

# The LATIN QUARTER

## A Glossary of English Grammar

- active** one of two **voices** of a **verb**, the other being **passive**
- adjective** an adjective describes or qualifies a **noun** or **pronoun**:  
*a long drive; the meal was delicious*
- adverb** adverbs qualify **verbs** and often—but not always—end *-ly*:  
*they ran quickly; she visited us often*  
They also qualify **adjectives** and other adverbs:  
*he is too slow; they ran very quickly*
- article** *the* (definite article); *a, an* (indefinite article)
- case** the form of a **noun**, **pronoun** or **adjective** which by its ending defines the grammatical role of the word in a **sentence**: e.g. nominative case [**subject**], accusative [**object**], genitive [**possessive**]. Applicable to languages such as German and Latin
- clause** a clause contains (or implies) a **subject** and a **finite verb**:  
*the sun shines*  
A main clause can form a **sentence** by itself. A subordinate clause needs a main clause to complement it:  
*if the sun shines*  
*though he was innocent*  
*because they were late*  
A subordinate clause is introduced by a **conjunction**
- conditional** a form of **verbs** like **indicative**, **imperative** or **subjunctive**, usually expressed in English with *would* (in some languages this is expressed with a subjunctive):  
*if I were you, I would leave at once*  
  
Also used in some languages as a polite form of request:  
*I would like more raspberries please*
- conjunction** words which join together words, **phrases**, **clauses** and **sentences**:  
*and, but, or, because, if, when, since, although, however, therefore,*
- finite** the finite form of a **verb** must have (or imply) a **subject**, unlike an **infinitive** or **gerund**

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<b>gender</b>	there are three genders: masculine, feminine or neuter
<b>gerund</b>	a form of a <b>verb</b> used as a <b>noun</b> (similar to an infinitive): <i><u>seeing</u> is <u>believing</u>; we will win <u>by playing</u> our best</i>
<b>grammar</b>	the science of language and its <b>inflexions</b> ; recognised norms of usage; patterns which can be studied and applied to other expressions
<b>idiom</b>	an expression with words or grammar used in an abnormal idiosyncratic way (idios : Greek word for private, peculiar)
<b>imperative</b>	the form of a <b>verb</b> which expresses a command: <i>sit! bring! speak!</i>
<b>imperfect</b>	a past <b>tense</b> of a <b>verb</b> , describing an incomplete, continuous or recurring past action: <i>they <u>used to watch</u> the local team</i> <i>she <u>visited</u> us every Tuesday</i> <i>at six o'clock he <u>would light</u> his pipe</i> <i>we <u>were travelling</u> to Spain when it happened</i>
<b>indicative</b>	the form of a <b>verb</b> which describes something which happens or exists (whereas the <b>subjunctive</b> describes potential action) <i>if he <u>is</u> at home he <u>will have</u> my message by now</i> indicative <i>if she <u>were</u> here, she <u>would be</u> happy</i> subjunctive
<b>infinitive</b>	a form of a <b>verb</b> which is normally expressed with <i>to</i> in front: <i>she wants <u>to see</u> a film</i> <i><u>to be</u> or not <u>to be</u></i>
<b>inflexion</b>	variable endings of words to express <b>case, number, gender, tense</b> or <b>person</b>
<b>interrogative</b>	a word which asks a question
<b>intransitive</b>	an intransitive verb cannot take a direct <b>object</b> (only an indirect one): <i>we <u>go to the beach</u></i>
<b>noun</b>	these are concrete "things" or abstract ideas like <i>thirst, delay, holiday</i> , or proper names
<b>number</b>	<b>singular</b> or <b>plural</b>

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- object** an object is a **noun** or **pronoun**, and is on the 'receiving end' of the action of a **verb** (while the **subject** 'does' it):  
*she reads the book*
- An indirect object is usually expressed with a **preposition**:  
*she reads the book to them*
- Note how an indirect object can be obscured:  
*she reads them the book*
- participle** a form of a **verb** which is used as an **adjective**:  
*the moving film*  
*the surprised guests*  
*after waiting for an hour at the station, I took a taxi*
- passive** one of two **voices** of a **verb**, the other being **active**:  
*the book is read by her (passive)*  
*she reads a book (active)*
- Note how the **subject** in the passive expression becomes the **object** of the active one
- perfect** a past **tense** of a verb referring to a period of time now ended:  
*we have moved house*  
*I saw the circus acrobats yesterday*  
*you did not write to me*
- person** the *first* person is 'I' or 'we', the *second* person 'you'; and the *third* person 'he', 'she', 'it', 'one' or 'they'
- phrase** a combination of two or more words without a finite verb
- pluperfect** past **tense** of a **verb** including 'had':  
*I had left the premises before she arrived*
- plural** describes two or more (a plural **verb** has a plural **subject**)
- prefix** an addition to the front of a word:  
*pre-, post-, sub- etc*
- preposition** prepositions combine with **nouns** or **pronouns** to form an expression which may describe time or place, or an **indirect object**:  
*in London, at midday, on a bus, with a friend, to his dismay,  
half of the cake*
- pronoun** pronouns are used in place of **nouns** (Latin *pro* means *in place of*):  
*I, you, he, she, it, we, you, they, me, you, him, her, us, you, them*

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<b>sentence</b>	a sentence starts with a capital letter and ends with a full stop; it usually contains or implies at least one <b>finite verb</b> and a <b>subject</b> )
<b>singular</b>	describes only one (a singular <b>verb</b> has a singular <b>subject</b> )
<b>subject</b>	a subject is a <b>noun</b> or <b>pronoun</b> , and performs the action of a <b>verb</b> (as opposed to an <b>object</b> , which is on the 'receiving end'): <i><u>she</u> reads the book</i>
<b>subjunctive</b>	the form of a <b>verb</b> which describes a potential rather than real action or condition (as opposed to <b>indicative</b> ): <i>if she <u>were</u> here, she <u>would be</u> happy</i> subjunctive <i>if he <u>is</u> at home he <u>will have</u> my message by now</i> indicative
<b>suffix</b>	an addition to the end of a word: e.g. <i>-wise (otherwise); -ship (friendship)</i>
<b>syntax</b>	the grammatical structure of a <b>sentence</b>
<b>tense</b>	the tense of a <b>verb</b> indicates when the action took place
<b>transitive</b>	a transitive verb takes a direct <b>object</b> (as opposed to an <b>intransitive</b> verb which does not): <i>they <u>eat</u> a meal</i>
<b>verb</b>	these words usually describe an action, or sometimes a condition. Every <b>sentence</b> should have one (or imply one): <i>we <u>visit</u> a restaurant; he <u>is</u> in the house</i>
<b>voice</b>	a <b>verb</b> has two voices: <b>active</b> and <b>passive</b>