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# LANGUAGE ARTS GLOSSARY



**GLOSSARY:** An alphabetical list of special words and their meanings. *I looked up a word in the glossary.*



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# LANGUAGE ARTS GLOSSARY

**ABBREVIATION:** A word that is made shorter. Usually a period is put at the end of an abbreviation. Examples: *ft.* for *foot* or *feet*, *st.* for *street*, *apt.* for *apartment*.

**ACCOUNT:** A story or report about something that happened. *She gave an account of her trip to Mexico.*

**ACT:** 1. Part of a show done by an actor, a singer, a clown, etc. *The children laughed at the clown's act in the circus.*

2. One of the parts of a play. *The play by Shakespeare had a great final act.*

**ACTION:** What happens in a play, story, movie or television show. *The Western was full of action.*

**ACTOR:** A person who acts or performs in a play, movie or television show. *He was an excellent actor.*

**ADAPT:** To change something from one form to another, as when a story in a book is re-written for the movies. *He used a best selling book to adapt it for the movies.*

**ADAPTATION:** Something made by adapting, changing it from one form to another. *The movie was an adaptation of a best selling book.*

**ADJECTIVE:** A word that describes a noun or a pronoun. Examples: *The large cat chased the mouse around the barn. It is huge.*

**ADVERB:** A word that describes a verb, adjective or another adverb. Examples: *She is looking down. It is very big. The radio is playing too loudly.*

**AFFIX:** Letters put at the beginning or end of a word that change its meaning. Example: *In the word "misunderstood," "mis" is an affix known as a prefix. In the word "slowly," "ly" is an affix known as a suffix.*

**ALLEGORY:** Explaining or teaching something by using a story. *"The Pilgrim's Progress" is a famous allegory.*

**ALLITERATION:** Using the same beginning sound in a group of words. Example: *The sun sank slowly.*

**ALLUSION:** 1. An indirect mention of something without saying it exactly. *The story used allusion to create a mystery.*

2. A casual or brief mention of something. *He made an allusion to what he did but didn't go into the details.*

**ANALOGY:** The showing of some likeness between things that are not alike in all ways. *There is an analogy between the human heart and a pump.*

**ANALYSIS:** The study of the parts of something in order to understand more about the whole. *The car mechanic did an analysis of the engine to find out what was wrong.*

**ANECDOTE:** A short story about an interesting event or happening. *My uncle told a funny anecdote about something that happened at work that day.*

**ANTAGONIST:** The person in a story or play that is the “bad guy,” the one who fights against the hero. *The robber was the antagonist in the movie.*

**ANTONYM:** A word that means the opposite of another word. Example: “Happy” is the antonym of “sad.”

**APOLOGY:** 1. Something written or spoken that explains that one is sorry for having done something wrong. Usually an apology also asks for forgiveness. *She wrote an apology to her mother for breaking the house rules.*

2. A written or spoken support of the truth or justice of something. *Dr. King wrote an apology for civil rights demonstrations.*

**APOSTROPHE:** 1. A mark used to show that something is owned or belongs to someone. This is an apostrophe: ’. Examples: *the car’s tire; Maria’s bike.*

2. Used to show that a letter or letters have been left out of a word. Examples: *He cannot go. He can’t go. She is not going. She isn’t going.*

3. Used when writing more than one of numbers, letters and words being talked about as numbers, letters or words. Examples: *He got four A’s. There are too many “and’s” in that paragraph.*

**APPENDIX:** More information for the reader given at the end of a book. *The book had a short appendix.*

**APPROPRIATE:** Right or correct for a certain purpose. *An exclamation mark is appropriate after the statement “I won!” An appropriate description of her would be to say that she was kind to people.*

**ARE:** Exist, continue or remain; or have a specified place or position. *There are many different kinds of animals. They are on the table when you want them.*

**ARGUMENT:** Giving reasons for or against something. *The ballplayer gave an argument for why he should be safe on first base.*

**ARTICLE:** A piece of writing on a certain subject found in magazines, newspapers, newsletters, etc. *I read an article on how to grow large tomatoes.*

**ARTICLES:** 1. *A* and *an* are the articles used when the speaker or writer is not talking about a specific person, place or thing. Example: *I would like an apple.* This means that the person wants any apple, not a specific one. However, *the* is an article that is used when the speaker or writer is talking about a specific person, place or thing. Example: *I want the red apple.* This tells us that the person does want a specific apple, not just any one.

