjunction or a semicolon.)	-I went to the store, and I bought a drink. -I moved to Alaska; I enjoy cool weather. =The elephant nudged the fence for the snack, and the giraffe danced over to the fence for peanuts.



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Concisely	Using as few words as necessary to convey the point the writer or speaker is trying to convey. The goal is not just to use fewer words but to use the exactly correct words to convey the point.	Not concise: There may some bad weather somewhere close by where you are, so you may want to find some place where you could safely hide away until it all over. Concise: The tornado is within five miles of your home. Seek shelter now.
Conditional	Conditional mood is used to speak of an event whose occurrence depends on another condition. It generally uses the verb – would and is found in the independent clause. The subjunctive mood occurs in the dependent clause.	I would be willing to sweep your driveway for you if you gave me both money and food.
Conditional Mood	Conditional mood is used to speak of an event whose occurrence depends on another condition. It generally uses the verb – would and is found in the independent clause. The subjunctive mood occurs in the dependent clause.	I can come to your house after school, if you would call my mother.
Conjunction	A part of speech used as connectors between words, clause, sentences, or phrases.	And, because, so, since, however, because
Conjunctive adverb	An adverb that is used to join two independent clauses. A semicolon or period must come before a conjunctive adverb and a comma is usually placed after the adverb.	I love to go to fishing; however, I do get sea sick. Other common conjunctive adverbs are: therefore, in fact, as a result, otherwise



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Consonant Sound	A sound represented by the letters of the alphabet excluding the vowels (a, e, i, o, u) that is made by controlling air flow in order to make a specific sound.	Making the “b” sound with the lips or making the “m” sound through the nose are examples.
Contested Usage	How a word or part of speech can or should be used can be disagreed upon. When that is the situation, students must be able to justify why they used the word they did, or at the very least realize the way in which they used the word could be incorrect. Students should be able to look through the necessary reference materials and determine a word’s correct usage.	One contested usage of coordinating conjunctions is that they should never be used to start a sentence. Yet, for rhetorical emphasis and sometimes the flow of a sentence the writer is better served using a hard period instead of a comma.
Contraction	The joining of two words with an apostrophe being used to signify the dropping of a letter or letters.	Can not becomes can’t. Does not becomes doesn’t.
Convention	The universally agreed upon rules, methods, or processes.	The subject and verb must agree in number.
Conventional Spelling	Universally accepted rules in the correct spelling of words.	
Coordinating Conjunction	Any one of a set of words that along with a preceding comma is able to join two independent clauses.	For, and, nor, but, or, yet, so. (FANBOYS) I am happy, and you are sweet.
Correlative Conjunction	Pair of words that are used to join two words or group of words. The second half of the pair is a coordinating conjunction.	Either...or, not only...but also, both...and, neither...nor.



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Dangling Modifiers	A dependent clause that comes at the beginning of a sentence that does not modify the correct subject.	Shopping in the store, candy bars are plentiful. “Shopping in the store” is said to be dangling because it is incorrectly modifying “candy bars.” While shopping in the store, I can see that candy bars are plentiful.
Dash	A dash (--) is used to indicate a pause just as a comma does; however, the dash represents a longer pause. A dash can be used to place emphasis on what is about to be read or said.	-I called my mother to tell her my news—but she already knew. -She did not have to save my life-- but she did.
Declarative Sentence	A sentence that states a fact and usually ends in a period.	People live on the Earth.
Demonstrative	A type of adjective that modifies the noun to show which object is being written or spoken about.	This hat, these shoes, that room, those houses
Dependent Clause	A group of words including a subject and a predicate that cannot stand alone as a simple sentence. It can also be called a subordinate clause. Some dependent clauses begin with a subordinating conjunction, such as -while or -though	Though the battery lost its charge, the clock continued to run. While I was at the beach.
Determiner	A type of adjective that includes articles and demonstratives to modify a noun or noun phrase in order to classify or identify the noun.	A chair, the table, her pocketbook, his wallet, your hat
Dialect	Varieties in speech generally based on time, place, education, social circumstances and culture	Feedin’ the hounds hushpuppies while a mess of fish cooks in the hot grease is a Friday night rite. Attending a show starring Broadway’s most talented is the activity of preference.



