TEACHERS' PRODUCTION

My Grammar Handbook

Lower Primary

Written & illustrated by Zenda Leu

VERBS IDIOMS ADVERBS

ANTONYMS PROVERBS

NOUNS PLACES ARTICLES

ADJECTIVES PRONOUNS

OCCUPATIONS SOUNDS

SIMILES CONJUNCTIONS

This book belongs to:

Class:

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Understanding the English Language

All the words in the English Language have been divided into groups. These word groups are called the **Parts of Speech.**

1. **Nouns** name a person, place, thing, an animal or an idea.

2. **Pronouns** *(I, me, you)* are used in place of nouns.

3. **Adjectives** *(short, slow, clever)* describe a noun or pronoun.

4. **Verbs** *(is, run, hop)* express actions or state of being.

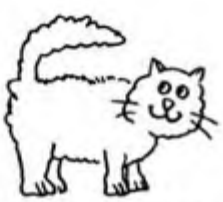
5. **Adverbs** *(slowly, softly, quickly)* tell something about a verb, an adjective or another adverb.

6. **Prepositions** *(on, near, over)* show how a noun is related to some other words in the sentence.

7. **Conjunctions** *(and, or, because)* connect words or groups of words.

8. **Interjections** *(Wow, Oh, Yikes!)* show emotions or surprises.

9. **Articles** *(a, an, the)*.



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Nouns

A **noun** is a word which names a person, thing, place, an animal or an idea.

Person
Annie
Mr Wong
carpenter
fireman
friend
girl
John
nurse
teacher

Animal
ant
bird
dinosaur
dog
fish
lizard
monkey
tiger
turtle

Thing
bag
bed
building
car
coin
computer
ribbon
pencil
toy

Place
London
Japan
bus-stop
city
home
market
mountain
park
pond

Idea
faith
fear
friendship
happiness
hope
joy
love
sadness
trouble

Common and Proper Nouns

Common nouns are the *general* names of people, animals, places, things or ideas. Common nouns do not start with capital letters.

Proper nouns are the *special* names of people, animals, places or things. Proper nouns start with capital letters.

Common Nouns	Proper Nouns
boy	Benjamin, James
car	Mercedes, Toyota
continent	Asia, Europe
country	Singapore, Thailand
day	Sunday, Tuesday
girl	Joanna, Mary
holiday	Christmas Day, National Day
island	Sentosa, Bali
lake	Lake Toba, Lake Mead
language	English, Malay
month	January, July
mountain	Mount Everest, Mount Fuji
people	Singaporean, American
place	Queenstown, Jurong
sea	Red Sea, South China Sea
street	Shenton Way, Amoy Street

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Gender Nouns

A noun can be in one of the **four genders**:

Masculine gender: These are words that describe **male** creatures (boy, brother, rooster).

Feminine gender : These are words that describe **female** creatures (girl, sister, hen).

Common gender : These are words that describe **either male or female** creatures (child, adult, bird).

Neuter gender : These are words that describe things that are **neither male nor female** (apple, bed).

People

Masculine	Feminine
actor	actress
bachelor	spinster
boy	girl
boy scout	girl guide
bridegroom	bride
fiancé	fiancée
gentleman	lady
god	goddess
headmaster	headmistress
hero	heroine
host	hostess
lad	lass

Masculine	Feminine
landlord	landlady
male	female
man	woman
master	mistress
monk	nun
salesman	salesgirl
sir	madam
steward	stewardess
tailor	seamstress
waiter	waitress
widower	widow
wizard	witch

Family

Masculine	Feminine
brother	sister
daddy	mummy
father	mother
grandpa	grandma
husband	wife

Masculine	Feminine
nephew	niece
papa	mama
son	daughter
step-father	step-mother
uncle	aunt

Royalty

count	countess
duke	duchess
emperor	empress
heir	heiress

His Majesty	Her Majesty
king	queen
lord	lady
prince	princess

Animals

boar	sow
billy-goat	nanny-goat
buck-rabbit	doe-rabbit
buck (deer)	doe
bull	cow
cock	hen
colt	filly
dog	bitch
drone	bee
drake	duck
fox	vixen

gander	goose
he-bear	she-bear
leopard	leopardess
lion	lioness
peacock	peahen
ram	ewe
stag	hind
stallion	mare
tom cat	tabby cat
tiger	tigress
he-wolf	she-wolf

Singular and Plural Nouns

A **singular noun** is used for **ONE** person, animal, thing, place or idea.

A **plural noun** is used for **MORE THAN ONE** person, animal, thing, place or idea.

Regular Plural Nouns

1. By adding an 's' to the singular nouns:

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
apple	apples	hand	hands
bag	bags	leg	legs
banana	bananas	pencil	pencils
book	books	school	schools
cake	cakes	stamp	stamps
cow	cows	street	streets
girl	girls	table	tables

2. By adding 'es' to nouns ending in 'ch, sh, s and x':

batch	batches	match	matches
beach	beaches	patch	patches
bench	benches	peach	peaches
branch	branches	punch	punches
brooch	brooches	sandwich	sandwiches
bunch	bunches	stitch	stitches
church	churches	torch	torches
couch	couches	watch	watches

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Singular	Plural
ash	ashes
brush	brushes
bush	bushes

Singular	Plural
dish	dishes
flash	flashes
wish	wishes

boss	bosses
bus	buses
class	classes
dress	dresses

gas	gases
glass	glasses
guess	guesses
kiss	kisses

box	boxes
fox	foxes

sex	sexes
tax	taxes

3. By adding 'es' to nouns ending in 'o':

buffalo	buffaloes
cargo	cargoes
echo	echoes
hero	heroes

mango	mangoes
mosquito	mosquitoes
potato	potatoes
tomato	tomatoes

Some nouns do not follow this rule. By adding an 's' to nouns such as musical terms, words of Spanish origin or nouns ending in 'o' (with a vowel just before the o):

banjo	banjos
dynamo	dynamos
photo	photos
piano	pianos
piccolo	piccolos
radio	radios

studio	studios
taco	tacos
zoo	zoos
cuckoo	cuckoos
igloo	igloos
tattoo	tattoos

4. By changing nouns ending in 'f' or 'fe' to 'ves':

Singular	Plural
calf	calves
elf	elves
half	halves
leaf	leaves
loaf	loaves
scarf	scarves

Singular	Plural
shelf	shelves
thief	thieves
wolf	wolves
knife	knives
life	lives
wife	wives

There are some exceptions:

chef	chefs
chief	chiefs
cliff	cliffs
giraffe	giraffes
handkerchief	handkerchiefs

proof	proofs
puff	puffs
reef	reefs
roof	roofs
safe	safes

5. By changing nouns ending in 'y' to 'ies':

army	armies
baby	babies
body	bodies
city	cities
enemy	enemies
laboratory	laboratories
lady	ladies
library	libraries

lorry	lorries
pony	ponies
puppy	puppies
story	stories
cry	cries
fly	flies
fry	fries
sky	skies

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By adding an 's' if the letter before 'y' is a vowel:

Singular	Plural
day	days
way	ways
boy	boys
joy	joys
toy	toys
chimney	chimneys

Singular	Plural
donkey	donkeys
key	keys
monkey	monkeys
storey	storeys
turkey	turkeys
valley	valleys

Irregular Plural Form

1. Some plural nouns are formed by changing the vowels:

foot	feet
goose	geese
man	men

policeman	policemen
tooth	teeth
woman	women

2. Some plural nouns do not follow any rules:

cactus	cacti
fungus	fungi
child	children

louse	lice
mouse	mice
ox	oxen

3. Compound nouns form their plurals by adding an 's' to the most important word in the compound:

maid-servant	maid-servants
man-of-war	men-of-war
mother-in-law	mothers-in-law
mouse-trap	mouse-traps
passer-by	passers-by
step-son	step-sons

