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Grammar Resources

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ADJECTIVES

Adjectives describe nouns and pronouns. They can describe people, objects, places, feelings and ideas.



Which word or words in the sentence are adjectives?

- 1 The smaller of the two girls held tightly to her mother's hand.
- smaller* ☐ *girls* ☐ *her* ☐ *mother's* ☐

HINT

When comparing two things, adjectives may end in **er**.

- 2 The ancient library was full of interesting books.

- ☐ *ancient* and *library*
☐ *ancient* and *interesting*
☐ *library* and *interesting*
☐ *interesting* and *books*

THINGS TO KNOW

Adjectives can also show which noun is being referred to in a sentence, for example, **this book**, **those people**.

- 3 I went for a long walk on a scenic lakeside path each day of my holiday.

- ☐ *went*, *walk* and *scenic*
☐ *went*, *long* and *walk*
☐ *long*, *lakeside* and *path*
☐ *long*, *scenic* and *lakeside*

Which word correctly completes the sentence?

- 4 My chocolate cake turned out than yours.
- best* ☐ *gooder* ☐ *better* ☐

TRAP!

Some adjectives change their spelling for comparisons, for example, something may be **good**, or **better** or the **best** when compared to one or more things.

- 5 I think bottled water tastes than tap water.
- nice* ☐ *nicer* ☐ *nicest* ☐

- 6 Out of the three children, Buddy was the .
- old* ☐ *eldest* ☐ *olden* ☐

THINGS TO KNOW

There are three special adjectives called **articles**: **the**, **a** and **an**.

- 7 We took umbrella on our walk.
- a* ☐ *an* ☐ *the* ☐



USING LANGUAGE

ADVERBS

Adverbs add further meaning to verbs, telling how, when, where and why things are happening. They can also add meaning to adjectives or other adverbs.



Which word correctly completes the sentence?

- 1 The carpenter sanded the table .

carely

☐

carefully

☐

careful

☐

HINT

Most adverbs are formed by adding **ly** to adjectives.

- 2 The lifeguard swam to rescue the young swimmer.

swift

☐

swiftness

☐

swiftly

☐

- 3 The torch is shining more since I changed the batteries.

bright

☐

brighter

☐

brightly

☐

HINT

Adverbs can also show the **degree** to which something is done, for example, whether it is **more** or **less** than something else.

- 4 We walked back to the classroom very .

slowly

☐

slow

☐

slower

☐

- 5 The choir sang at the wedding.

beautiful

☐

beautifully

☐

beauty

☐

Which word in the sentence is an adverb?

- 6 The early train to the city was especially busy.

early

☐

especially

☐

busy

☐

TRAP!

Not all **ly** words are adverbs. Ask yourself what type of word the adverb is describing.

- 7 Our evening was ruined when the waiter spoke rudely to me.

evening

☐

was

☐

rudely

☐

- 8 The space shuttle glided in to land smoothly.

glided

☐

land

☐

smoothly

☐



CONJUNCTIONS

Conjunctions (or connectives) join words or parts of sentences. They link one idea with another to provide a logical flow to a sentence. For example, *Eliza **and** Alice ran **across** the road.*



Which conjunction correctly completes the sentence?

1 Dad went fishing didn't catch anything.

although

☐

but

☐

because

☐

2 Her health is suffering, she keeps pushing herself to go on.

yet

☐

like

☐

or

☐

HINT

Some conjunctions force one part of sentence to depend on another part, for example, **although**, **unlike**, **whereas** and **yet**.

3 I like to exercise possible.

neither

☐

either

☐

whenever

☐

4 it wasn't a school night, the boys were allowed to stay up late.

And

☐

Until

☐

Since

☐

5 Always keep your password secret that others can't access your account.

and

☐

so

☐

while

☐

HINT

Some conjunctions show time, for example, **before**, **while** and **when**.

6 Neither she her husband had ever been overseas before.

either

☐

or

☐

nor

☐

HINT

Some conjunctions work in pairs to make the links between ideas, for example, **whether** and **or**, **neither** and **nor**.

7 we were all getting tired, we kept hiking.