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Dialogue	The exact spoken words between two characters in a story or play. Dialogue is set off from the rest of the work by quotation marks.	Julie said, “I can’t believe we won!” “I know the game was so close,” answered Sam.
Direct Speech Quotation	A word or words that are repeated exactly as they were spoken or written by the source.	Pittman describes the “deep swamps of Georgia” as being places where life is “challenging and beautiful.”
Document	A sample of writing that has a purpose or theme.	A paragraph or group of sentences designed to convey a meaning.
Drama	Compositions written in verse or prose and in the form of a play involving action and dialogue for the purpose of presentation on stage.	“A Raisin in the Sun” is drama at its most socially aware and personally relevant.
Ellipsis	Ellipsis is represented by three dots. “...” They are used to show words from a quote have been omitted for the sake of space.	John Doe the politician said, “America is a nation that needs a strong English education program...and I am willing to make it happen!”
End Punctuation	Punctuation that signals the end of a sentence and signifies the type of sentence	Period, question mark, exclamation mark
Exclamatory Sentence	A sentence that conveys the excitement of the remark being made. These sentences almost always end in an exclamation mark.	The team won the championship!
Formal English	Writing and speaking that follows all of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage.	
Formal English Situations	Times at which a speaker or writer should follow all of the standard usage and grammar rules.	Making a presentation in front of a large audience. Writing an essay that is to be evaluated by a teacher or magazine editor. Interviewing for a job as a writer for a prestigious journal.



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Frequently Confused Words	Words that when spoken sound the same or very similar.	To, two, too. Their, they're, there Then, than Whether, weather
Function of Clauses	Independent clauses can function as a sentence. Dependent or subordinate clauses function as nouns, adjectives or adverbs in sentences.	I am happy about summer vacation. Because I am happy about summer vacation, I decided to be nice to my teacher. As a teacher of thirty years, I am also happy about summer vacation, but I will be ready to return to school in August.
Function of Phrases	Phrases can function to add information to a sentence or to shape it. Phrases can serve as nouns, verbs, adjectives, or adverbs.	Seeing my mother in parking lot was lucky for me. Nearing the edge was frightening and unwise. She wanted to draw, and becoming an artist was her ambition.
Gerund	A gerund is an -ing form of a verb, and it functions as a noun in a sentence.	Calling on the volunteers to help in the disaster was the only choice the town officials had.
High Frequency Words	Words that appear most often in printed materials	a, and, the, I, with...
Imperative	The mood for giving commands or making requests. The unstated or understood you is often the subject of the sentence.	Take this money and buy some groceries.
Imperative Sentence	A sentence that gives a command or order and can end in either an exclamation mark or a period.	Get out of my room!
Inappropriate Shift	A negative shift in writing is one that creates inconsistency because of an abrupt change. Shifts can occur in tense, number, voice, mood, person, number, pronoun, diction, tone, direct and indirect discourse.	The puppy ran across the grass to grab the toy. He is happy to grab the toy because he wanted to play. Her happy bark rang through the neighborhood. The toy gave him a focus for all of his energy.



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Inappropriate Shift in Pronoun Usage	Pronouns must agree in number and person. An inappropriate shift occurs when the writer changes number from either singular to plural or when the writer changes person from 1 st to 2 nd or 3 rd .	Everyone knows their role. I like scary movies that frighten you.
Inappropriate Shifts in Verb Tense and Aspect	Shifts in verb tense and aspect that create inconsistency in tense without explainable cause.	She walks to the store and bought some food. She will be eating her sandwich.
Indefinite Pronoun	A pronoun that is not referring to a specific defined object or objects.	One, many, some, anybody
Independent Clause	A group of word including a subject and a predicate that can stand alone as a simple sentence.	I am happy. The fish swam gleefully away.
Indicative	The mood used for stating facts, asking questions, or stating opinions is the indicative mood.	The election will be a time of great excitement. Do you believe that all citizens should vote? I believe that voting is an honor.
Infinitive	An infinitive is the –to form of a verb; in a sentence it functions as a noun, an adjective or an adverb.	To see his child is the soldier’s dream. He had a lot of time to plan his reunion. His wife was bringing his child to attend his ceremony of dismissal.
Informal English	Writing and speaking that incorporates slang, clichés, and nonstandard spelling.	Ain’t, fixing to, bro
Informal English Situations	Times at which a speaker or writer may incorporate a more relaxed tone and may for effect ignore some standard grammar and usage rules.	Small, casual group meetings. Casual conversation with a peer.



