

Common TEFL Acronyms & Grammar Glossary

Key Words and/or Definitions of this Unit: _____

EFL = English as a Foreign Language

ESOL = English as a Second or Other Language

ELL = English Language Learners

L1 = Mother tongue

L2 = Second Language

Target Language = L2 or other foreign
Language studied in class

TEFL = Teaching English as a Foreign Language
= TESOL = Teaching English as a Second or
Other Language



GRAMMAR GLOSSARY

Adjective: a word or phrase naming an attribute, added to or grammatically related to a noun to modify or describe it. *i.e. small, trendy, interesting, mind-numbing, classroom-based...*

Adverb: a word or phrase that modifies or qualifies an adjective, verb, or other adverb or a word-group, expressing a relation of place, time, circumstance, manner, cause, degree, etc. *e.g., gently, quite, repeatedly, then, there...*

Auxiliary Verb: English verbs are limited as to what they can indicate alone, i.e. through their own morphology. Common auxiliary verbs are forms of *to be, to have and to do, but also must, shall, will, can, could, may...*

Clause (Clausal): A group of words that is either a whole sentence or is a part of a sentence. Clauses are built up from individual words or from small clusters of words called phrases. Most clauses are built around a main verb which tells, often, of an action, thought or state. A sentence can be a clause or contain several clauses: *I prefer teaching English to adults.* or *I prefer teaching English to adults, because the course types are more varied.*

Complement: A word, phrase or clause that follows a verb and which simply adds further information concerning, usually, the verb's subject.

Conjunction: A type of linking word connecting words, phrases, clauses, or sentences: *and, but...*

Connector: A word to link words, phrases and clauses: *but, or, either...*

Determiner: a modifying word that determines the kind of reference a noun or noun group has: *a, the, every...*

Direct Object: A noun or pronoun that receives the action of a transitive verb (a verb that is followed by an object). *I found it here.*

Element: An element is a distinct grammatical unit. It is a building block or segment of a sentence. There are three important grammatical elements: word, phrase and clause.

Gerund: a form that is derived from a verb but that functions as a noun, in English ending in *-ing*.

Infinitive: A form of a verb without tense and often introduced by "to".

Meta-language: a form of language or set of terms used for the description or analysis of another language.

Modal Verbs: Auxiliary verbs used in expressing necessity, possibility, obligation, permission... English modal verbs include: *must, shall, will, should, can, could, may and might*.

Noun: a word (other than a pronoun) or part of speech used to identify any of a class of people, places, or things (common noun), or to name a particular one of these (proper noun).

Predicate: It is one of the two main parts of a clause or sentence. It modified the subject and includes the verb objects, or phrases governed by the verb. *Harry is always ordering take-aways.*

Preposition: a word governing, and usually preceding, a noun or pronoun and expressing a relation to another word or element in the clause, as in "*the man on the platform,*" "*she arrived after dinner,*" "*what did you do it for?*"

Pronoun: a word that can function by itself as a noun phrase and that refers either to the participants in the discourse (e.g., *I, you*) or to someone or something mentioned elsewhere in the discourse (e.g., *she, it, this*).

Sentence: a group of words that expresses a complete idea. Generally begins with a capital letter and concludes with a full stop, a question mark, or an exclamation mark.

Stem: (Grammar) the root or main part of a noun, adjective, or other word, to which inflections or formative elements are added.

Subject: it indicated what the sentence is about, governing the verb. *She knew the answer to the question.*

Tense: the time of a verb's action or state of being: *present*, *past*, and *future*.

Verb: part of speech that describes an action or occurrences, or indicates a state of being.

Word class: a category of words of similar form or function; a part of speech.