Although

☐

And

☐

Like

☐



USING LANGUAGE

NOUNS

Nouns are the names of people, places, things, ideas, emotions and groups of things. Nouns that name everyday things, such as *table*, *sister* or *mountain*, are common nouns. Proper nouns name particular people, places or things, for example, *Queen Elizabeth*. Abstract nouns name things we can think of, such as feelings and ideas, but can't actually see or touch. Collective nouns name groups or collections of things, for example, *bunch* of grapes.



- 1 What type of nouns are *car*, *engine* and *driver*?

- ☐ common nouns
☐ proper nouns
☐ collective nouns
☐ abstract nouns

HINT

Common nouns name things that exist and are real.

- 2 What type of nouns are *Ferrari*, *Grand Prix* and *Michael Schumacher*?

- ☐ common nouns
☐ proper nouns
☐ collective nouns
☐ abstract nouns

HINT

Proper nouns always start with a capital letter.

- 3 What type of nouns are *team* and *crowd*?

- ☐ common nouns
☐ proper nouns
☐ collective nouns
☐ abstract nouns

HINT

Collective nouns name groups of specific things.

- 4 The words *tyres* and *excitement* are

- ☐ a common noun and an abstract noun.
☐ a common noun and a proper noun.
☐ a collective noun and an abstract noun.
☐ both abstract nouns.

- 5 The words *danger* and *pride* are

- ☐ a proper noun and an abstract noun.
☐ a common noun and a proper noun.
☐ both common nouns.
☐ both abstract nouns.

HINT

Remember, **abstract** nouns name concepts that have no physical existence.

- 6 What type of noun is *track* in this sentence?

The drivers competed for the best position on the track as they approached each bend.

- ☐ common noun
☐ proper noun
☐ collective noun
☐ abstract noun



- 7 Which noun in the first sentence changes into a verb in the second sentence?
The farmer wanted to put the cow in its pen. The farmer needed help to pen the cow in for the night.

- ☐ farmer
☐ cow
☐ pen
☐ night

HINT

Make sure you know the **function** of a word in a sentence, not just the meaning.

- 8 Which two words in the sentence are collective nouns?
The farmer employed a team of riders to help her round up the herd of cattle.

- ☐ farmer and team
☐ team and riders
☐ team and cattle
☐ team and herd

- 9 Which three words in the sentence are common nouns?
Because of the drought, there's very little grass left for the cows to eat.

- ☐ drought, grass, cows
☐ drought, cows, eat
☐ drought, grass, eat
☐ drought, there's, grass

HINT

Remember, common nouns name real, physical things.

Which word in the sentence is a proper noun?

- 10 The cattle will be sold at the markets next Saturday.

- ☐ cattle
☐ sold
☐ markets
☐ Saturday

- 11 The farmer hopes to get a good price for her Friesian cows at the sale.

- ☐ farmer
☐ hopes
☐ Friesian
☐ cows

HINT

Proper nouns always begin with a capital letter.

- 12 Many Australian farmers are working hard to save their properties from financial ruin.

- ☐ Many
☐ Australian
☐ properties
☐ ruin



USING LANGUAGE

PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions are also connecting words – they link nouns (or pronouns) to another word in a sentence. In formal writing, a sentence should not end with a preposition. However, it is not always possible to follow this rule. For example, it sounds clearer to say “Which movie would you like to go to?”, than “To which movie would you like to go?”.



Which proposition correctly completes the sentence?

1 The learner driver scored one point the pass mark on her driving test.

between

among

below

2 A large crowd of shoppers stood , watching the entertainer.

by

before

behind

3 Protective walls were built many ancient cities.

through

around

across

4 Bears hibernate the winter months in some countries.

during

along

upon

5 You can connect to our computer network home.

above

from

beside

6 The woman fought a brave battle cancer.

against

as

until

7 We walked the hardware store.

on

past

upon

8 The thieves ran before the police could stop them.

about

at

off

TRAP!

Some prepositions can have similar meanings, such as **near**, **close** and **by**.

HINT

Prepositions can appear before nouns and pronouns to show relationships involving time.