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Intensive Pronoun	A reflexive pronoun and an intensive pronoun are both defined as a pronoun in which the antecedent is referenced and combined with the –self ending to form the pronoun (myself, himself, herself). The difference is that an intensive pronoun can be omitted from the sentence and not change the sentence’s meaning.	I will contact our representative myself . The children played by themselves on the rocks near the river.
Interjection	Words that express emotion, which are usually found at the beginning of the sentence.	Oh! Wow!
Interrogative	Words that are used to start a question.	Who ate my Lunch? When did you arrive?
Interrogative Mood	Interrogative mood is used to ask questions. Specifically, it is an epistemic mood where the speaker wishes to garner information about what he or she has said from the listener.	Will you explain in depth to me your understanding of the causes of World War II after listening to my presentation of the facts?
Interrogative Sentence	A sentence that asks a question and usually ends in a question mark.	How many people are on the Earth?
Irregular Plural Noun	A noun that does not follow the conventional rules to becoming plural. The plural of these nouns is not formed by adding –s or –es.	Mouse becomes mice. Goose becomes geese.
Irregular Words for Spelling	Words that are not spelled as they are pronounced.	Height, circuit, unique
Italics	Function in the same way underlining functions. The titles of larger works are <i>italicized</i> .	<i>Novels, albums, books, television shows, movies</i>



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Items in a Series	A list of three or more items that are separated by a comma.	I went to the beach, to the store, to the movies, and to the house.
Language	A system of spoken or written communication	
Legible Handwriting	Handwriting is the form in which a student forms his or her letters and words. For handwriting to be legible, the handwriting must be formed in a way that it can be easily read. Not only should the handwriting be readable, but it should follow most of the accepted standard English usage and grammar conventions.	
Legible Work	Work that is formatted correctly, able to be read, and follows the conventions of spelling and punctuation.	
Legibly In Cursive	Cursive writing is the form in which a student writes his or her letters in connected script fashion. For cursive to be legible, the letters must be formed in the standard accepted way that can also be easily read. Not only should the letters be legible, but the writing sample should follow most of the accepted standard English usage and grammar conventions.	
Lowercase Letter	Standard form of a letter. This form is the smaller of the two types and is used in most instances.	a,b,c,d,e,f



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Misplaced Modifiers	A clause that is incorrectly placed in the sentence so that what it modifies is incorrect or unclear.	I saw a fish scuba diving in the reef. Fish do not scuba dive. I bought a car from a man with a large motor. Men do not have motors.
Modal Auxiliaries	Helping verbs that are used to place a condition on a main verb.	You may sit in that chair. She must appear by 8:15am to be counted present.
Modified	When the meaning of a word is changed by the words describing it.	A blue car. The car has been “modified” to show that is blue.
Nonrestrictive/Parenthetical Elements	Elements such as appositives, clauses, or phrases that do not limit the meanings of modified words. They are set off with commas.	The builders, who both graduated from Georgia Southern University, won the contract to build the new veterinary office.
Noun	A person, place, thing, or idea.	Democracy, state, fence
Noun Clause	A noun clause is a group of words with a subject and a verb that is dependent and functions as a noun in a sentence (as the subject, object, or complement). It is also called a nominal clause.	That hatred causes unhappiness is a fact that will not often be disputed.
Objective Pronoun	Pronouns that can be the direct or indirect object of the verb, object of the preposition, or any other instance where an object is needed.	Me, you, him, her, it, us, you, them. Call the ambulance for me. Our parents can be contacted by you. This situation will not upset them. Once the doctor sees her, all will be fine.
Parallel Structure	Parallel structure is a form of syntax in which word forms, sentences, clauses, or paragraphs are constructed in the same way.	When I get older, I want to make money, to spend time with my family, and to go to Europe. The infinitives “to make”, “to spend”, and “to go” are all parallel in structure.



