



Grammardog Glossary of Grammar Terms

About Gramwardog

Gramwardog was founded in 2001 by Mary Jane McKinney, a high school English teacher and dedicated grammarian. She and other experienced English teachers in both high school and college regard grammar and style as the key to unlocking the essence of an author.

Their philosophy, that grammar and literature are best understood when learned together, led to the formation of Gramwardog.com, a means of sharing knowledge about the structure and patterns of language unique to specific authors. These patterns are what make a great book *a great book*. The arduous task of analyzing works for grammar and style has yielded a unique product, guaranteed to enlighten the reader of literary classics.

Gramwardog's strategy is to put the author's words under the microscope. The result yields an increased appreciation of the art of writing and awareness of the importance and power of language.



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GRAMMAR GLOSSARY

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Abbreviation. A shortened form of a word, usually followed by a period.
Example: Mr., Dr., U.S.A. *Mrs. Bennet's best comfort was that Mr. Bingley must be down again in summer.* (*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen).

Active voice. A verb is active if the subject of the sentence is performing the action. Example: *Rikki-Tikki shook some of the dust out of his fur and sneezed.* (*Rikki-Tikki-Tavi* by Rudyard Kipling).

Adjective. A word that describes. An adjective modifies a noun or pronoun. Example: *Human madness is oftentimes a cunning and most feline thing.* (*Moby Dick* by Herman Melville).

Adjective clause. A clause that modifies a noun or pronoun. Example: *The mother who lay in the grave, was the mother of my infancy.* (*David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens).

Adverb. A word that describes a verb, explaining where, when, how, or to what extent. An adverb modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb. Example: *The time I spent upon the island is still so horrible a thought to me, that I must pass it lightly over.* (*Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson).

Adverb clause. A clause that modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb. Example: *As she kissed me, her lips felt like ice.* (*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte).

Antecedent. A word or group of words that a pronoun refers to or replaces. Example: *He had a conscience, and it was a romantic conscience.* (*Lord Jim* by Joseph Conrad).

Apostrophe. A punctuation mark (') used in contractions to replace a letter, or added to the last letter of a noun followed by an *s* to indicate possession. Example: *Don't turn me out of doors to wander in the streets again.* (*Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens).

Appositive. A noun, pronoun, or phrase that identifies or extends information about another noun or pronoun in a sentence. Example: *At the man's heels trotted a dog, a big native husky, the proper wolf dog.* (*To Build a Fire* by Jack London).

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