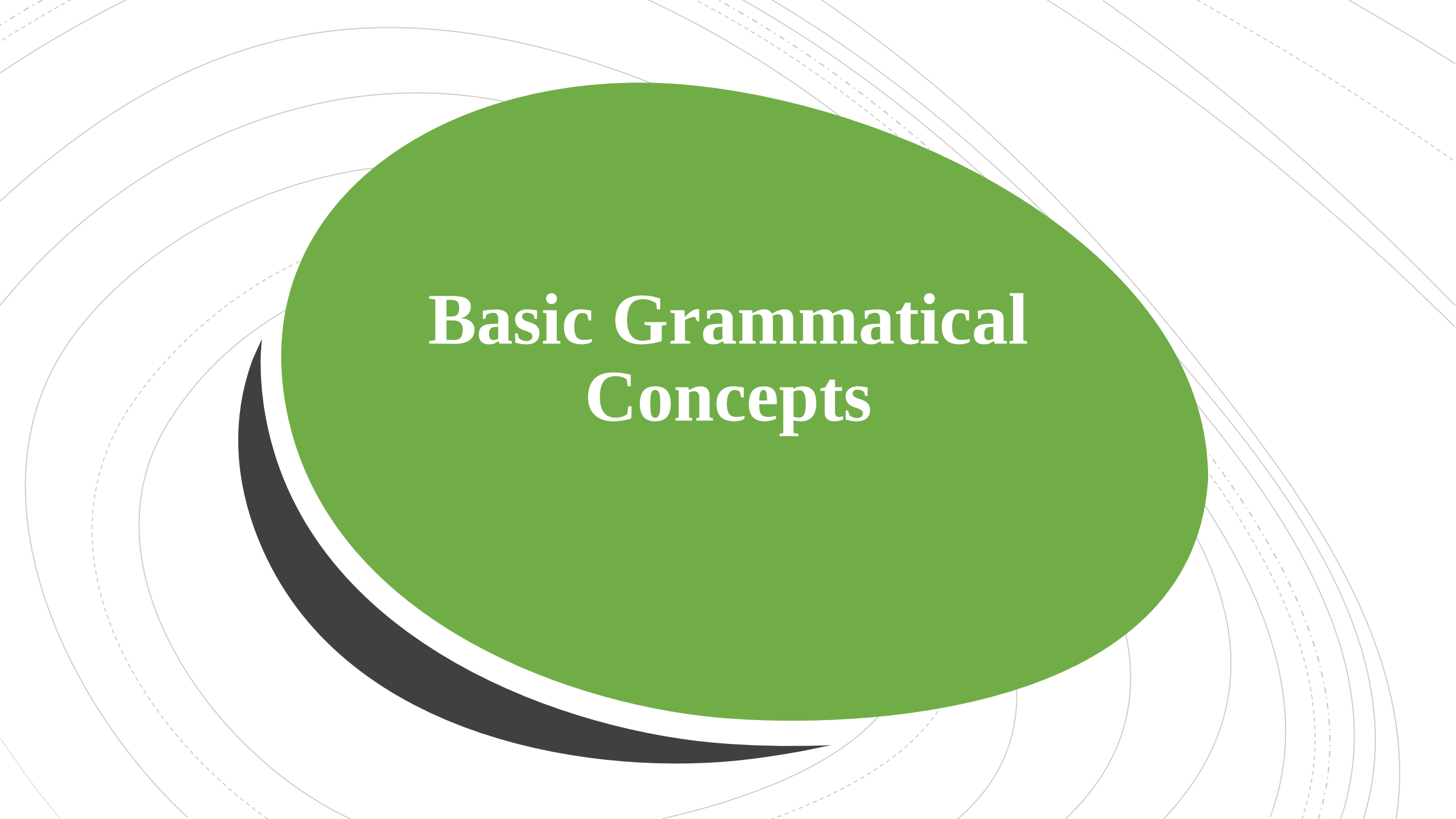


The background features a series of concentric circles in light gray, some solid and some dashed, creating a sense of depth and movement. A large, solid green oval is positioned in the center, serving as a container for the title text. A dark gray, curved shape is visible behind the green oval on the left side.

# **Basic Grammatical Concepts**

# Objectives



- Define grammatical concepts.
- Understand why grammar is important.
- Highlight ways to improve grammar.
- Understand the significance of academic writing.
- Know what contractions and conjunctions are, and when to use them.

# What are grammatical concepts?

Grammatical concepts can be defined as the crucial terms and notions used to ensure accurate and effective writing.



How can you improve your grammar and writing? Practice, practice, practice.

# Why is grammar important?

Enables the reader to understand what has been written.

Indicates the level of your reading and writing.

Influences assignment marking.

Can affect your job prospects.