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Parentheses	Parentheses () can be used around numbers and letters in a list or to add clarifying information to that which precedes.	The young father (a medical student with less than ten hours of sleep in two days) crawled out of bed and rocked his lonely infant for a little more than a long hour. Smith (1997) declared that winning was “not appreciated as much as it should be.
Participial Phrase	A phrase, usually acting as an adjective, that includes a present participle (-ing), a past participle (-ed) and any modifiers, complements or objects. It generally is found at either the beginning or the end of a sentence and is generally set apart from the rest of the sentence by a comma.	Watching the replay on the big screen, the football player waited to see if he had really scored a touchdown. He held his breath as he watched, scared to hope.
Participle	The present participle is the –ing form of a verb that functions as an adjective in a sentence. The past participle is usually the –ed form of a	The child was pretending to be a fighting soldier in Afghanistan. The risen dough seemed to be a promise that the rolls would be delicious.
	verb, but it can be form irregularly. The past participle also serves as an adjective in a sentence.	
Passive Voice	When the subject is being acted upon, the verb is in the passive voice.	The mail was handed to the customer by the mailman.
Past Tense of Irregular Verbs	With irregular verbs instead of adding –ed to form the past tense the whole word changes.	Today I sit; yesterday I sat. The present tense “I tell” does not become “I telled,” but it becomes “I told”.
Personal Pronoun	Subjective or objective pronoun that identifies who is speaking, who is spoken to, or who or what is being spoken about.	I like to talk to her when it is quiet in the room.



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Phonemes	A small unit of sound used in spoken words.	/d/ in dog. /b/ in bag.
Phonemic Awareness	A skill in which a student is able to hear, identify, and manipulate the parts of a word.	The student could hear the word “tab” and identify the “t” sound at the beginning of the word, the short vowel “a”, and the “b” sound at the end.
Phonetically Spelling Untaught Words	Being able to “sound out” words and spell them by comparing what is heard with what the student knows about the sounds of consonants and vowels.	Since the student has not been taught to spell the specific word, it is important that he or she is able to identify consonant and vowel sounds.
Phrases for effect	Phrases that more powerfully, purely, or connotatively contribute to the author’s intended tone/or purpose	The long slide down the barbaric slope chilled the courage of the young skier.
Poem	A composition written in verse.	My favorite poem is any poem by Dickinson or Whitman. “The Soul Selects her own Society...” “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’ d”
Position Based Spellings	Teaching predictable spellings of sounds based on where they are located in a word	Cow (ow likely at the end of the word) South (ou likely in the beginning of the word)
Possessive	The possessive form of a noun. Possessives are formed by adding an apostrophe s or in some cases just an apostrophe. Possessives also include the possessive form of pronouns.	John’s boat. Thomas’ home. Her hair.
Possessive Noun	A noun that shows ownership. The ownership is usually indicated by adding apostrophe “s”.	Bill’s, the dog’s



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Possessive Pronoun	A pronoun that shows ownership. A possessive pronoun does not use apostrophes.	My, your, yours, his, hers, its, our, their The dog is my pet. He likes to play in your flower garden. I try to tell him that your yard is not his playpen, but he does not like to stay in our fence.
Precisely	Using words that mean exactly what is meant to be said.	A basic example would be to use the word “Mustang” instead of “automobile.”
Preposition	A word used to express a special, temporal, or other relationship between two elements in a sentence.	Of, to, around, in, beside, into, through, -The pen is on the desk. -She went through the door.
Preposition	A word used to express a special, temporal, or other relationship between two elements in a sentence.	The apple is in the bowl. She slipped after the storm.
Prepositional Phrases	A group of words beginning with a preposition and ending with the object of a preposition.	I sat on a chair . I ate by a river .
Progressive Verb Aspects	Verb forms that show continuing action at a certain point in time.	He is working. He was working. He will be working.
Prompt	A more detailed and thought provoking exam question or writing assignment. Prompts may be more than just a question, and they may seek to frame the exam taker’s thinking in a certain way before giving the assigned writing topic.	After reading the selection, write a complete essay in which you describe the author’s use of tone, personal examples, and figurative language.
Pronoun	A word that stands for or represents a noun.	I, my, me, you, your, he, his, him, she, her, hers, it, its, we, our, us, you, your, they, their, them.