4. Compound nouns that are used as adjectives do not have an 's' added to them:

a five-**day** week	a ten-**dollar** note
a seven-**storey** building	a thirty-**cent** stamp
a six-**year**-old child	a twenty-**cent** coin

5. Some nouns have their singular and plural form alike:

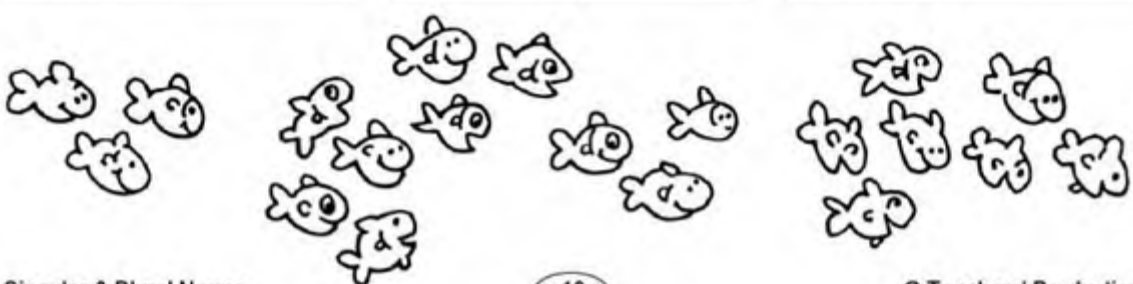
Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
aircraft	aircraft	fish	fish / fishes
cattle	cattle	fruit	fruit / fruits
Chinese	Chinese	sheep	sheep
deer	deer	trout	trout

6. Some nouns are used only in the plural form:

chopsticks	mumps	shorts
clothes	pants	slacks
drawers	pincers	spectacles
jeans	pyjamas	tongs
measles	scissors	trousers

7. Some nouns are used only in the singular form:

advice	information	silver
clothing	luggage	stationery
fun	machinery	traffic
furniture	poetry	water
help	scenery	young



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Collective Nouns

A collective noun is a word used to group people, animals, places, things, or ideas.

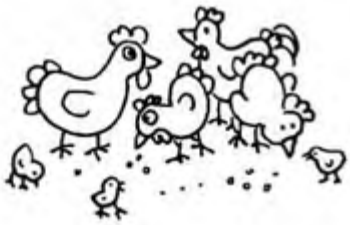
People

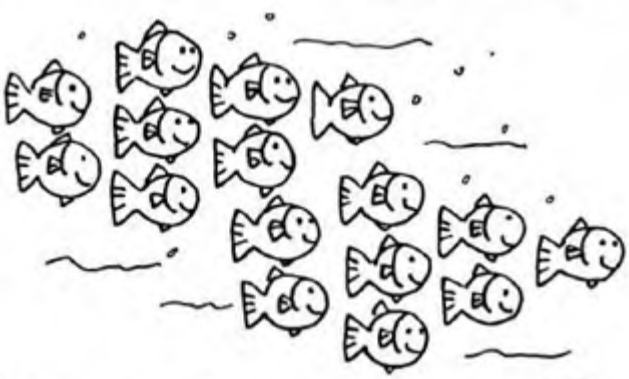
an **army** of soldiers
a **band** of musicians / robbers
a **bevy** of beauties / ladies
a **choir** of singers
a **class** of pupils / students
a **company** of actors / actresses
a **crew** of sailors
a **crowd** of spectators
a **flood** of visitors
a **gang** of thieves / robbers / labourers
a **host** of angels
a **panel** of doctors / judges
a **staff** of servants / teachers
a **team** of players
a **troupe** of acrobats / dancers / performers

assembly	people at a hall or meeting
audience	people at a concert, lecture or play
congregation	people in a place of worship, like a church
crowd	a large number of people together
queue	people lining up to enter a place, to get on a bus or to buy something
spectators	people watching a game or an event

Animals

an **ambush** of tigers
an **army** of ants
a **brood** of chickens
a **flight** of swallows
a **flock** of birds / sheep
a **gaggle** of geese
a **herd** of buffaloes / cattle / elephants / reindeer / zebras
a **litter** of kittens / puppies
a **nest** of rabbits / mice / ants
a **pack** of wolves
a **parcel** of penguins
a **plague** of insects / locusts
a **pod** of whales / seals
a **pride** of lions
a **school** of whales / fish
a **shoal** of herring / fish
a **stud** of horses
a **swarm** of bees / flies / insects
a **team** of oxen
a **troop** of monkeys / kangaroos





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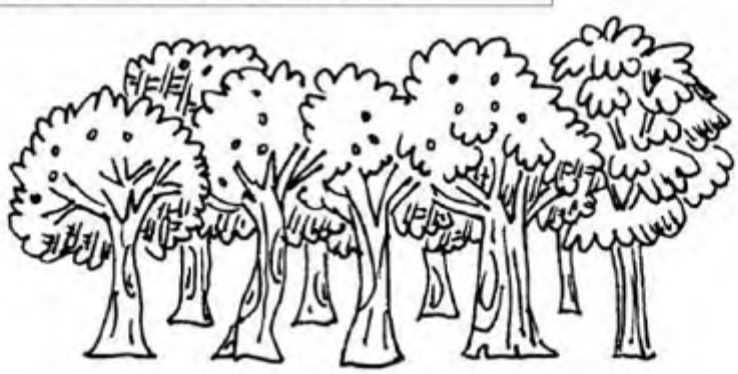
Things

an **album** of photographs / stamps
a **ball** of thread / string
a **bale** of cotton / wool
a **block** of flats / wood
a **bouquet** of flowers
a **bowl** of rice / soup
a **bunch** of grapes / keys
a **bundle** of rags / sticks
a **carton** of drinks / canned food
a **chain** of events / islands / shops
a **chest** of drawers
a **cluster** of diamonds / stars / trees
a **collection** of antiques / books / pictures / stamps
a **comb** of bananas
a **crate** of fruit / crockery
a **fleet** of buses / cars / ships
a **flight** of aeroplanes / stairs / steps
a **flood** of ideas / lights / tears
a **forest** of trees
a **heap** of rubbish / ruins / stones



Things

a **kit** of tools

a **library** of books

a **list** of names / words

a **loaf** of bread

a **pack** of cards / lies

a **packet** of sugar / sweets

a **pair** of socks / shoes / trousers / scissors

a **piece** of cake / meat / cloth

a **pile** of books / money / rubbish / stones

a **pot** of coffee / tea / honey

a **puddle** of water

a **series** of books / events / lectures / talks

a **quiver** of arrows

a **set** of books / china / furniture / tools

a **shelf** of books

a **shower** of blessings / praises

a **stack** of books / money / hay / sticks

a **string** of beads / pearls

a **suit** of clothes

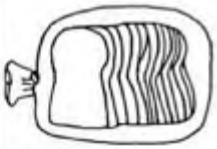
a **suite** of furniture / rooms

a **tray** of eggs

a **tuft** of grass / hair

a **volley** of bullets / stones

a **wad** of bank notes



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Things in Small Amounts

a **beam** of light
a **blade** of grass
a **blob** of paint
a **crumb** of bread
a **dab** of colour
a **dash** of pepper / sauce
a **dollop** of jam
a **drop** of water / rain / tear
a **grain** of rice / sugar
a **lock** of hair
a **lump** of butter
an **ounce** of energy
a **piece** of paper
a **pinch** of salt
a **puff** of perfume
a **ray** of light
a **scrap** of food / paper
a **shred** of cloth
a **sip** of water
a **speck** of dirt / dust
a **splinter** of wood
a **spoonful** of sugar / salt / medicine
a **whiff** of air / wind
a **wisp** of smoke

a **lock** of hair

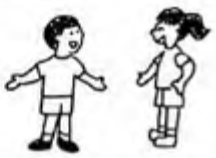
a **sip** of water

Pronouns

A **pronoun** is a word used in place of a noun.

The tables below are some examples of pronouns.

