

Grammar Terminology in CfW – A Glossary

Terms in **bold** are not directly mentioned in CfW but required through implication.

CfW Terminology	Also known as	Meaning
Adjective		A word that describes a noun.
Adverb		A word that describes a verb.
Apostrophe		A punctuation mark ' to mark possession or omission.
Capital letter		An upper-case letter used to denote the beginning of a sentence or a proper noun.
Clause		A unit of grammatical organization next below the sentence in rank and in traditional grammar said to consist of a subject and predicate.
Colon		A punctuation mark (:) used to precede a list of items, a quotation, or an expansion or explanation.
Comma		A punctuation mark (,) indicating a pause between parts of a sentence or separating items in a list.
Complex sentence	Multi-clause sentence	A sentence containing a subordinate/dependent clause or clauses.
Compound sentence	Multi-clause sentence	A sentence with two independent clauses joined together by a coordinating conjunction which include and, but, or, nor.
Connective	Conjunction	A joining word that links two parts of a sentence together
Connectives for causation	Conjunction for causation	includes but not limited to; because, as a result of, due to.
Connectives for consequence	Conjunction for consequence	includes but not limited to; so, so that, therefore, as a result, hence, consequently.
Dependent clause	Subordinate clause	A clause that is not a complete simple sentence in its own right as it does not express a single, complete thought. Dependent clauses can be classified by the role they have in the main clause: adverbial clause, comment clause, comparative clause, noun clause, relative clause
Exclamation mark		A punctuation mark used at the end of a sentence that expresses a very strong feeling or statement.
Figurative Language		A way of using language to express meaning that does not use the word's strict or realistic meaning. Can include but not limited to; simile, metaphor, onomatopoeia, symbolism, idiom, personification.
Fronted adverbial		Where the adverb or adverbial phrase is moved to the beginning of the sentence e.g. Earlier today I discovered fronted adverbials. 'earlier today' is the adverbial.
Full stop		A punctuation mark used at the end of a sentence or to denote an abbreviation.
Idiomatic Language		A group of words that has a particular meaning that is different from the meanings of the words considered separately, e.g. "to bite the bullet".
Independent clause	Simple sentence	A clause that is also a complete sentence in its own right.

Multi clause sentence	Complex sentence or Compound sentence	A sentence that has more than one clause.
Noun		A word (other than a pronoun) used to identify any of a class of people, places, or things (<i>common noun</i>), or to name a particular one of these.
Object		The thing or person that an action is done to. For example: The police gave him a warning. In this sentence him is the object, because he has something done to him.
Paragraph		Writing is usually divided into groups of sentences, paragraphs, which are concerned with connected ideas, concepts or actions.
Parenthesis		A word or phrase inserted into a sentence which is grammatically complete without it usually as an explanation or afterthought. It is denoted by brackets, dashes or commas.
Proper noun		A noun that denotes a particular being or thing. People's names and names of places are all proper nouns.
Preposition		A word that describes the relationship between the noun that it usually precedes and that noun's relationship to another word or element of the sentence. For example: The writing on the wall. She came after dinner.
Predicate		the part of a sentence or clause containing a verb and stating something about the subject (e.g. <i>went home</i> in <i>John went home</i>)
Phrase		A unit of grammar that is smaller than a clause but is used to build clauses and sentences out of.
Pronoun		A word that is used instead of a noun or a noun phrase e.g., he, she, those, that.
Punctuation		The marks, such as full stop, comma, and brackets, used in writing to separate sentences and their elements and to clarify meaning.
Question mark		A punctuation mark used at the end of the sentence to denote a question.
Quotation marks		A set of punctuation marks either single (') or double(") used to demarcate when a quotation or quoted passage is being used.
Register		A level of language use determined by degree of formality it can include the choice of vocabulary, pronunciation, and syntax. The choice of language level will be made according to the communicative purpose, social context, and standing of the user.
Relative clause		A clause that adds extra information about one of the nouns in the main clause. It uses the relative pronouns, who, whom, whose, which and that.
Semicolon		A punctuation mark (;) indicating a pause, typically between two main clauses, that is more pronounced than that indicated by a comma.
Sentence		The major unit of grammar, larger than a clause.
Simple sentence	Single clause sentence	A sentence that consists of one clause.
Single clause sentence	Simple sentence	A sentence that consists of one clause.

Speech marks	Inverted commas	Punctuation marks used in pairs to indicate direct speech or to show a quotation is being used.
Standard form	Standard English	The generally accepted convention for the way in which a particular grammatical term is written. For example, 'We were sitting' is the standard form of the past continuous or past progressive verb tense. The non-standard version of the past continuous is often 'We was sat'.
Subject		The person or thing that performs the action of a verb, or which is joined to a description by a verb: "Bob" is the subject of the sentence, "Bob threw the ball."
Subject verb agreement	Verb tense agreement	Subject-verb agreement means that a subject and its verb must be both singular or, both plural. Singular verb endings: I live – first person singular You live – second person singular He/She lives – third person singular One lives – third person singular Plural verb endings: We live – first person plural You live – second person plural They live – third person plural John lives in France. He lives in France. – third person singular, both pronoun and verb agree. John live in France. He live in France. – third person singular pronoun, third person plural noun. Pronoun and verb do not agree.
Syntax		The arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences in a language.
Verb		A word used to describe an action, state, or occurrence, and forming the main part of the predicate of a sentence, such as <i>hear, become, happen</i> .
Verb tense		Refers to when the action or state or occurrence happened in the sentence, whether it happened in the past, present or future.