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Pronoun Antecedent Agreement	Pronouns must agree with their antecedent in number and person. For the third person singular pronoun “she” to be used, the antecedent would have to be a singular female who is not the speaker or who is being directly spoken to.	Julie is a great friend. She always listens to my troubles.
Pronoun Number	Pronouns are either singular or plural.	Everyone knows their role. This is incorrect because -everyone is singular and -their is plural. “Their” should be “his or her”.
Pronoun Person	Pronouns have three different persons or points of view. 1 st person contains the singular “I” and the plural “we”. 2 nd person contains the singular “you” and the plural “you”. Third person contains the singular “he”, “she”, and “it.” The third person plural is “they”.	I like scary movies that frighten you. This is incorrect because the writer shifted from 1 st person to 2 nd person, and this shift changed the meaning of the sentence.
Proper Noun	A noun that is naming a specific person, place, thing, or idea.	George Washington, Barack Obama, Washington, D.C.
Punctuation	The system of symbols or marks used to make writing or printing understandable.	Periods, commas, apostrophes, semicolons, dashes, etc.



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Punctuation for effect	When meaning needs to be clarified or enhanced through the placement of or choice of punctuation	I found success in cooking with spices like my mother. Like my mother, I found success in cooking with spices. My mother, a meticulous cook, is happy to have me in the kitchen. I love my mother; my mother loves my brother. The peach banana or blueberry yogurt is good. The peach, banana, or blueberry yogurt is good. I am happy to see you. I am happy to see you! I am happy to see you?
Quotation Mark	Marks of punctuation used to set off the exact spoken words of character or to set off the exact words taken from a text.	-According to Sam’s novel, “blue is a sad color.” -According to speaker, “children in groups do not always make smart decisions.” -Poems, chapters, scenes, episodes, articles, plays less than five acts
Redundancy	Using words that mean the same thing to convey meaning. Redundancy can be used for rhetorical emphasis, but is not considered a standard usage strategy.	An ATM machine is redundant because the “M” in ATM represents machine. Others include: SAT test Could possibly Join together. Empty out Introduced a new
Reference Material	Any one of many types of books, web pages, or other research utilities that can be used by a student to find factual answers.	Dictionary, encyclopedia, articles, essays, MLA handbooks, dictionaries, websites
Reflexive Pronoun	Pronoun in which the antecedent is referenced and combined with the –self ending to form the pronoun. (myself, himself, herself)	When I look into the lake’s smooth surface, I see a reflection of myself. He hit himself on the head with the bat.
Regular Plural Noun	To make a regular or standard noun plural, an –s or –es is added to the end of the noun.	Plates, toys pens, benches



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Relative Adverb	One of three main adverbs that begin a subordinate clause.	Where, when, and why. Sweetwater Park is the ball field where I hit my first homerun.
Relative Clause	A dependent clause (includes a subject and a verb) that modifies a noun or a noun phrase and is introduced by a relative pronoun (which, that, who, whom, whose), a relative adverb (when, where, why), or a zero relative. It is also known as an adjective clause. Omitting the relative pronoun or relative adverb is using the zero relative and is acceptable as long as the first word of the phrase is not a verb.	The truck driver who swerved to avoid the accident probably saved our lives. I was told (that) I would be graduating in May. In this case, omitting the word –that is using the zero relative.
Relative Pronoun	Pronoun that starts a subordinate clause that acts as an adjective clause.	who, whom, whose, whoever, whosoever, which
Rhetorically Poor Fragment	A word group that is missing at least a subject or a verb and does not express a complete thought. A fragment may be okay if the writer intends to write the fragment for a specific rhetorical reason. A rhetorically poor fragment does not accomplish any rhetorical goal and is a mistake.	When I was younger.
Rhetorically Poor Run-on	A word group that contains at least two independent clauses that are joined with a conjunction but without punctuation.	My dog is my friend and I think he is wonderful.