Personal Pronouns		Possessive Pronouns	Reflexive Pronouns
Subject	**Object**		
I	me	mine	myself
you	you	yours	yourself
he	him	his	himself
she	her	hers	herself
we	us	ours	ourselves
they	them	theirs	themselves



- ✓ **Personal Pronouns** are used for people: ***They*** *are looking for* ***you***.
- ✓ **Possessive Pronouns** are used to indicate who owns the objects or ideas: *These coins are* ***yours***.
- ✓ **Reflexive Pronouns** are used to refer to the personal pronouns: *We did the work* ***ourselves***.

Demonstrative Pronouns

this	What is **this**? **This** is a ball.
that	What is **that**? **That** is a monkey.
these	What are **these**? **These** are mangoes.
those	What are **those**? **Those** are tadpoles.

- ✓ **This** and **these** are used for people, things or animals which are near the speaker.
- ✓ **That** and **those** are used for people, things or animals which are further away from the speaker.

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Interrogative Pronouns are used to ask questions.

What	**What** are you holding in your hands?
Which	**Which** of these shirts is his?
Who	**Who** is in the room?
Whom	For **whom** are you baking the cakes?
Whose	**Whose** are these?

Relative Pronouns take the place of nouns. They are used to join two sentences into one.

Who	I know the boy **who** is waiting outside our house.
Which	My father bought a shirt **which** cost a hundred dollars.
That	This is the toy **that** my brother wanted.
Whose	She is the girl **whose** parents are teachers.
Whom	That is the neighbour with **whom** we shared the garden.
What	He has not decided **what** to buy for his mother.

Note:

- ✓ **Who** is usually used for **persons**.
- ✓ **Which** is used for **animals** and **things**.
- ✓ **That** is used for **persons**, **animals** and **things**.
- ✓ **What** refers to **things** only.

Adjectives

An adjective is a **describing** word.
It tells you more about a noun.

Comparison of Adjectives

We compare adjectives in different ways.

✓ **Positive form**

When we do not compare a noun or an object with anyone or anything, we use the positive form:

*Jason is a **tall** boy.*

✓ **Comparative form**

When we compare two persons, places, things or ideas we use the comparative form:

*Chee Beng is **taller** than Jason.*

✓ **Superlative form**

When we compare more than two persons, places, things or ideas we use the superlative form:

*Raj is the **tallest** of them all.*

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
brave	braver	bravest
large	larger	largest
late	later	latest
safe	safer	safest
simple	simpler	simplest
white	whiter	whitest
wide	wider	widest
wise	wiser	wisest

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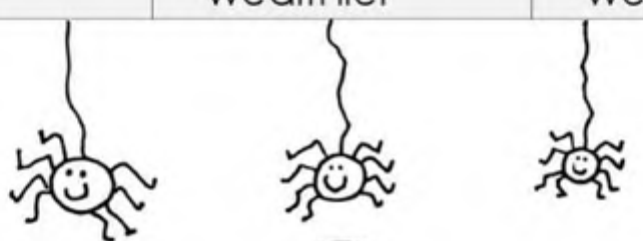
Positive	Comparative	Superlative
black	blacker	blackest
bright	brighter	brightest
clean	cleaner	cleanest
clever	cleverer	cleverest
cold	colder	coldest
dark	darker	darkest
dear	dearer	dearest
deep	deeper	deepest
fair	fairer	fairest
fast	faster	fastest
great	greater	greatest
green	greener	greenest
hard	harder	hardest
high	higher	highest
kind	kinder	kindest
light	lighter	lightest
long	longer	longest
low	lower	lowest
narrow	narrower	narrowest
near	nearer	nearest
new	newer	newest
old	older	oldest
poor	poorer	poorest
proud	prouder	proudest
quick	quicker	quickest
rich	richer	richest
sharp	sharper	sharpest
short	shorter	shortest
slow	slower	slowest

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
small	smaller	smallest
smooth	smoother	smoothest
strong	stronger	strongest
sweet	sweeter	sweetest
tall	taller	tallest
thick	thicker	thickest
warm	warmer	warmest
young	younger	youngest

busy	busier	busiest
dirty	dirtier	dirtiest
dry	drier	driest
easy	easier	easiest
funny	funnier	funniest
happy	happier	happiest
healthy	healthier	healthiest
heavy	heavier	heaviest
lazy	lazier	laziest
lucky	luckier	luckiest
naughty	naughtier	naughtiest
noisy	noisier	noisiest
pretty	prettier	prettiest
tiny	tinier	tiniest
ugly	uglier	ugliest
wealthy	wealthier	wealthiest



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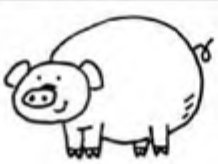
Positive	Comparative	Superlative
big	bigger	biggest
fat	fatter	fattest
hot	hotter	hottest
mad	madder	maddest
red	redder	reddest
sad	sadder	saddest
thin	thinner	thinnest
wet	wetter	wettest

beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
careful	more careful	most careful
comfortable	more comfortable	most comfortable
courteous	more courteous	most courteous
difficult	more difficult	most difficult
expensive	more expensive	most expensive
honest	more honest	most honest
important	more important	most important
interesting	more interesting	most interesting
powerful	more powerful	most powerful
useful	more useful	most useful
wonderful	more wonderful	most wonderful

bad	worse	worst
good	better	best
little	less	least
many/much	more	most



Verbs

A verb is a **doing** word. A verb tells us what a person or thing does.

Forms of Verbs

Simple Present	Albert **eats** an egg every day.
Simple Past	Albert **ate** an egg yesterday.
Past Participle	Albert has **eaten** an egg.

Table of Verbs

Simple Present	Simple Past	Past Participle
am, is	was	been
are	were	been
does, do	did	done
has, have	had	had
become	became	become
begin	began	begun
bend	bent	bent
bite	bit	bitten
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
bring	brought	brought
build	built	built
buy	bought	bought
catch	caught	caught
choose	chose	chosen
come	came	come
dig	dug	dug
draw	drew	drawn

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Simple Present	Simple Past	Past Participle
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feed	fed	fed
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
fly	flew	flown
forget	forgot	forgotten
forgive	forgave	forgiven
get	got	got
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
grow	grew	grown
hear	heard	heard
hide	hid	hidden
keep	kept	kept
know	knew	known
leave	left	left
lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
meet	met	met
pay	paid	paid
ride	rode	ridden
ring	rang	rung
rise	rose	risen
run	ran	run

Simple Present	Simple Past	Past Participle
say	said	said
see	saw	seen
sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
sew	sewed	sewn
shake	shook	shaken
shine	shone	shone
shoot	shot	shot
show	showed	shown
sing	sang	sung
sink	sank	sunk
sit	sat	sat
sleep	slept	slept
speak	spoke	spoken
spend	spent	spent
stand	stood	stood
steal	stole	stolen
swim	swam	swum
swing	swung	swung
take	took	taken
teach	taught	taught
tear	tore	torn
tell	told	told
think	thought	thought
throw	threw	thrown
wake	woke	waked / woken
wear	wore	worn
write	wrote	written

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In the following table, the Simple Past and Past Participle of the verbs end in 'ed' or 'ied'.

Simple Present	Simple Past	Past Participle
add	added	added
ask	asked	asked
look	looked	looked
talk	talked	talked
wait	waited	waited
carry	carried	carried
copy	copied	copied
cry	cried	cried
hurry	hurried	hurried
marry	married	married
study	studied	studied

In the following table, the Simple Present, Simple Past and Past Participle have the same form.

cost	cost	cost
cut	cut	cut
hit	hit	hit
hurt	hurt	hurt
let	let	let
put	put	put
read	read	read
set	set	set
shut	shut	shut

Adverbs

An adverb tells us **how**, **when** or **where** an action takes place.

How?	She sings **beautifully**.
When?	The storm began **suddenly**.
Where?	He searched **everywhere** for his dog.

Comparison of Adverbs

Positive form	Hassan came **late**.
Comparative form	Harry came **later** than Hassan.
Superlative form	Ghani came **latest**.

