

Grammar Guide

Question Words

To make information questions, use these seven words.

Who: used with people

Who is that? / That's my brother.

What: used with things

What is that? / That's a giraffe.

When: used with time and time expressions

When does class start? / It starts at eight o'clock.

Where: used with places and locations

Where is the library? / It's on Main Street.

Why: used to ask for a reason or explanation

*Why do you like scary movies? /
Because they're exciting.*

How: used to ask for a way to do something

*How do you make a card? / You need to
cut paper and fold it.*

used to ask about the condition of
something or someone

*How does the bread taste? / It tastes
delicious.*

Circle.

1. **Who** / **When** is coming to the party? **Where** / **What** are they bringing?
2. **What** / **Where** does this bus go? **When** / **Who** does it arrive at Main Street?
3. **How** / **What** do you make pizza?
4. **Who** / **Why** do birds fly south for the winter?

Parts of Speech

Each word has a particular job to do. These jobs are the eight parts of speech.

Noun: a word for a person, place, or thing

student, park, house

Pronoun: a word that takes the place of a noun

he, she, it, they, me, us

Verb: an action word

run, jump, eat, drive

a state of being

is, was, have, been

Adjective: a word that describes a noun or a pronoun

big, orange, soft, tall

Adverb: a word that modifies (changes) a verb, adjective, or adverb

quickly, carefully, very, always

Parts of Speech continued

Preposition: a word that begins a prepositional phrase, which gives information about location, time, space, description, or condition

in, on, for, to, about

Conjunction: a word that connects other words, phrases, or clauses together

and, or, but, because, while

Interjection: a word that is used to express extra emotion

Oh!, Wow!, Um, Uh-oh!

Grammar Tip

A prepositional phrase is a preposition plus the words following it.

at seven o'clock, with me, for you, on the table, to the store

Label the underlined words.

interjection

1. Ouch! I hurt my leg.
2. John and I walked to the supermarket.
3. Where is my new, blue shirt?
4. They ride their bikes very quickly but walk very slowly.
5. We have to read this unit for homework.
6. Jon always takes a shower in the morning.

Plurals

Nouns can be singular or plural, depending on number.

Singular: refers to one person, place, or object
student, park, house

Plural: refers to more than one person, place, or object
students, parks, houses

Regular plurals are formed by adding -s to the noun.
books, friends, eyes, boots

Irregular plurals can be formed in many ways.
man → men, child → children, tomato → tomatoes, fish → fish, fly → flies

Write.

1. tree → trees
2. leaf → _____
3. _____ → cities
4. activity → _____
5. dictionary → _____
6. _____ → buses
7. sister → _____
8. _____ → feet

Articles

There are three articles in English: *a*, *an*, and *the*. Articles are a kind of adjective.

a: is used for common, singular nouns that begin with consonants

a car, a desk, a movie theater

an: is used for common, singular nouns that begin with vowels

an orange, an eraser, an answer

the: is used for a specific singular or plural noun. It could be either a common or a proper noun, but it will be a certain one.

the building on the corner (There is only one.)

the Eiffel Tower (There is only one.)

the books on the bookshelf (There are many, but you know which ones.)

the boy in the green T-shirt (There may be more than one, but he can be identified.)

Remember that there are some exceptions to these rules.

an honor

Grammar Tip

Vowels are the letters *a, e, i, o, u*, and sometimes *y*.

Consonants are all the other letters, including *b, c, g, r, s*, and *v*.

Grammar Tip

A **common noun** is a general word. It is usually not capitalized.

A **proper noun** is a specific title or name of someone, something, or some place. It is usually capitalized.

a museum (common)

the Museum of Natural History (proper)

a girl (common)

Julie (proper)

Remember that *the* is not used with people's names.

Write.

1. The Children's Day celebration happens in Japan every spring.
2. I would like _____ bowl of soup and _____ sandwich.
3. Do you have _____ eraser I can borrow?
4. She liked _____ camping trip they took last weekend.
5. He ate _____ apple for a snack.
6. _____ best park in this town is on Oak Street.

Comparatives and Superlatives

Comparatives: a form of adjective used to compare two nouns. Comparatives are formed by adding *-er* to the end of the adjective or by adding *more* or *less* before it.

small → *smaller* *comfortable* → **more** / **less** *comfortable*

Superlatives: a form of adjective used to compare three or more nouns. Superlatives are formed by adding *-est* to the end of the adjective or by adding *most* or *least* before it.

small → *smaller* → **the smallest**
comfortable → *more* / *less* *comfortable* → **the most** / **least** *comfortable*

Write.

- Whose bike is older, Danny's or Nick's?
old
- This video game is the _____ one I have ever played.
easy
- These earrings are _____ than those. These are only \$20, but those are \$40.
expensive
- Is the jaguar the _____ animal in the zoo? I don't like dangerous animals.
dangerous

Adjective Order

Sometimes, more than one adjective is used to describe a noun. In that case, the adjectives should be in a certain order.

1st is the article, if one is needed.

a, an, the

2nd is your opinion.

beautiful, scary, comfortable, friendly

3rd is the size.

big, short, small

4th is the age.

new, old, young

5th is the color.

red, blue, green, orange

6th is the nationality.

South Korean, American, Turkish, Vietnamese

7th is the material.

glass, metal, stone, paper

the beautiful, new, purple dress; the new Brazilian song; the pretty glass bowl

Unscramble.

- _____ 2. _____
pizza / a / tomato / large the / new / student / friendly / Brazilian
- _____ 4. _____
beautiful / sky / the / blue stone / old / house / the

