Grammar Workshop

English Basics:
The Jargon You Need to Know

Nouns name who or what (a person, place, thing, or idea):

- In the great city of New York, Joe sat in his plush green leather chair and hungrily eyed the lengthy lunch menu.
- Eventually, the server returned to his table. She asked for his lunch order.
- "I am curious about the specials," Joe smiled.
- "You are the boss!" Sal replied.

Pronouns stand for nouns:

- In the great city of New York, Joe sat in his plush green leather chair and hungrily eyed the lengthy lunch menu.
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- "You are the boss!" Sal replied.

Action verbs show what a person or thing is doing:

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- Eventually, the server returned to his table. She asked for his lunch order.
- "I am curious about the specials," Joe smiled.
- "You are the boss!" Sal replied.

Linking Verbs connect a person or thing with its description:

- "I am curious about the specials," Joe smiled.
- "You are the boss!" Sal replied.
- "I feel wonderful!"
**Adjectives** describe nouns or pronouns:

- In the great city of New York, Joe sat in his plush green leather chair and hungrily eyed the lengthy lunch menu.
- "I am curious about the specials," Joe smiled.

**Adverbs** describe verbs, other adverbs, or adjectives:

- In the great city of New York, Joe sat in his plush green leather chair and hungrily eyed the lengthy lunch menu.
- Eventually, the server returned to his table.
- "I am awfully eager for lunch," Joe said angrily.

**Conjunctions** join words:

- In the great city of New York, Joe sat in his plush green leather chair and hungrily eyed the lengthy lunch menu.
- He leaned back in his chair, and then he began to feel faint.
  - These are coordinating conjunctions.
- After the server disappeared again, Joe's stomach roared.
  - This is a subordinating conjunction.

**Prepositions** begin a modifying phrase:

- In the great city of New York, Joe sat in his plush green leather chair and hungrily eyed the lengthy lunch menu.
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**Prepositions** begin a modifying phrase:

- In the great **city of New York**, Joe sat in his plush green leather **chair** and hungrily eyed the lengthy lunch menu.

- Note that a noun or pronoun follows the preposition and serves as the **object of the preposition**.

**Articles** mark nouns:

- In the great city of New York, Joe sat in his plush green leather chair and hungrily eyed a lengthy lunch menu.

- “Please send an eager server my way!” the starving Joe begged.

- The **is** a definite article. It points to a specific item.
- A and an are indefinite articles.
- An precedes a noun that begins with a vowel sound.

**Sentence Basics**

**Parts of a Sentence**

- Subject
- Verb
- Direct Object
- Indirect Object

**Subject - Verb - Object**

- The **subject** tells who or what the sentence is about:
  - The **silly rabbit** hopped a train.

- The **verb** (predicate) tells what the subject is doing or feeling:
  - The silly rabbit **hopped** a train.

**Subject - Verb - Object**

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  - The **silly rabbit** hopped a train.

- The **verb** (predicate) tells what the subject is doing or feeling:
  - The silly rabbit **hopped** a train.

- The **object** receives the action:
  - The silly rabbit hopped a **train**.
The Object

- The **Direct Object** receives the action in a sentence:
  - Janie threw the ball.

- The **Indirect Object** receives the action secondarily:
  - Janie threw me the ball.