Table of Adverbs

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
early	earlier	earliest
fast	faster	fastest
hard	harder	hardest
near	nearer	nearest
late	later	latest
long	longer	longest
soon	sooner	soonest

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Usually adverbs ending with 'ly' form the comparative by adding more and superlative by adding most.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
angrily	more angrily	most angrily
bravely	more bravely	most bravely
carefully	more carefully	most carefully
clearly	more clearly	most clearly
easily	more easily	most easily
loudly	more loudly	most loudly
neatly	more neatly	most neatly
quickly	more quickly	most quickly
happily	more happily	most happily
sadly	more sadly	most sadly
merrily	more merrily	most merrily

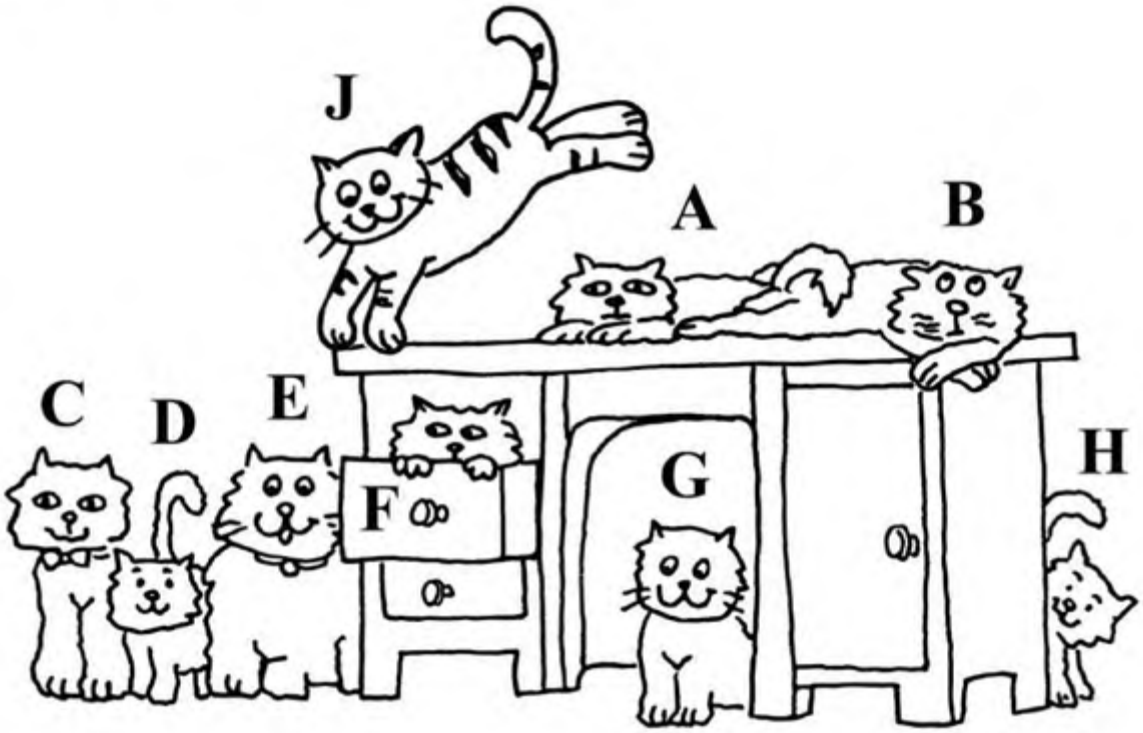
These comparative and superlative forms of adverbs do not follow any rules.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
badly	worse	worst
far	farther	farthest
late	later	latest / last
little	less	least
much	more	most
well	better	best

There are some adverbs which have no comparison form:

almost	everywhere	half	here
not	now	once	seldom
then	there	twice	very

Prepositions



- ✓ Cat A and Cat B are **on** the table.
- ✓ Cat F is **in** the drawer.
- ✓ Cat D is **between** Cat C and Cat E.
- ✓ Cat E is **beside** the table.
- ✓ Cat G is **under** the table.
- ✓ Cat H is **behind** the table.
- ✓ Cat J jumps **over** the table.

The words **on**, **in**, **between**, **beside**, **under**, **behind** and **over** show the relation between the cats and the table. Such words are called **prepositions**.

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Here are some prepositions that show **Position**.

above	Look! The plane is flying **above** the clouds.
against	Please don't lean **against** the ladder.
among	I found a watch **among** the bushes.
around	He put up a fence **around** the farm.
at	He is waiting **at** the door.
behind	Malcom is hiding **behind** the tree.
beneath	There is a bag **beneath** his chair.
beside	His house is **beside** the pond.
between	John sits **between** his two sisters in the car.
in	She is waiting **in** the room.
in front of	My school is **in front of** a park.
near	Is there a post-office **near** your home?
on	The book is **on** the shelf.
over	The dog jumped **over** the drain.
under	The farmer is resting **under** the shelter.

Here are some prepositions that show **Direction**.

across	The deer ran swiftly **across** the field.
along	The boys were running **along** the beach.
down	Chee Beng got **down** the bus in a hurry.
from	He walks home **from** school every day.
into	He rushed **into** the office without knocking.
off	The man fell **off** the bus before it could stop.
through	He threw a ball **through** the window.
to	Can you show me the way **to** the taxi stand?
up	Jack and Jill went **up** the hill.

Here are some prepositions that show **Time**.

after	I had a stomachache **after** eating the food.
at	She was home **at** three o'clock.
before	She arrived here **before** noon.
by	The boys will be back **by** tonight.
for	Polly stayed with her grandma **for** a week.
in	She usually jogs **in** the morning.
on	Michael did not come to school **on** Monday.
till	I slept **till** lunchtime.
upon	The old man lived here once **upon** a time.

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Conjunctions

Conjunctions are **joining** words. They are also called linking words or connectors.

Here is a list of conjunctions which are commonly used:

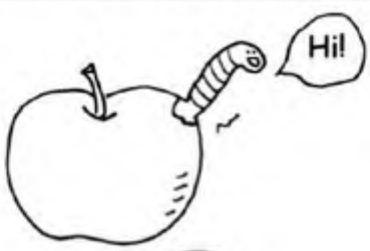
and	Sally **and** Cindy are sleeping.
although	He did not cry **although** he was hurt.
as	**As** he was late, I went without him.
because	He is fat **because** he eats too much.
but	I shouted **but** he did not hear me.
either ... or	You may drink **either** milk **or** fruit juice.
if	We shall have a picnic **if** it does not rain.
or	Does he like coffee **or** tea?
since	We shall forgive her **since** she is sorry.
so	They were tired **so** they left early.
so that	I shouted **so that** he could hear me.
then	I brush my teeth **then** I comb my hair.
unless	You will miss the bus **unless** you hurry up.
until	You must wait here **until** your mother comes.
whenever	The baby cries **whenever** she is hungry.
whether	I'm not sure **whether** he is sick.
while	The phone rang **while** I was cooking.

Interjections

An interjection is a word or a group of words that **expresses strong feelings** or **surprise**. It is usually added on to the beginning of a sentence and can be followed by a comma or an exclamation mark.

Common Interjections:

Ah	**Ah**! This is much better.
Aha	**Aha**! Here they are!
Good grief	**Good grief**! Why aren't you out of bed?
Hey	**Hey**, keep off the grass!
Hurray	**Hurray**, we are the champions!
My goodness	**My goodness**! You ate up all the chocolates!
Oh	**Oh**, what a lovely day!
Oh no	**Oh no**! We'll never finish our work in time!
Oops	**Oops**! I have dropped my ring.
Ouch	**Ouch**! You stepped on my toes.
Ugh	**Ugh**! There is a worm in the apple.
Whew	**Whew**, that was close!
Wow	**Wow**, look at those diamonds!
Yes	**Yes**! You've got it right!



