

Writing Toolkit- Grammar

Superlatives

Superlatives are used for describing and comparing, they compare and describe to the greatest degree. For example, the man was not just angry, he was the **angriest** man.

- Angriest
- Boldest
- Bossiest
- Brightest
- Cheapest
- Cleanest
- Creamiest
- Deadliest
- Dullest
- Filthiest
- Loneliest
- Narrowest
- Shallowest
- Strangest
- Truest
- Worthiest

Adverbs

Where a verb tells us what is happening, adverbs give a greater level of detail about how the action or behaviour is happening.

- Accidentally
- Arrogantly
- Helplessly
- Mysteriously
- Politely
- Randomly
- Smoothly
- Unexpectedly
- Voluntarily
- Zealously

Modal Verbs

Modal verbs are used to suggest how likely, probably or possible something is. If you say 'I will call later', the modal verb 'will' suggests that it is very likely to happen.

- Can/can't
- Could/ couldn't
- May/ may not
- Might/ might not
- Must/ must not
- Ought to/ ought not to
- Shall/ shall not
- Should/ shouldn't
- Will/ won't
- Would/ wouldn't

Verbs

Verbs help us to describe how a character or object is acting or behaving. Here are some less common verbs for you to try:

- Admire
- Ascend
- Boast
- Cascade
- Conceal
- Creep
- Dawdle
- Deceive
- Despise
- Devour
- Dismantle
- Encourage
- Gasp
- Howl
- Loathe
- Manipulate
- Meander
- Neglect
- Plead
- Relish
- Saunter
- venture

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Determiners

Determiners help the reader understand if we are referring to one object (singular), more than one (plural) or exactly what it is that we are referring to.

Articles: a, an, the

Possessive: my, your, his, her, our, their, whose

Demonstratives: this, that, these, those

Numbers: one, two, three, four, five, six ...

Ordinal Numbers: first, second, third, fourth ...

Quantifiers: a few, a lot, another, any, many, several, some

Pronouns

Pronouns are useful as they help us to avoid repeating nouns.

Personal pronouns:

- I, me, my, mine, myself
- You, your, yours, yourself
- He, him, his, himself
- She, her, hers, herself
- We, us, our, ours, ourselves

Relative pronouns:

These allow you to introduce a relative clause which is a type of subordinate clause which contains a subject and a verb. However, relative clauses still require a main clause to make complete sense. They are great for adding detail.

- That, what, when, where, which, who, whose

Contractions

Contractions are where two words are joined together to form a single word with an apostrophe. Such as: are not/ aren't, is not/ isn't, where is/ where's, you had/ you'd, was not/ wasn't, I have/ I've.

Fronted Adverbials

Fronted adverbials are used for beginning sentences by focusing on location, time, frequency, manner or the degree in which something is happening.

- Above me,
- Outside the building,
- Under the rainforest canopy,
- After a while,
- Infrequently,
- Curiously,
- Breathing heavily,
- Totally overwhelmed

Coordinating Conjunctions

Coordinating conjunctions help us join two clauses together. A clause is a complete thought and it normally contains a subject and a verb. Use the acronym FANBOYS to help you remember this!

F for

A and

N nor

B but

O or

Y yet

S so

Subordinating Conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions introduce subordinate clauses, which also normally contain a subject and a verb. They can sometimes be used to start a sentence to vary your sentence structure. You can use A WHITE BUS acronym to help you remember this!

A although, after as,

WH when,

I if,

T that,

E even though,

B because,

U until, unless,

Formal and Informal Language

Formal language is used in more official writing such as a letter. Informal language is often used in more relaxed situations, where conversations happens between friends.

Formal	Informal
Absent	Off
Combat	Fight
Demonstrate	Show
Incorrect	Wrong
Request	Ask
Support	Help
Terminate	End