

Sentence Vocabulary

Updated 2015-16

	Definitions
Apostrophe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Used as a contraction to combine words or omit letters from a longer word or phrase.• Also used to show possession.
Adjective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A word that describes or modifies a noun or pronoun.
Adverb	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A word that describes or modifies a verb, adjective, or other adverbs to tell why, when, where, how, or how much.
Capitalize	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The uppercase version of a letter used for the first word of a sentence or a direct quotation.• The uppercase version of letters used in the titles of published words, personal and official titles, names and initials of persons, and words indicating family relationships used in family of proper names.• The uppercase version of letters used in the proper names of places, ethnic, national, or political groups, and geographical features.
Clause	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A group of words containing a subject and a predicate.
Colon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Punctuation used to introduce a list or an explanation.• Punctuation used after a formal letter salutation (instead of the informal comma).• Punctuation used to separate hours, minutes, and seconds in time expressions.
Comma	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Punctuation used in a series of three or more parallel words, phrases, or clauses.• Punctuation followed by only one space.• Punctuation used after an informal letter salutation (instead of the formal colon).• Punctuation used after an introductory command, comment, or transition signal word.• Punctuation used to separate a clause or word that interrupts the flow of a sentence.• Punctuation used to connect two ideas into a complete sentence, which is then followed by a conjunction.
Conjunction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Words that connect words, phrases, or clauses.• Preceded by a comma.
Em Dash	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Punctuation used in a pair to indicate a sudden change in thought within a sentence, which would be read aloud unlike phrases in parentheses.
Exclamation mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Punctuation usually only used in formal writing when directly quoting something someone else said aloud, so within quotation marks.
Hyphen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Punctuation used to combine compound words or phrases.



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Fragment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A clause that does not express a complete thought and cannot stand alone as a sentence.
Interjection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A word or phrase that expresses emotion and is usually not a complete sentence.
Modifier	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A word or phrase that explains another word or phrase.
Noun	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A word that names a person, animal, place, or thing.
Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A thing you can see or touch that is not alive.
Parentheses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Punctuation used to enclose extra information, which would not be read aloud unlike phrases contained within a pair of m-dashes.
Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Punctuation used at the end of a sentence.• Punctuation followed by two spaces in academic writing, but only one space in newspaper and online writing.• Punctuation used with most abbreviated words.• Punctuation that when used to abbreviate word does not have a space between parts of the abbreviation.
Predicate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The part of the sentence that says something about what the subject <i>does</i> or <i>is</i> and contains the verb.
Preposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A word that is used with a noun or pronoun to show direction, location, or time, or to introduce an object.
Pronoun	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A word that takes the place of a noun.
Quotation mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Punctuation used before and after a speaker's or author's exact words to quote exactly.
Run-On	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A sentence with more than one complete thought.• A sentence with two independent clauses combined without proper or any punctuation.
Semi-colon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Punctuation used between two independent clauses to make a complete sentence.• Punctuation used to connect two ideas to make a complete thought, but without the use of a conjunction.• Punctuation used to separate items in a series when each item already contains a comma.
Subject	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The person or thing being described or discussed.
Verb	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A word that describes the action, occurrence, or state of being.