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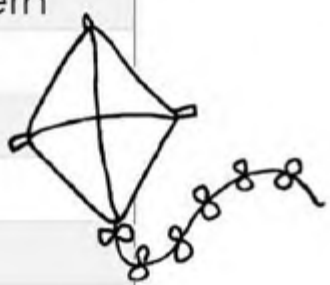
Articles

We use '**a**' or '**an**' for singular countable nouns.

➢ We use '**a**' before a word which begins with a consonant sound.

a **b**oy	a **b**rave hero
a **c**at	a **c**areless pupil
a **d**og	a **d**elicious ice cream
a **f**an	a **f**ierce eagle
a **g**oat	a **g**ood idea
a **h**at	a **h**ot pie
a **j**ug	a **J**apanese lantern
a **k**ite	a **k**ind nurse
a **l**ion	a **l**oving father
a **m**ug	a **m**orning walk
a **n**est	a **n**ew bed
a **p**enguin	a **p**oor kitten
a **q**ueue	a **q**uiet mouse
a **r**at	a **r**ed apple
a **s**ong	a **s**ailing boat
a **t**ap	a **t**all building
a **v**ase	a **v**ain girl
a **w**atch	a **w**eak heart
a **x**ylophone	a **X**erox machine
a **y**olk	a **y**ellow bus
a **z**ebra	a **z**ippy car



- Although the following words begin with a vowel, they have a beginning consonant sound:

a Eurasian	a unicorn	a university
a European	a uniform	a useful tool
a ukelele	a unique thing	a U-turn

- We use '**an**' before a word which begins with a vowel sound or a silent 'h'.

a	an **a**pple	an **a**rmy
e	an **e**gg	an **e**agle
i	an **i**sland	an **i**nsect
o	an **o**range	an **o**ven
h	an h**o**ur	an h**o**nest man
u	an **u**mbrella	an **u**ncle

a	an **a**ngry bull
e	an **e**arly reply
i	an **i**ced drink
o	an **o**pen window
h	an h**o**norable judge
u	an **u**gly monster
x	an **x**-ray machine

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- We use '**a**' or '**an**' when we refer to something for the first time.

  We use '**the**' when we refer to the same thing again.

  *I saw **a** girl with **an** elephant.*
  *Later, **the** girl rode on **the** elephant.*

  ***A** boy came with **a** banana.*
  *He fed **the** banana to **the** elephant.*

- We use '**the**' when there is only one such thing. We also use '**the**' before a superlative form of an adjective.

  ***The** sun is hot.*
  *Joshua points to **the** moon.*
  *This is **the** shortest way to **the** airport.*

the equator	the centre	the earliest
the moon	the east/west	the cleverest
the North Pole	the north/south	the fattest
the sky	the right/left	the best/worst
the sun	the top/bottom	the most/least

- We use '**the**' before the names of rivers, mountains, oceans and particular places:

the Atlantic Ocean	the Keppel Harbour
the Black Sea	the Lido Cinema
the Himalayas	the Mandarin Hotel
the Singapore River	the National Library

Punctuation

- The **capital letter** is used to start a sentence:
  ***H**e is happy.*

  All proper nouns also begin with a capital letter:
  ***M**onday, **V**incent, **C**hina, **P**rime **M**inister*

  When we quote something, we also use a capital letter:
  ***S**he said, "**T**he dog is very sick."*

  Titles of books, poems and newspapers are written like these:
  ***T**hree **L**ittle **P**igs, **T**he **S**traits **T**imes*

  When we refer to ourselves, we use the capital '**I**':
  ***M**y sister and **I** went to **S**entosa last week.*

- The **full-stop** (**.**) is used to mark the end of a sentence:
  She puts fresh flowers into the vase.

- The **comma** (**,**) is used to separate words in a list:
  Mother bought eggs, vegetables, fish and meat.

  It is also used to separate a quotation from the rest of the sentence:
  My aunt said, "Let's go shopping."

  When we want to show a pause in passage or sentence, we also use a comma:
  While she was drying her clothes, her mother called.

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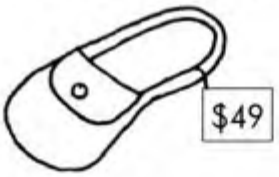
➢ The **question Mark** (**?**) is used at the end of a question:

*Do you want to buy this bag**?***

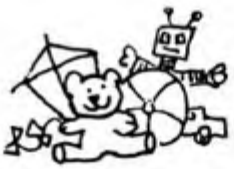


➢ The **apostrophe** (') is used in contractions:

can't, couldn't, hasn't, won't, o'clock

It is also used to show ownership or possession:

John's book, the girls' dolls, children's toys



➢ The **exclamation mark** (**!**) is used after interjections or words which show surprise:

*Wow**!** Oh**!** Aha**!** Hurray**!** Help**!** Ouch**!***

➢ The **quotation marks** (" .... ") are used in direct speech to enclose the words spoken by a person:

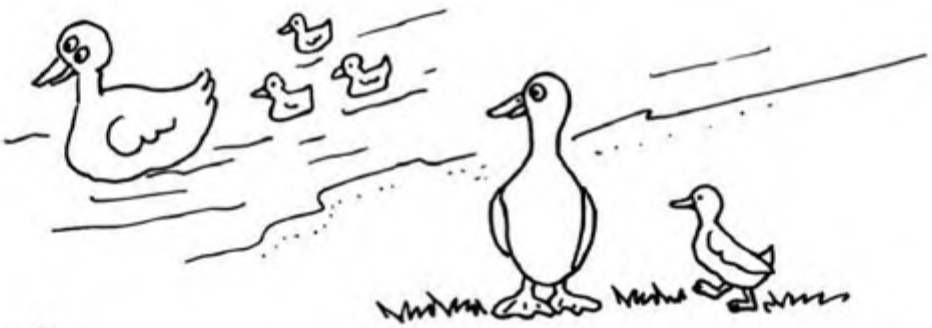
*Jenny said, **"**I would like to have a cup of tea.**"***

***"**Stop that thief!**"** said the policeman.*

Adults and their Young

People

Adult	Young
emperor, empress	prince, princess
father, mother	son, daughter
king, queen	prince, princess
man, woman, parent	baby, child



Animals

Adult	Young
bear	cub
bird	nestling
butterfly	caterpillar
cat	kitten
chicken	chick
cow	calf
dog	puppy
duck	duckling
eagle	eaglet
elephant	calf
fish	fry
fox	cub
frog, toad	tadpole

Adult	Young
goat	kid
goose	gosling
horse	foal
leopard	cub
lion	cub
moth	caterpillar
mosquito	wriggler
owl	owlet
pig	piglet
sheep	lamb
swan	cygnet
tiger	cub
wolf	cub

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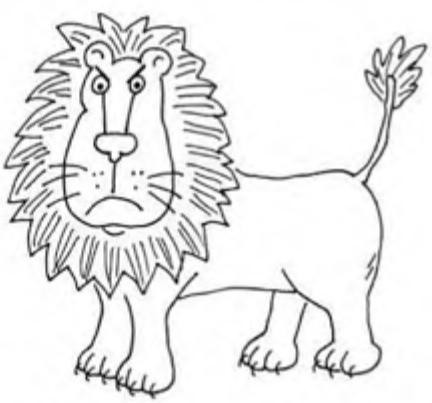
Animal Sounds and Motions

Animals make **sounds** and **motions** unique to their kind.

