

Grammar and syntax: some basic terminology

inflection	inflection (inflexion)	word mutation signalling function in phrase and clause	cf. se, þone; word, worde; s̄ing, s̄ang
	declension	nominal inflection	cf. stān, stānes, stāne, stāna, stānum
	conjugation	verbal inflection	sing, sang, sung, singing, to sing
	part of speech	word type, by function	noun, pronoun, adjective, verb, adverb, preposition, conjunction, interjection
	common noun	thing, person, or concept in general	fish, stone, butcher, antipathy
	proper noun	specific person or thing, by its own name	John, Brussels, Humber, Parliament Hill
	pronoun	word 'standing in for' a noun	he, it, them, that, himself, what, which
	adjective	word qualifying a noun	yellow, slow, heavy, old
	nominal	collective term for noun, pronoun, or adjective	fish, John, he, himself, what, yellow, old
	verb	word expressing the action of a sentence	runs, waiting, to say
	adverb	word qualifying a verb, adjective, or other adverb	hardly, well, yesterday
	preposition	word specifying the relationship of subject or action to a noun phrase (which in English typically follows it immediately)	in, over, during, despite, to, throughout, until
	conjunction	word connecting words, phrases, or clauses	and, but, while, although, since
	interjection	unconnected word, mostly exclamation or filler	oh! er... ah! hey! hum... doh!

syntax	syntax	analysis of the relationship between phrases and clauses	(subject, verb, object)
	phrase	group of words forming one syntactic element	'a big tree', 'have been formed', 'in the pan'
	clause	complete syntactic unit containing one verb phrase	'that you have been chosen', 'he is right', 'while we were asleep'
	subject	word or phrase doing the action	<u>John</u> eats oats.
	direct object	word or phrase to which the action is applied	Sally smells <u>a woodfire</u> .
	indirect object	word or phrase taking an interest in the action less direct than having the action applied to it	She gave <u>her mother</u> a necklace.