Key Meta Language

Familiarise yourself with the following terms, definitions and examples as you will come across them throughout the Online Grammar Course.

▷ Verb

Definition: A word used to describe an action, state or occurrence and forming the main part of the predicate of a sentence.

Examples: run, sleep, take, eat, drive

Types: modal, auxiliary etc...

▷ Phrasal Verb

Definition: An idiomatic phrase containing a verb and another element, usually either an adverb, as in turn down, or a preposition, for example see to, or a combination of both, such as look down on.

Examples: get in, get off, put in

▷ Adverb

Definition: A word or phrase that modifies the meaning of an adjective, verb, or other adverb expressing manner, place, time, or degree.

Examples: usually, never, easily, slowly

Types: sentence adverbs, comparatives, superlatives etc...

▷ Noun

Definition: A word (other than a pronoun) used to identify any class of people, places and things.

Examples: life, computer, book, table

Types: count, proper etc...
Pronoun
Definition: A class of words that ‘stand in’ for other words such as nouns, noun phrases and other pronouns. Pronouns enable the writer or speaker to refer back to something that has already been expressed whilst avoiding long-winded repetitions.
Examples: he, his, her, they
Types: personal, possessive, relative etc...

Adjective
Definition: A word naming an attribute of a noun, such as sour, blue, or technical.
Examples: old, red, straight, dark
Types: qualitative, proper etc...

Article
Definition: Articles form part of a larger group of words known as determiners. A determiner is a modifying word that determines the kind of reference a noun or noun group has.
Examples: a, an, the
Types: definite, indefinite

Preposition
Definition: A word governing, and usually preceding, a noun or pronoun and expressing a relation to another word or element in the clause, as in ‘the girl on the train.’
Examples: in, on, under, behind, up

Quantifier
Definition: A determiner or pronoun indicative of quantity (e.g. all, both).
Examples: many, few, several

Prefix
Definition: An element placed at the beginning of a word to alter or qualify its meaning e.g. ‘prenuptial’.
Examples: pre-, post-, ex-, ante-
Suffix

Definition: An element placed at the end of a word to alter its meaning, such as ‘extendable’. In some cases, a suffix can alter the word class as well.

Examples: -able, -tion, -ery

Question Tag

Definition: Question tags are ‘tagged on’ to the end of statements to convert them into questions. This is usually used during a conversation to elicit a response from the listener.

Examples: aren’t you? / isn’t he?