Animal	Sound	Motion
bear	growls	lumbers
bee	hums / buzzes	flits
beetle	drones	crawls
bird	chirps	flies
bull	bellows	charges
cat	meows / purrs	steals
cock	crows	struts
cow	lows / moos	wanders
crow	caws	flaps
dog	barks / growls	runs
donkey	brays	trots
dove	coos	flutters
duck	quacks	waddles
eagle	screams	swoops
elephant	trumpets	ambles
frog	croaks	leaps
hen	cackles / clucks	struts
horse	neighs	gallops

Animal	Sound	Motion
hyena	laughs	prowls
lamb	bleats	frisks
lark	sings	soars
lion	roars	prowls
monkey	chatters	climbs
mouse	squeaks	scampers
owl	hoots	swoops
parrot	talks / screeches	flutters
person	talks	walks
pig	grunts / squeals	trots
pigeon	coos	flutters
rabbit	squeals	leaps
robin	chirps	hops
seagull	screams	glides
snake	hisses	glides / slithers
sparrow	chirps	flits
swallow	twitters	dives
turkey	gobbles	struts
wolf	howls	lopes



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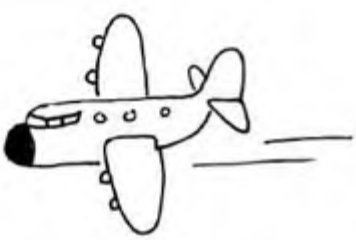
Sounds made by Objects

Object	Sound
aeroplane	zooms
bell	peals / rings
brake	grinds / screeches
bugle	calls
cane	whacks
chain	clanks / rattles
clock	ticks / chimes
coin	clinks
coins	jingle
cork	pops
door	bangs / slams
drum	beats / rolls
engine	throbs / purrs
explosion	blasts
feet	shuffle / stamp
glass	tinkles
guitar	strums
gun	booms
heart	throbs / beats

Object	Sound
hinges	creak
hoofs	thunder
horn	toots / hoots
kettle	sings / whistles
leaves	rustle / whisper
paper	crinkle / rustle
raindrops	patter
siren	wails
steam	hisses
telephone	rings
thunder	claps / roars
train	rumbles
trumpet	blares / toots
watch	ticks
water	laps / drips / splashes
whip	cracks / lashes
whistle	shrieks
wind	howls / sighs
wood	creaks



Occupations

architect	draws the designs of buildings
artist	draws, paints or makes sculptures
artiste	sings, dance or acts in public
astronaut	travels to space
author	writes books
barber	cuts his customers' hair
bellboy	works in a hotel and carries the guests' luggage
blacksmith	makes things out of iron
butcher	kills animals, cuts them up and sells the meat
carpenter	makes things out of wood
chef	cooks in a restaurant
cobbler	mends shoes
curator	is in charge of a museum or art gallery
dentist	examines and treats people's teeth
doctor	treats people who are ill
explorer	makes journeys of discovery
farmer	works on a farm
fishmonger	sells fish
florist	sells flowers
fruiterer	sells fruit
grocer	sells dried food, preserved food and other household products
hawker	sells food or goods in the streets or at food centres
invigilator	watches over people taking examinations to prevent cheating
ironmonger	deals in iron and other metal goods

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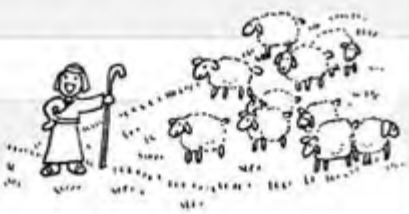
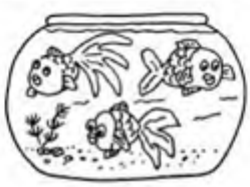
journalist	writes articles for newspapers or magazines
lawyer	defends people in a court of law
librarian	is in charge of a library
magician	is an entertainer who performs magic tricks
mechanic	repairs motor vehicles and machines
newsagent	sells newspapers
plumber	repairs pipes and fixtures in buildings
policeman	maintains law and order
porter	carries travellers' bags at airports, railway stations and hotels
postman	delivers letters and parcels
principal	is in charge of a school
referee	is a judge of a game
reporter	writes about events for a newspaper, radio or television
sailor	works on a ship
shepherd	looks after sheep
soldier	serves in an army
surgeon	performs operations in a hospital
tailor	makes clothes
teacher	teaches pupils
undertaker	manages funerals
veterinarian	treats sick animals
waiter	serves food and drinks in a restaurant
warden	guards the prisons
zoologist	is an expert in animals and their behaviour
zookeeper	looks after animals in a zoo



Places

apiary	where bees are kept
aquarium	where fish and other marine animals are kept and reared or exhibited
auditorium	where people go to see plays or listen to music, lectures, ...
aviary	where birds are kept
abattoir	where animals are slaughtered
arsenal	where weapons and explosives are made and stored
art gallery	where art works are exhibited
bakery	where bread and cakes are made
barn	a farm building where crops and food for animals are stored or for keeping animals in
barracks	where soldiers live
church	where Christians worship
cinema	where films are shown
creche	where young children are looked after while their parents are at work
den	home of the lions
dock	where ships are built or repaired
factory	where things are made
garage	where cars are kept or repaired
gymnasium	a special hall that has equipment for physical exercises
hangar	where aeroplanes are kept and repaired



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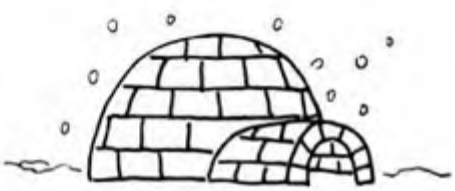
hospital	where sick people are treated
hotel	where travellers may stay for the night
igloo	the house of an Eskimo
incinerator	where rubbish is burnt
jail	where prisoners are locked up
kennel	a house built for a dog
laundry	where clothes are washed and ironed
library	where books are kept for public reading
market	where meat and vegetables are sold
mint	where coins are made
mosque	where Muslims worship
museum	where historical things of value are exhibited
orchard	where fruit trees are grown
orphanage	a house for orphans
pound	where stray animals are kept
quay	where boats are loaded and unloaded
restaurant	where people may buy food and drinks
reservoir	where water is collected and stored
sty	where pigs are kept
stable	a house for a horse
theatre	a hall where plays are acted on stage
vineyard	a piece of land planted with grapevines for wine production
zoo	where animals are kept and exhibited



Antonyms

An antonym is a word that **means the opposite** to another word.

Description/Action

absent	present
accept	reject
add	subtract
alive	dead
all	none
answer	question
asleep	awake
arrive	depart
attack	defend
beautiful	ugly
bad	good
before	after
begin	end
bent	straight
better	worse
big	small
black	white
blunt	sharp
bold	timid
borrow	lend
bright	dark/dull

broad	narrow
buy	sell
cheap	expensive
clean	dirty
clever	stupid
coarse	fine
come	go
common	rare
cool	warm
cry	laugh
dangerous	safe
dark	bright
dead	alive
deep	shallow
die	live
divide	multiply
dry	wet
easy	difficult
empty	full
fair	dark
false	true

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Description/Action

famous	unknown
fat	thin
fertile	barren
few	many
find	lose
finish	start
first	last
foolish	wise
forget	remember
fresh	stale
full	empty
generous	selfish
give	take
good	bad
happy	sad
hard	soft
hide	show
high	low
hot	cold
humble	proud
increase	decrease
join	separate
joy	sorrow
junior	senior
kind	cruel
lazy	hardworking
land	water
lead	follow
light	heavy

long	short
lost	found
loud	soft
love	hate
most	least
more	less
neat	untidy
never	always
new	old
noisy	quiet
obey	command
open	close
pass	fail
peace	war
polite	rude
question	answer
quick	slow
rich	poor
right	wrong
rise	fall
rough	smooth
sharp	blunt
smile	frown
sober	drunk
strong	weak
success	failure
sweet	bitter
talk	listen
tall	short

Description/Action

teach	learn
these	those
thick	thin
this	that
tight	loose
tiny	huge
true	false

victory	defeat
white	black
wide	narrow
wild	tame
win	lose
wise	foolish
work	rest

People

actor	audience
adult	child
author	reader
competitors	spectators
doctor	patient
driver	passenger
employer	employee
everybody	nobody
father	son
friend	enemy, foe
giant	dwarf
guardian	ward
hero	coward

host	guest
leader	follower
male	female
master	servant
miser	spendthrift
motorist	pedestrian
mother	daughter
parent	child
policeman	thief
shopkeeper	customer
speaker	listener
teacher	pupil
young	old