2. A word which helps identify something. Examples: *I need an empty box.* (any one) *I need the small box.* (a specific one or kind of one)

**ASSESS:** To try to find out the value of something. *He asked the jeweler to assess the value of the diamond ring.*

**ASSONANCE:** The use of the same vowel sounds in words although the spelling may be different. Examples: The “a” sound in *rain* and *day*; or the “e” sound in *feet* and *bead*.

**AUDIENCE:** People who come together to see or hear something being presented. *The audience loved the play.*

**AUTHOR:** The person who writes a book, poem, article, etc. *I am the author of three books.*

**AUTHOR’S PURPOSE:** The reason or reasons why an author writes a story or book. An author’s purpose could be to make you laugh, to tell you about something, or to teach you something. *In a joke book, the author’s purpose is to make you laugh.*

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY:** The story that is about a person’s life, written by the person himself or herself. *The famous astronaut wrote his autobiography.*

**BASE WORD:** The word that other words can be made from. Sometimes this is called a ROOT WORD. Examples: “*Happy*” is the base word for “*happiness*” and “*unhappy*.” “*Big*” is the base word for “*bigger*” and “*biggest*.”

**BIAS:** Having an opinion before you have enough information; prejudice. *She had a bias against older people working in the office.*

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** 1. A list of books or essays about a certain subject. *The bibliography contained all the information about flowers.*

2. A list of books or essays by the same author. *The bibliography contained all of William Shakespeare’s writings.*

**BIOGRAPHY:** The story about someone else's life written by an author. *The famous writer wrote a biography of President Kennedy.*

**BODY:** The main part of something written, not the introduction or the ending. *The body of your essay must contain all the main points.*

**BOOK:** Sheets of paper put together with writing and/or pictures on them that tell you about something. *I read a book about dogs.*

**BOOK REVIEW:** A short writing that gives some of the good and bad points of a certain book. *After reading the book review in the newspaper, I decided to buy the book and read it.*

**BRAINSTORMING:** To think about something and get your own ideas about it. *Sally was brainstorming about the characters for her book.*

**BUSINESS:** Something that has to do with one's job or work. *I have a business meeting today at 3:00.*

**CAPTION:** The words used to tell about a drawing or picture in a book or magazine. Sometimes the caption is under the picture or drawing, sometimes it is beside it. *The caption was as funny as the drawing she made.*

**CAPITALIZATION:** Writing or printing with a capital, or large, letter or letters. Capitalization is used to begin the first word of a sentence. Capitalization is used when you are writing the name of a particular person, place or thing. Examples: *Everyone went to lunch. His name is Robert Jones. He lives in Baton Rouge.*

**CAUSE:** Something or someone that makes something happen. *The cause of the tree's burning was lightning.*

**CAUSE AND EFFECT:** An action (cause) and what happens because of the action (effect). *In life, there is cause and effect.*

**CHAPTER:** The parts that a book is divided into. *The book has ten chapters.*

**CHARACTER:** A person or animal in a story. *Jake was the name of the cowboy character in the story.*

**CHARACTERIZATION:** The creating of characters in a story. *The writer was famous for his characterization abilities.*

**CHARACTER SKETCH:** Writing about a person or type of person that describes the particular qualities of that person. *I decided to try out for the part of the wife in our school play after reading the character sketch.*

**CHARACTER TRAIT:** Something about a person that makes him different from others. *Honesty is a good character trait.*

**CHRONOLOGICAL:** Facts or events put in order according to the time they happened in the past. *Most chapters in history books are in chronological order.*

