

Vocabulary

Vocabulary

Study the vocabulary words and definitions below as a reference for this unit.

antecedent the word a pronoun replaces or refers to

appositive a noun or a pronoun placed next to another noun or pronoun to identify, rename, or describe it

appositive phrase a phrase that consists of an appositive and its modifier

audience the readers to whom a piece of writing is directed or the listeners to whom a talk is directed

body paragraphs the sentences between the topic sentence and the ending sentence that develop the main idea of the paragraph

capitalization the use of uppercase letters in writing
Example: On a Saturday in April, Max was born in Tallahassee, Florida.

closing sentence or clincher the final sentence of a paragraph

comma splice a run-on sentence in which two sentences have been joined with only a comma between them
Example: comma splice—My sister Mae has a new car, I get to drive it on weekends.
revised—My sister Mae has a new car, and I get to drive it on weekends.
revised—My sister Mae has a new car; I get to drive it on weekends.
revised—My sister Mae has a new car. I get to drive it on weekends.

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- common nouns**nouns that name a general class of persons (*boys, children*), places (*playgrounds, schools*), things (*apples, bicycles*), or ideas (love, truth)
- complex sentence**a sentence that has one independent clause and at least one subordinate clause
- compound sentence**a sentence that has two or more independent clauses and no subordinate clauses
- declarative sentence**a sentence that makes a statement and ends with a period (.)
Example: These are new books.
- details**the added information about a topic
- edit**the second step in the process of fine-tuning your writing; to check the grammar, punctuation, and spelling of your writing
- end marks**the punctuation marks that come after a sentence: period (.), question mark (?), exclamation point (!)
- essay**a short piece of writing on a single subject that expresses a specific point of view
- exclamatory sentence**a sentence that expresses a strong feeling and ends with an exclamation point (!)
Example: I got lost!

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expository writingwriting that explains something or informs readers

factsobjective statements that can be proven by experience, observation, or study

fused sentencea run-on sentence in which sentences have been joined together with no punctuation between them
Example: fused sentence—I got up late Saturday morning I didn't have time for breakfast.
revised—I got up late Saturday morning, **so** I didn't have time for breakfast.
revised—I got up late Saturday morning; I didn't have time for breakfast.
revised—I got up late Saturday morning. I didn't have time for breakfast.

imperative sentencea sentence that gives a command or makes a request and ends with a period (.) or an exclamation point (!)
Example: Call home. Don't panic!

independent clausea group of words that contains a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought; can stand by itself as a sentence
Example: After we finish lunch, Ms. Keele took us to the library.

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interrogative sentencea sentence that asks a question and ends with a question mark (?)

Example: Where are you going?

modifiera word or group of words that makes the meaning of another word or words more specific

nouna word that names a person, place, thing, or idea

noun-pronoun agreementmaking pronouns match the nouns they refer to; pronouns must match their nouns in case, gender, and number
Example: Juanita jumped for joy after *she* won *her* first state tennis tournament.

object of the prepositionthe noun or pronoun that completes a prepositional phrase

Example: The airplane flew
into the clouds.
prepositional phrase object of the preposition
 into

paragrapha group of related sentences that present and develop one main idea

phrasea group of words that does not contain both a subject and verb, although it may have one but not both

predicatethe part of the sentence that says something about the subject
Example: Rita threw a perfect strike to third base to nail the base runner.

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- preposition**a word that shows the relationship between a noun or a pronoun and another word in the sentence
Example:
Your ring is *on* the dresser.
Your ring is *in* the dresser.
Your ring is *under* the dresser.
Your ring is *behind* the dresser.
- prepositional phrase**a group of words that begins with a preposition and usually ends with a noun or pronoun called the object of the preposition
Example:
object of the preposition *to*
The road led *to the town*.
prepositional phrase
- pronoun**a word that is used instead of a noun to refer to a person, place, thing, or idea
- proofread**the third step in the process of fine-tuning your writing; to check for typos, omitted words, and other errors
- proper nouns**nouns that name specific persons (John Steinbeck), places (Florida), things (Model T Ford)
- punctuation**symbols or marks that help readers understand the meaning of a sentence
Example: Juanita asked, "John, can't you even make toast without needing directions?"
- purpose**the specific reason a person has for writing

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revisethe first step in the process of fine-tuning your writing; to improve the content and language of your writing

run-on sentencetwo or more sentences that are joined together with commas or without any punctuation marks to separate them
Example: John ran to the store Juanita stayed to watch the football game.

sentencea group of words that expresses a complete thought and contains a subject and a verb

sentence fragmenta group of words that does not express a complete thought

subjectwhom or what a sentence is about

subject-verb agreementmaking the verb of a sentence match its subject in number

Examples:

The dog *plays* outside. (singular subject and verb)

The dogs *play* outside. (plural subject and verb)

subordinate clause or

dependent clausea group of words that contains a subject and a verb but does *not* express a complete thought; cannot stand alone as a sentence

subtopica part of the topic and thesis broken down into parts