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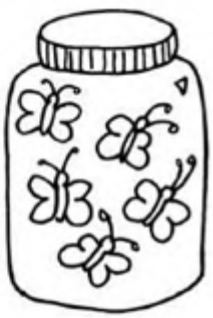
Direction

above	below
arrive	depart
come	go
east	west
entrance	exit
far	near
forward	backward
front	back
here	there

in	out
inside	outside
left	right
north	south
nowhere	somewhere
over	under
top	bottom
up	down
upper	lower



Time

before	after
day	night
dawn	dusk
early	late
ever	never

morning	evening
now	then
often	seldom
present	past
summer	winter

Synonyms

A synonym is a word with the **same meaning** or nearly the same meaning as another word.

affectionate	loving
aid	help
ally	friend
ancient	old
annually	yearly
attire	clothes
assemble	gather
astonish	surprise
bad	evil
beautiful	attractive
begin	start
behaviour	conduct
beverages	drinks
blank	empty
big	large
bottom	base
bright	shining
brief	short
broad	wide
cautious	careful
cease	stop
centre	middle
choose	select
clever	intelligent
close	near
coarse	rough

comprehend	understand
conceal	hide
conclude	end
constable	policeman
conversation	talk
courage	bravery
courteous	polite
cunning	sly
daring	brave
dangerous	risky
dear	expensive
deceive	cheat
decrease	reduce
demonstrate	show
difficult	hard
disease	sickness
eager	keen
earn	gain
educate	teach
emperor	king
enemy	foe
enormous	huge
fall	drop
famous	well-known
fatal	deadly
fault	error

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feeble	weak
fight	battle
gather	collect
gay	cheerful
glance	look
habit	custom
halt	stop
help	assist
heroic	brave
home	residence
imitate	copy
inquire	ask
intention	purpose
interior	inside
join	unite
large	huge
lean	thin
loyal	true
mad	angry/crazy
margin	border
maximum	most
minimum	least
modern	new
moist	damp
narrate	tell
obey	respect
odour	smell
often	frequent
option	choice

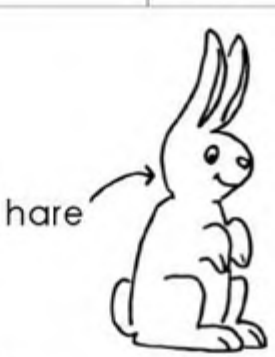
peculiar	strange
profit	gain
powerful	strong
protect	guard
purchase	buy
quantity	amount
quiet	silent
rank	position
rapid	quick
remedy	cure
remember	recollect
reluctant	unwilling
reveal	show
rich	wealthy
roam	wander
robust	strong
sadness	sorrow
safe	secure
slender	slim
small	little
smell	scent
squander	waste
stern	strict
stubborn	obstinate
summit	top
thief	burglar
tiny	small
trust	believe
vacant	empty

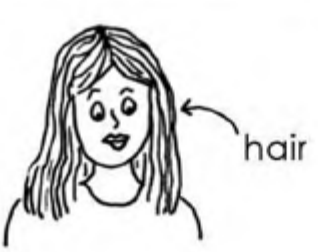
Homophones

A homophone is a word that **sounds the same** as another word but is **different in spelling and meaning**.

air	heir
aloud	allowed
ate	eight
bare	bear
bean	been
blew	blue
board	bored
boy	buoy
brake	break
buy	by, bye
cent	sent/scent
cheap	cheep
coarse	course
crews	cruise
dear	deer
die	dye
fair	fare
flea	flee

fool	full
foul	fowl
four	fore
grown	groan
hair	hare
hall	haul
heal	heel
hear	here
higher	hire
him	hymn
hole	whole
hour	our
key	quay
knew	new
knight	night
knot	not
loan	lone
made	maid





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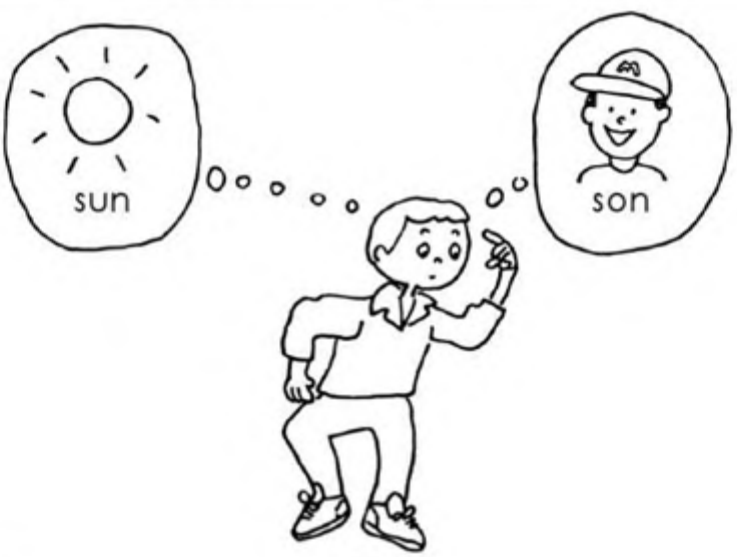
mail	male
main	mane
meat	meet
muscle	mussel
none	nun
pail	pale
pain	pane
pair	pear
pause	paws
peace	piece
principal	principle
ring	wring
road	rode
root	route
rose	rows
sail	sale
sea	see
sew	so, sow

sight	site
sole	soul
son	sun
soot	suit
stair	stare
stationary	stationery
tail	tale
their	there
throne	thrown
too	two
vain	vein
waist	waste
wait	weight
weak	week
won	one
wood	would
write	right
you	ewe

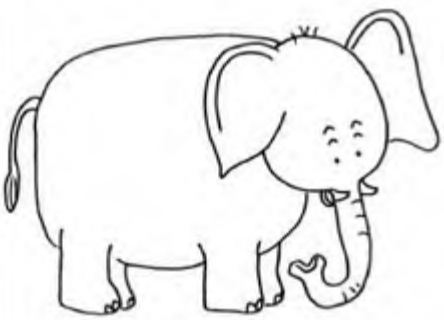


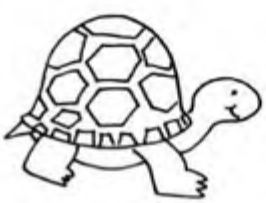
Similes

Similes compare 2 things with similar qualities.

Animals

as agile as a monkey
as blind as a bat
as brave as a lion
as busy as an ant / bee
as crafty / cunning as a fox
as fast / swift as a deer
as fat as a pig
as fierce as a lion
as gentle as a lamb/dove
as graceful as a swan
as greedy as a pig
as hairy as a gorilla
as happy as a lark
as heavy as an elephant
as hungry as a wolf / bear
as playful as a puppy
as poor as a church mouse
as proud as a peacock
as quiet as a mouse
as slippery as an eel
as slow as a snail / tortoise
as strong as an ox
as stubborn as a mule / donkey
as timid as a mouse
as wise as an owl





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People

as happy as a king
as helpless as a baby
as kind as a mother
as mad as a hatter
as strong as Hercules / Samson
as tall as a giant
as wise as Solomon

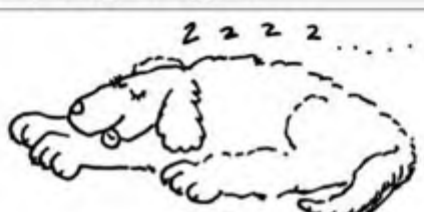
Things

as alike as two peas	as hard as iron / nails / rocks
as bitter as medicine	as hot as fire
as black as coal / soot	as light as a feather
as brown as a berry	as loud as thunder
as clear as glass / a bell	as old as the hills
as cold as ice	as pale as death
as cool as a cucumber	as quick as lightning
as countless as the stars	as regular as the clock
as dry as a bone	as round as a ball
as easy as ABC	as sharp as a razor / needle
as fat as butter	as sour as vinegar
as fit as a fiddle	as straight as an arrow
as flat as a pancake	as sweet as honey
as fresh as paint / a daisy	as tough as leather
as good as gold	as warm as wool
as green as grass	as white as snow

Proverbs

Proverbs are **short well-known statements** that contain advice about life in general.

action	Actions speak louder than words.
apple	An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
bed	Early to bed, early to rise. Make a man healthy and wise.
beggar	Beggars must not be choosers.
bird	A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
	Birds of the same feather flock together.
	The early bird catches the worm.
blood	Blood is thicker than water.
broom	New brooms sweep clean.
cake	You cannot eat your cake and have it.
cat	When the cat is away, the mice will play.
charity	Charity begins at home.
chicken	Don't count your chickens before they are hatched.
cloud	Every cloud has a silver lining.
deaf	None so deaf as those who will not hear.
dog	Barking dogs seldom bite.
	Let sleeping dogs lie.