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Semicolon	A semicolon “;” can be used to join two independent clauses and also to separate items in a series where commas are already being used to define the items.	I love to go to baseball games; batting practice is my favorite part of the night. I have been to Atlanta, Georgia; Houston, Texas; and New York, New York.
Sentence Patterns	Sentence patterns can be determined in a variety of ways. They may be classified according to verb by verbs of being, linking verb, and action verb. They may be classified by the order of the subject, verb, direct object, indirect object or objective complement in the sentence. They may be classified by how independent clauses are joined and the placement of dependent clauses.	I am a runner. I am running in the gym. I run in the gym every day. I collapsed. I caught the ball. I tossed Megan the ball. I am sick. I am tired. I am sick, and I am tired. I am sick; I am tired.
Short Vowel Sound	The five vowels a, e, i, o, and u make either short or long sounds. The short vowel sound is the same as a soft vowel sound.	Bat, let, bit, lot, up
Simple Sentence	A group of words consisting of one subject and one verb that express a complete thought.	I went to the store.
Simple Verb Tense	The three verb tenses of present, past, and future.	I love you today. I loved you yesterday. I will love you in the future.
Singular Noun	A noun that is preceded by the articles “a” or “an” that is only one in number.	A dog, a girl, an apple, an event



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Spell Phonetically	Being able to “sound out” words and spell them by comparing what is heard with what the student knows about the sounds of consonants and vowels.	The student could hear the word “bat” and identify the “b” sound at the beginning of the word, the short vowel “a”, and the “t” sound at the end.
Spelling Conventions	The accepted and universally used spelling rules and methods.	
Spelling Pattern	Certain sounds can be made in many different ways in the English language. Spelling patterns are used when there is not a hard and fast rule to explain why a word is spelled a certain way.	Great, bait, fate, weight
Standard English Grammar	The accepted way in which words are properly arranged. One rule is that a comma is used to set off introductory material from the independent clause.	Because I am hungry, I bought a sandwich.
Standard English Usage	The accepted way in which words are implemented to convey meaning.	
Style	The distinctive manner in which a writer crafts his work, including diction, syntax, and figurative language	The boy lived. The joy of finding young Joshua permeated every cell in the mother’s distraught body, bringing with it a release of tension so great that she collapsed to her knees, sobbing his name and wringing her hands in thanksgiving.
Style Manual	A book of grammar and formatting rules that helps the student research answers to questions about English Language grammar and usage conventions.	MLA Handbook



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Subject Verb Agreement	Subjects and Verbs must agree in number. If the subject is singular, the verb must also be in its singular form. If the subject is plural, the verb must be in its plural form.	Julie hits the ball. Her teammates cheer her on.
Subjective Pronoun	Pronouns that can be the subject in a sentence.	I, you, he, she, it, we, you, they. I will call the ambulance. You can call our parents. They will not be upset. She is going to be fine when she sees a doctor.
Subjunctive Mood	The subjunctive mood may express conditions or wishes that are contradictory to facts, demands, or requests. The present form of the subjunctive is the same as the past form of the indicative, unless the verb -be is used. The subjunctive uses -were for all subjects when using the verb -be.	If I were going to the movie, I could not watch the parts that are scary.
Subordinating Conjunction	Any one of a set of words that can connect a dependent clause to an independent clause. Most of the time the dependent or subordinate clause is dependent because of the subordinating conjunction.	Because, since, if, though... If you come to visit me in Hartwell, we will go to the lake to fish. We will go to the lake to fish if you come to visit me.
Suffixes	A group of letters added to the end of the root of a word	Encouragement, friendless



