Glossary

**adjective**: a word like **short**, **red**, or **exciting**, that tells you about the qualities of a person or thing or event.

**adverb**: a word like **slowly**, **well**, **there**, etc. which tells you how, where, or when an event happens.

**adverbial**: a word or group of words that functions like an **adverb**. Adverbials can be adverb phrases like **very slowly**, or prepositional phrases like **in the corner**, or noun phrases like **yesterday afternoon**.

**auxiliary verb**: a word like **do**, **had**, **was**, etc. used with main verbs (**want**, **play**, etc.) to form tenses, questions, and negatives.

**bare infinitive**: the infinitive without to in front of it, as in constructions like **it helped me decide**.

**clause**: a group of words containing a **verb**, forming the main structure of which sentences are built: [**I was working at home**], [**writing the report** **[my boss had asked for]**], [**when the phone rang**].

**collocation**: the way words typically combine with other words, as in **take a break**, **short hair**, or **get on with**.

**conjunction**: a word like **and**, **but**, **which**, so, that links two clauses, or phrases, or words.

**countable noun**: a noun that has both singular and plural forms, and which can be used with **a/an** and numbers: a **car**, three **cars**.

**determiner**: a word, like **the**, **some**, **my**, **many**, **no**, etc. that belongs to the class of words that can go at the beginning of a noun phrase: the **black taxi** • **my many friends**.

**discourse marker**: a word like **well**, **anyway**, **so**, **however**, that usually goes at the beginning of an **utterance** or **clause** and indicates a link between what has been said and what follows: **It was not a very good hotel. Still, it was cheap**.

**idiom**: an expression or collocation whose meaning is different from the literal meaning of the individual words that make it up: **out of the blue** (= unexpectedly); **take after** (= resemble).

**if-clause**: a clause starting with **if**, which tells us about possible or hypothetical situations. Also called a **conditional clause**. • **if**

**-ing**: a word ending in **-ing**, such as **walking** or **seeing**, which is used 1. to form verb tenses (**I am walking**) where it is also called the **present participle**, and 2. like a noun after certain verbs and prepositions: **I like walking**. • **I look forward to seeing you**.

**irregular verb**: see **regular verb**

**lexical verb**: a verb that is not an auxiliary verb or a modal verb, such as **make**, **understand**, **arrive**, etc. (Also called a **main verb**).

**linking verb**: a verb like **be** or **seem** that joins two ideas, giving more information about the subject: **She is a laboratory technician.** • **It seemed like a good idea**.

**main verb**: = **lexical verb**
modal verb: a verb such as can, may, should, must, etc. which is used to express possibility and to make offers, suggestions, commands, etc. Modal verbs function like auxiliary verbs.

noun: a word like bus, driver, journey, fare, request, etc. that can be used after a determiner as the subject or object of a sentence.

noun phrase (NP): a word or group of words consisting of at least a noun or a pronoun and which functions like a noun: last night • your old car • I • those big red London buses.

object: a noun phrase which refers to what or who is affected by the action described by the verb: I caught the bus. • I paid the driver (= indirect object) the fare (= direct object).

particle: an adverb or preposition which combines with a verb to form a phrasal verb: Get up • I looked for the keys, etc.

past participle: a verb form that is used to form the present perfect and the passive, for example: I have worked. • The letter was written. Regular past participles end in -(e)d.

phrasal verb: a verb and particle combination, often with idiomatic meaning (see idiom), e.g. I got up at ten. • Does he take after his Dad?

possessive: one of the determiners such as my, your, their, etc. which expresses possession.

preposition: a word, or group of words, like in, on, behind, in front of, which often indicate place or time, and are always followed by a noun phrase: in the garden; on Sunday; behind the times.

pronoun: a word like she, me, it, you, etc. that can be used in place of a noun as subject or object of a sentence.

regular verb: a verb such as work, live, etc. whose past tense and past participle are formed by adding -(e)d to the bare infinitive: worked, lived, etc. Irregular verbs do not follow this rule.

set phrase: a type of collocation which is fixed and functions as a complete unit, and is often used as a social formula or a discourse marker: How are you? • So, to cut a long story short, …

subject: the noun phrase that typically comes before the verb and tells you who or what is the agent or topic of the clause: I caught the bus. • The bus was crowded.

that-clause: a clause starting with that, often functioning as the object of a reporting verb: I was told that he was busy. Often the word that can be omitted: I was told he was busy. • to that

to-infinite: the form of the verb that has no endings, tense, person, etc., and which is preceded by to: 'To be or not to be.' • to

uncountable noun: a noun which cannot be counted, and which therefore has no plural form and does not follow an or numbers: some bread • a lot of noise.

utterance: something you say, consisting of one or more words, phrases, clauses, or sentences.

verb: a word or words such as worked, has, costs, takes off, that expresses what someone or something does or is (see subject).

wh-clause: a clause beginning with a wh-word: I liked what I saw.

wh-word (wh): a question word such as where, when, who, and how.