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eggs	Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
exchange	Fair exchange is no robbery.
father	Like father, like son.
fire	Fire is a good servant but a bad master.
	There is no smoke without fire.
	Out of the frying pan into the fire.
first	First come, first served.
friend	A friend in need is a friend indeed.
fruit	Forbidden fruit tastes sweet.
haste	More haste, less speed.
hay	Make hay while the sun shines.
heads	Two heads are better than one.
heart	Absence makes the heart grow fonder.
honesty	Honesty is the best policy.
hungry	A hungry man is an angry man.
invention	Necessity is the mother of invention.
late	Better late than never.
leak	A small leak will sink a great ship.
leopard	A leopard does not change its spots.
loaf	Half a loaf is better than none.

look	Look before you leap.
meat	One man's meat is another man's poison.
mind	Great minds think alike.
	Out of sight, out of mind.
miss	A miss is as good as a mile.
money	A fool and his money are soon parted.
needle	Look for a needle in a haystack.
news	No news is good news.
penny	A penny saved is a penny gained.
piper	He who pays the piper, calls the tune.
pot	Let not the pot call the kettle black.
practice	Practice makes perfect.
pride	Pride goes before a fall.
rob	Rob Peter to pay Paul.
rod	Spare the rod and spoil the child.
see	Seeing is believing.
shy	Once bitten twice shy.
silence	Silence means consent.
	Speech is silver, silence is golden.
slow	Slow and steady wins the race.

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soup	Too many cooks spoil the soup.
stitch	A stitch in time saves nine.
stone	A rolling stone gathers no moss.
straw	A drowning man will clutch at a straw.
	The last straw breaks a camel's back.
swallow	One swallow does not make a summer.
time	Lost time is never found.
tool	A bad workman quarrels with his tools.
trades	Jack of all trades, master of none.
turn	One good turn deserves another.
union	Union is strength.
vessel	Empty vessels make the most noise.
wait	Time and tide wait for no man.
water	We never miss the water till the well runs dry.
	Still waters run deep.
well	All's well that ends well.
will	Where there's a will there's a way.
work	All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.
worth	What's worth doing is worth doing well.

Idioms

An idiom is a fixed group of words with a special meaning which is different from the meanings of the individual words.

Keyword	Idiom	Meaning
air	build castles in the air	day dream
arm	receive with open arms	to welcome heartily
bad	a bad egg	a bad person
ball	keep the ball rolling	keep things going on
beat	beat about the bush	talk about a thing in an indirect manner
behind	talk behind one's back	talk about a person without him knowing
black	put it in black and white	put it in writing
book	a bookworm	a great reader
bucket	to kick the bucket	to die
carry	carry on	continue
cat	let the cat out of the bag	let out the secret
chicken	chicken-hearted	timid or cowardly

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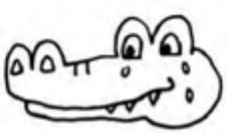
Keyword	Idiom	Meaning
coat	cut your coat according to your cloth	spend only what you can afford
cock	a cock and bull story	an unbelievable story
colour	pass with flying colours	do very well in a test
crocodile	shed crocodile tears	insincere expression of sorrow
dead	dead broke	no money
down	ups and downs	good times and bad times
elephant	a white elephant	a useless object which is expensive to upkeep
eleven	at the eleventh hour	at the last moment
eye	an eye for an eye	to return evil for evil
	keep an eye on	watch or supervise carefully
	see eye to eye	agree entirely
feet	stand on one's own feet	be independent
fence	sit on the fence	take no sides in a debate or quarrel



Keyword	Idiom	Meaning
finger	at one's finger tips	know thoroughly
foot	foot the bill	pay the bill
	put one's foot down	put a stop to something
	put your foot in your mouth	say something without thinking
fire	play with fire	do a thing which may be dangerous
good	a good-for-nothing	a useless person
goat	be a scapegoat	get blamed for other people's mistakes
green	to have green eyes	to be jealous
hand	live from hand to mouth	with enough money to live from day to day only
hard	hard and fast rule	very strict rule
	hard of hearing	quite deaf
hat	pass the hat round	ask for donation from people around
heels	take to one's heels	flee or run away

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Keyword	Idiom	Meaning
ice	break the ice	to be the first to start a conversation
leaf	turn over a new leaf	change one's conduct or behaviour for the better
light	see the light	understand
line	read between the lines	find the hidden meaning
lion	the lion's share	the best or largest part
long	in the long run	over a long period of time
moon	once in a blue moon	very seldom
music	face the music	take the scolding or consequences
nose	pay through one's nose	pay too high a price
play	child's play	very easy to do
point	come to the point	speak briefly and directly
question	out of the question	not possible or not allowed
rain	rain cats and dogs	rain heavily

Keyword	Idiom	Meaning
rat	smell a rat	suspect something
red	caught red handed	caught while committing a crime
roses	a bed of roses	a comfortable life
see	see red	be very angry
seed	sow the seed	plant the idea
shave	a close shave	a narrow escape
shoulder	give a person a cold shoulder	to deliberately ignore someone
skin	save one's skin	to escape from a serious danger
socks	pull up one's socks	improve in what one is doing
time	in the nick of time	just in time
tongue	hold one's tongue	not to speak
tooth	have a sweet tooth	like sweet food
trumpet	blow one's trumpet	boast about oneself
water	get into hot water	get into trouble

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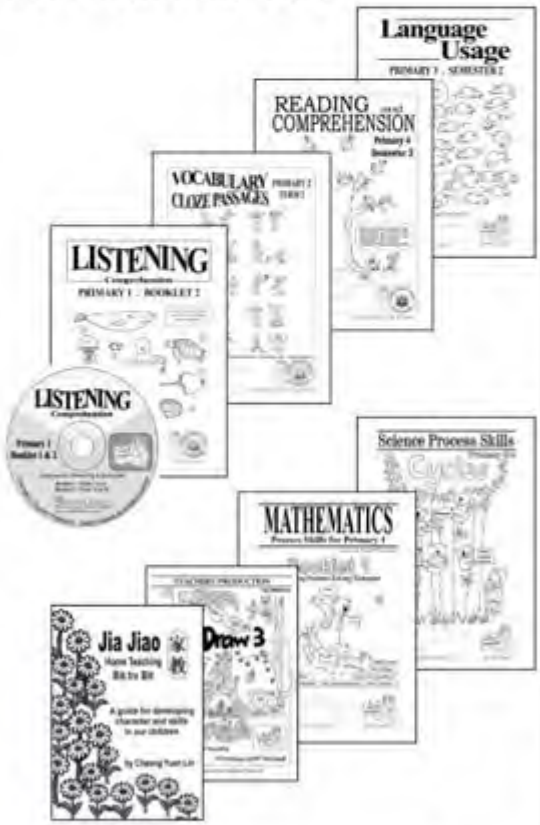

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- ★ Articles
- ★ Punctuation
- ★ Adults/young
- ★ Sounds
- ★ Occupations
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- ★ Synonyms
- ★ Homophones
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