**CLARIFY:** To make something easier to understand. *Please clarify these directions for me so I can understand what I need to do.*

**CLASSIC:** 1. A work of literature or art of the best quality. *The story Black Beauty is a classic.*

2. Having to do with the art, writings and way of life of the Greeks or Romans long ago. *She loves to read classic plays.*

**CLAUSE:** Part of a sentence that has a subject and a predicate. Example: *I saw her when I arrived. I saw her is a clause and when I arrived is a clause.*

**CLEAR:** Not confused; easily seen, heard or understood. *His story was very clear and easy to follow.*

**CLIMAX:** The most exciting part of something. *The play reached its climax at the end.*

**CLOSING:** The “Yours truly” or “Sincerely” used to show the end of a letter. *I like to use “love” as my closing.*

**COLLECTION:** A group of similar things gathered from many places and belonging together. *This book is a collection of short stories by several different authors.*

**COLON:** 1. A colon is used before a list of things. Example: *Shopping List: 1. Bread 2. Milk 3. Apples.*

2. A colon is used in some dictionaries to show that the words which follow the colon are an example of the definition being given. Example: *happen verb 1. To take place; occur: Tell me everything you want to have happen today.*

3. A colon is used between hours and minutes when writing time. Example: *3:15.*

**COLOR:** Some details or description that makes something sound more special or realistic. *The writer’s descriptions of the town and countryside gave much color to the story.*

**COMEDY:** A story that is mostly full of funny things and has a happy ending. *Shakespeare wrote a comedy that I really like.*

**COMMA:** A punctuation mark that looks like this , and is used in many ways, such as:

1. A comma is used to separate words or groups of words from each other. Examples: *She was beautiful, he thought. He heard me, but he did not answer my question.*

2. A comma is used to separate a series of items and actually means “and” or “or.” You generally do not use a comma before the last item listed in a series, but use the words “and” or “or.” Example: *Joe has pens, paper, pencils and books.*

3. A comma is used to separate the parts of a date. Example: *It happened on Friday, June 12, 2000.*

4. A comma is used to set off groups of digits in large numbers. Any number having more than three digits uses a comma. Examples: *1,000; 2,358,639*

**COMMUNICATION:** People sharing ideas in some way. A person has an idea and tells it to another person who understands it. This person can then answer in some way. Example: *If Bill tells Joe that it is good to see him and if Joe understands what Bill has said, then communication happened. If Joe does not understand what Bill has said, even though Bill has said it, communication did not happen.*

**COMPARE:** To take a look at how two or more things are alike or different. *Can you compare the cities of St. Louis and Detroit?*

**COMPLETE:** 1. To bring together the parts to make a whole. *By adding the last part, the new engine was complete.*

2. Finished or done. *The job was complete.*

**COMPOSITION:** Words put together to create a written piece. *The student handed in his composition to his English teacher.*

**CONCISE:** Saying something in as few words as possible. *Tell me what happened, but please be concise.*

**CONCLUSION:** 1. The ending. *At the conclusion of the play, the audience applauded.*

2. A decision made after thinking about something. *He came to the conclusion that studying just for the test was silly.*

**CONFLICT:** A strong disagreement or a fight or war. *The two countries had a conflict about whom some land belonged to.*

**CONJUNCTION:** A word that joins words or groups of words. Examples: *He and she are talking. Kit is older, but Lisa is taller. You may have cookies or candy.*



**CONNOTATION:** Words that suggest something more than just the simple meaning. Example: *A dictionary meaning of “mother” is “a female parent.” The connotation of the word is that a “mother” is “one that loves and cares for children.”*

**CONSONANCE:** Agreement between. *There was consonance in our club.*

**COMPOUND WORD:** Two words attached together to make one word that has a different meaning than the two words by themselves. Examples: *“lady” and “bug” are put together to make the compound word “ladybug,” which has a different meaning than “lady” and “bug.” “Butter” and “fly” are put together to make the compound word “butterfly,” which has a different meaning than “butter” and “fly.”*