HINT

Prepositions can express opposition, such as **without** and **for** and **against**.



USING LANGUAGE

PRONOUNS

Pronouns take the place of nouns already mentioned. Personal pronouns refer to specific people (*I, we, he, she, they*) and possessive pronouns show ownership (*mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, theirs*). Relative pronouns show the relationship between two or more nouns in a sentence (*who, that, which*).



Which word in the sentence is a pronoun?

- 1 The penguin ate all the fish provided by its zookeeper.

TRAP!

Pronouns do not need apostrophes – not even *its*.

- 2 “Who left the cash drawer open?” asked the cashier.

- 3 The girls downloaded their favourite new video clip from the Internet.

- 4 Hundreds of people waited to see if they could get a ticket to the show.

- 5 The other competitors don't know that I can't swim very well.

- 6 When the power went out, we had just served up dessert.

- 7 Which word correctly completes the sentence?

This winter, our parents going skiing in the Snowy Mountains.

HINT

Note whether the subject of the sentence is **singular** or **plural** when selecting the pronoun.

- 8 Which word correctly completes the sentence?

The actors really appreciated the applause the audience gave .



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Read *Breakdown* and answer the following questions.



Breakdown

Yesterday, our bus broke down on the way to school. The driver, Mr Porter, asked us to leave our bags on the bus and get off. So we went and sat on the grass at the side of the road. Someone noticed black smoke coming from under the vehicle. Mr Porter asked us to cross the road quickly and wait on the other side in case there was an explosion. But everyone wanted to get their bags off the bus first. We were all still arguing with the driver when the fire fighters arrived. Fortunately our bus didn't explode after all.

- 1 In the fifth sentence, *explosion* is used as
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a verb. | a noun. | an adverb. | an adjective. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

TRAP!

Explosion does involve action, but is here it is a noun not a verb. The clue is the article (*an*) before **explosion**.

- 2 In the fourth sentence, *black* is used as
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a verb. | a noun. | an adverb. | an adjective. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 3 In the fifth sentence, *quickly* is used as
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a verb. | a noun. | an adverb. | an adjective. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

HINT

Remember, many **ly** words (adverbs) describe verbs.

- 4 Which word in the sentence is a conjunction?
- Mr Porter asked us to cross the road quickly and wait on the other side in case there was an explosion.
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>us</i> | <i>and</i> | <i>wait</i> | <i>there</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 5 Which words in the sentence are prepositions?
- The driver, Mr Porter, asked us to leave our bags on the bus and get off.
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>asked and us</i> | <i>our and the</i> | <i>the and get</i> | <i>on and off</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 6 Which phrase correctly transforms this sentence to future tense?

So we on the grass at the side of the road.

will go and sit	went and sit	will go and sat
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

HINT

Will is often used to create future tense. Make sure all the verbs are the same tense (and are all singular or all plural).



SENTENCES

A sentence is a group of words that expresses a complete idea, feeling or thought. It usually has a subject, an object and a verb. Sentences usually begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop, exclamation mark or question mark.



Which word or words correctly complete the sentence?

- 1 this bridge was designed by the best engineers in the country.

- ☐ It's obvious that
☐ In order that
☐ So that
☐ As a result of

HINT

Make sure that the option you select makes a **complete** sentence.

- 2 In this case, the judge decided to make an exception usual rule.

- of the ☐ because ☐ for the ☐ to the ☐

- 3 I can play computer games all day getting bored.

- without ☐ neither ☐ not ☐ against ☐

- 4 "Let's go out tonight," suggested Marcie.

- to eat ☐ too eat ☐ for eat ☐ but eat ☐

TRAP!

The words **to** and **too** are often confused (**too** means **in addition**).

- 5 Which sentence has the correct punctuation?

- ☐ "The Lord of the Rings" is a book series written by Tolkien.
☐ The Lord of the Rings is a book series written by Tolkien.
☐ "The Lord of the Rings" is a book series written by tolkien.
☐ the Lord of the Rings is a Book Series written by Tolkien.

TRAP!

Titles of books, films and other creative works should appear in quotation marks when written. Sometimes all the key words are capitalised. Titles can also appear in italics in printed documents.