# Ways to improve grammar



- **Memorise** grammatical terms.
- **Recognise** different types of words such as nouns and verbs and when to use them.
- **Read** extensively and write often.
- **Take note** of assignment feedback from your teacher.

# Academic writing



Academic writing is cautious, the writer indicates that they are aware that nothing is 100% certain. Using words that express lack of certainty such as;

- Appears to, seems to, tends to, may, might, possible, probably, apparently, generally, seemingly.
- A writer may also use phrases such as;
- In some cases, this...
- Evidence suggests that ....

# Assignment Writing Tips



- Be impersonal, avoid pronouns such as I, we, you.
- Avoid abbreviating words such as:
- Dept - department.
- e.g. - example
- Org - organisation
- G.P - general practitioner

Remember.....Avoid misplaced conjunctions at the start of sentences or, and, but, yet (Cottrell, 2013).

# What are conjunction words?



Conjunction words are joining words **and** are used to connect:

- Phrases.
- Clauses.
- Sentences.

# Conjunction words

There are seven conjunction words, these are;

- **For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So**

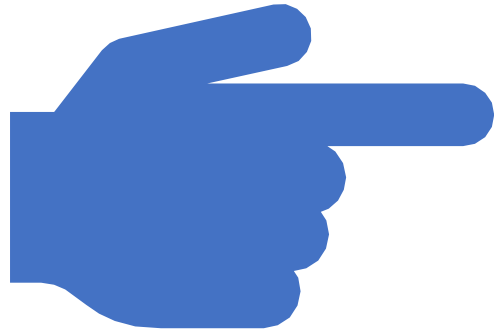
An easy way to remember these words is by using the acronym FANBOYS (Osmund, 2013).

Remember.....Avoid misplaced conjunctions at the start of sentences or, and, but, yet (Cottrell, 2013).

# Conjunction adverbs

- Words such as 'however' or 'thus' are; (linking words called *conjunctive adverbs*):
- If you begin a sentence with one of these words, use a comma after it:
- Nevertheless, this will be a short sentence.
- If you use one of these words in the middle of a sentence, use a comma before and after it:
- This, furthermore, will be a short sentence.

# “Therefore”



- Academics do not encourage writers to start a sentence with the words “therefore” or thus. They are not considered to be grammatically correct, even though they are classified as (conjunction adverbs) – linking words.

# Fanboys

## Grammar Rule

**Learn the FANBOYS**



**For**

**And**

**Nor**

**But**

**Or**

**Yet**

**So**

# Activity

Students to form five sentences, with the inclusion of a conjunction word.

Conjunction words are FANBOYS - Remember the acronym) **For, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.**

## Examples

1. Pizza and burgers are my favourite snacks.
2. I walk by the river or on the hill.
3. I don't really like bread, but I can eat wraps any day.

# What are contractions?

- **Contractions** are two words made shorter by placing an apostrophe where letters have been omitted.
- Examples of common **contractions** in the English language include: I'm: I am.
- Didn't... did not, don't... do not, and isn't, is not.



# Contractions

Academic writing should not include shortened words (contractions) such as ‘won’t’- will not, ‘don’t’ – do not.

Contractions are used in less formal writing and speech (colloquial language) otherwise known as slang.

# Contractions



# Activity – Common Contractions

Students to replace the missing letters in the contraction of each word, for example, I'm = I am.

The apostrophe indicates where the missing letters would be if the words were written out in full.

Wouldn't =

- Couldn't =
- Should've =
- I'm =
- Didn't =
- Don't =
- Isn't =
- Can't =

# Answers

Wouldn't = would not

Couldn't = could not

Should've = should have

I'm = I am

Didn't = did not

Don't = do not

Isn't = is not

Can't = cannot

# Activity - Kahoot

<https://create.kahoot.it/details/basic-grammatical-concepts/7e2aaf12-6fd6-4393-b7ea-a51b6e31d6e2><https://create.kahoot.it/details/basic-grammatical-concepts/7e2aaf12-6fd6-4393-b7ea-a51b6e31d6e2>

# Summarise

An understanding of basic grammatical concepts.

Understand why grammar is important.

Identify ways to improve grammar.

Understand what contractions and conjunctions are and how they are used.

Cottrell, S. (2013) *Palgrave Study Skills: The Study Skills Handbook*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Osmond, A. (2013) *Academic Writing and Grammar for Students*. London: SAGE Publications Ltd.

Oxford Living Dictionaries, (2018) *Conjunctions*. Available at; <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/grammar/conjunctions> (Accessed 2nd November 2018)

# References

# References

YouTube Video, (2015). *Coordinating Conjunctions: Fanboy*. Available at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-catJZm\\_2TI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-catJZm_2TI) (Accessed 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018)

YouTube Video, (2015). *Contractions; Scratch Garden*. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gubPH3WEurg&t=1s> (Accessed 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018)