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Superlative Adjective	An adjective that tells the difference between three or more objects, people, ideas, or places. It can be formed by adding –est to a single syllable word or by using most or least.	She is the skinniest girl I have ever seen.
Superlative Adverb	Tells to what degree in relation to three or more objects an action is being performed.	She is the fastest runner on her team.
Syllable Patterns	Words have different syllable patterns. Three common patterns are CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant), CVVC (consonant, vowel, vowel, consonant) and CVCe (consonant, vowel, consonant, letter e). The vowels have somewhat predictable sounds within each pattern.	CVC (short vowel sound) cat, top, sit CVVC (long sound of first vowel) meat, leap, CVCe (long vowel sound, silent e) hike, tone, bane
Syntax	The rules governing the formal construction of sentences. Syntax is the way in which words are grammatically placed together to form sentences.	I want to graduate from high school. Graduating from high school is a personal goal of mine. Graduation will be a happy experience for me because I will have reached an important personal goal.
Temporal words	Temporal words are transition words that alert readers to shifts in ideas. Temporal words usually indicate the sequence/order (elementary). Temporal transition words can also indicate addition, exception, contrast, comparison, location, cause and effect, emphasis summary and conclusion (middle/high).	Rosie asked what the surprise was. First , the teacher was quiet. Next , she stopped to tell us that the second grade class would be getting a treat today – ice cream. Wow!



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Tone	Tone is the way an author expresses his or her opinion about himself or herself, the content or subject, and the audience.	The author’s tone was condescending; I felt as though he viewed himself as being far superior to the mere students who studied his work.
Underlining	A title of a major work is underlined. Usually the larger work is underlined and what is contained in that work is placed in quotation marks.	Novels, albums, books, television shows, movies
Uppercase Letter	A capital letter is the larger form of a letter. Used with proper nouns, first letter at the beginning of sentence, the pronoun “I”, and in other special instances.	A,B,C,D,E,F
Usage as a Matter of Convention	The English language is always evolving and word meanings change over time. Slang and clichés change the meaning of a word and the accepted usage of that word changes.	Geek has come to mean someone who is technologically sound maybe even at the expense of his or her social status; whereas, originally it was the name for a performer who bit the live head off of a bird.
Vague Pronoun	A pronoun with an antecedent that is not clear.	When the glass ball hit the glass door, it broke. Did the ball or the door break?
Verb	A word that expresses an action or a state of being.	She threw the ball. He is happy about his grade.
Verb Mood	Verbs are generally indicative, subjunctive, or imperative in mood. They should be written consistently when possible.	Be sure to hang up the clothes in the laundry room, and will you move the clothes from the dryer? If you were to help me, I would appreciate the effort, and fold the clothes as well. (Inconsistent) Please help me by working in the laundry room. You can take the clothes from the dryer and either fold them or put them on hangers.
Verb Phrase	A verb that is made up of more than one word and still functions as the simple predicate of the sentence.	Ben is running in the marathon.



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Verb Voice	Verbs are active or passive in voice. Generally, but not always, one would want to keep the voice consistent. Active voice is also generally preferred.	I hugged my mother, picked up my keys, and opened the door. My mother was hugged by me, and then my keys were picked up as I walked through the door that had been opened.
Verbals	Verb forms that do not function as verbs in the sentence are verbals. Verbals function in a sentence as noun adjectives and adverbs. Infinitives, participles, and gerunds are verbals.	Hoping for the best is a way of life. (gerund) To hope is to live. (infinitive) The woman hoping to hear from her son is Mrs. Green. (participle)
Word Families	Sets of words that are closely related to each other, generally in form or in meaning, can create a word family.	Interested, interesting, uninteresting, disinterested
Wordiness	Adding words to a writing sample or speech with the intent of sounding more sophisticated than the writer or speaker really is.	Wordy: The officer of the law delayed my excursion, for he did not appreciate at all the manner in which I was driving. He had the audacity to arrogantly issue to me a citation for excessive speeding. Not as wordy: I am late because the police officer gave me a speeding ticket.
Words for effect	Words that more powerfully, purely, or connotatively contribute to the author's intended tone and/or purpose	The putrid smell of dead fish A lavender monogram on cuffed shirt The wheezing of the aged ladies who had laughed together all afternoon

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