- 6 Which sentence has the correct punctuation?

- ☐ "Mum said that my sister should stop," asking so many questions.
☐ Mum said that my sister should stop asking so many questions.
☐ mum said that "My sister should stop asking so many questions."
☐ Mum said that my Sister should stop asking so many questions.

HINT

This is an example of **indirect speech**.



USING LANGUAGE

TENSE

Verbs can express different times at which actions occur. Sentences can be written in past, present or future tense.



In which tense are these sentences written?

- 1 We brought the horses to a fresh water creek.

past

☐

present

☐

future

☐

- 2 I knew I was about to lose control of the vehicle.

past

☐

present

☐

future

☐

- 3 I will study harder for these exams.

past

☐

present

☐

future

☐

- 4 The riding school closed down after the horses became ill.

past

☐

present

☐

future

☐

- 5 I'm going to prune the peach tree this afternoon.

past

☐

present

☐

future

☐

TRICK!

The word **will** usually signals future tense.

Which word correctly completes the sentence?

- 6 The customer a lounge suite from the furniture store.

bayed

☐

brought

☐

bought

☐

- 7 your coat to see if the keys are in your pocket.

Shake

☐

Shaken

☐

Shook

☐

- 8 I will you a letter when I reach Spain.

wrote

☐

written

☐

write

☐

- 9 We couldn't have the trouble that decision would cause.

know

☐

knew

☐

known

☐

HINT

Sometimes a word's form changes when its tense changes, for example, **say** and **said**.



VERBS

Verbs are *action* words. They show nouns *doing*, *having* or *being* various things. For example, *The boy is jumping* – the verb (*jumping*) shows that the noun (*boy*) is *doing* something.



Which word or words in the sentence are verbs?

- 1 Ari drove his guests back to the airport.

Ari

☐

drove

☐

his

☐

guests

☐

- 2 Kasra practises his acrobatic tricks every day.

Kasra

☐

practises

☐

every

☐

day

☐

- 3 Hot air ballooning is an exciting adventure.

Hot

☐

air

☐

ballooning

☐

adventure

☐

- 4 Marty will be performing at the local theatre's musical production this week.

performing

☐

local

☐

theatre's

☐

musical

☐

- 5 I drank three litres of water during my training session at the gym.

drank, training

☐

drank, during

☐

during, training

☐

training, gym

☐

- 6 My uncle watches television all day on Sundays.

uncle

☐

watches

☐

all

☐

day

☐

- 7 We ordered milkshakes at the cafe.

ordered

☐

milkshakes

☐

at

☐

cafe

☐

- 8 I lived with my grandparents for two years.

I

☐

lived

☐

with

☐

two

☐

HINT

Look for **ing** to identify some types of verbs.

HINT

Past tense verbs often end in **ed**.



USING LANGUAGE

VERBS

Read the text *The picnic*.
Choose the correct word to fill each gap.



The picnic

Callie and Sonya went to the kitchen and **9** some sandwiches of ham, tomato and cheese for the picnic they had planned for the afternoon. Callie **10** the picnic basket and put in the wrapped sandwiches. She also **11** a bottle of lemonade from the fridge, and half a block of chocolate. Sonya **12** two pears from the fruit bowl, and the two girls **13** the basket and set off for the beach.

- | | | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9 | make
<input type="checkbox"/> | makes
<input type="checkbox"/> | making
<input type="checkbox"/> | made
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 | finded
<input type="checkbox"/> | find
<input type="checkbox"/> | finds
<input type="checkbox"/> | found
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 | packed
<input type="checkbox"/> | pack
<input type="checkbox"/> | packs
<input type="checkbox"/> | will pack
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 | adds
<input type="checkbox"/> | adding
<input type="checkbox"/> | add
<input type="checkbox"/> | added
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13 | took
<input type="checkbox"/> | take
<input type="checkbox"/> | taken
<input type="checkbox"/> | taking
<input type="checkbox"/> |

14 In the last sentence of the text, *set* means

- ☐ a group of similar things.
- ☐ a pair.
- ☐ started.
- ☐ emphasised.