**CONSTRUCTION:** The order in which words are put in a sentence. *The teacher said that I had good sentence construction.*

**CONTEXT:** The words that come before and after a word or sentence. *What is the context in which you found this word?*

**CONTRACTION:** A word or words which have been made shorter by using an apostrophe ( ' ) in place of the letter or letters that have been left out. Examples: *cannot → can't; would not → wouldn't; is not → isn't.*

**CONTRAST:** To compare the differences between two or more things. *How does your school contrast with mine?*

**CONVERSATION:** People talking and sharing ideas. *I enjoyed our conversation.*

**CONVEY:** To communicate; to get your ideas across to someone else. *Can you convey your feelings to me about the problem?*

**COUNTER:** In the opposite direction or opposed. *His ideas were counter to mine.*

**CREATIVE:** Having the ability to make or do something new; using imagination. *Everyone is creative in some way.*

**CREDIBILITY:** Can be believed; having reliability; being worthy of trust. *His story had credibility because it was based on the truth.*

**CRITIC:** A person that reviews the works of others and then states his opinions or judgments about them, usually by stating those things that they think are wrong or bad. *I agreed with the critic when he said that the book wasn't very good.*

**CRITICAL:** Finding what is wrong about someone or something. *He was a very critical person.*

**CRITICISM:** The stating of one's own opinions, positive or negative, about another person or his work. *The teacher's criticism of my composition was very helpful.*

**DEBATE:** The talk between two different people or groups who have opposite ideas and opinions. *There was a debate in the cafeteria about who was the best basketball player.*

**DEDUCE:** The action of reaching an opinion by reasoning. *From the mess in the kitchen, the mother could deduce that the children had been making peanut butter sandwiches.*

**DEFEND:** 1. To keep safe from any danger; to guard or protect. *Strong walls built of rock were used to defend cities from the enemy.*

2. To give support to someone or something. *I could defend the points I made in my essay by using quotations from the story.*

**DEFINE:** To explain the meaning of something. *We had to define the words to show that we knew their meaning.*

**DEMONSTRATIVE:** Words that show or point out the things being spoken about. Example: *Give me that book.*

**DECLARATIVE SENTENCE:** A sentence that gives information but doesn't ask for something or give an order. Examples: *"He walked to the store," is a declarative sentence. "Get me my shoes," is not a declarative sentence. "School is over at three o'clock," is a declarative sentence. "Can I have some more?" is not a declarative sentence.*

**DENOUEMENT:** The ending in a play, novel, etc. *The story had an exciting denouement.*

**DEPENDENT CLAUSE:** Part of a sentence that has a subject and a verb but does not express a complete thought. It cannot stand by itself. Example: *When I came home is a dependent clause, not a sentence, because it is not a complete thought.*

**DESCRIBE:** To give a picture of something by the use of words. Describe *your new home to me.*

**DESCRIPTION:** Using words to create a picture. *The writer's description of New York City made me feel I was really there.*

**DESCRIPTIVE:** Full of or using descriptions. *The book was very descriptive.*

**DETAILS:** Having to do with each little thing of a person or event described. *The writer used many realistic details.*

**DEVELOP:** To make bigger or work out in greater detail. *We want to develop our plans to improve the local park.*

**DEVELOPMENT:** The action of making bigger or working out in greater detail. *The author's excellent development of the story resulted in a best seller.*

**DIAGRAM:** 1. A picture or drawing that shows or explains something. *We drew a diagram of the buildings at our school.*

2. The action of making a drawing of something and labeling its parts. *Please diagram the places mentioned in this story.*

**DIALOGUE:** The words spoken by the characters in a story or play. *Every play has dialogue to tell the story.*

**DICTIONATION:** Saying or reading something out loud for another person to write down. *The employer gave dictation to his secretary.*

**DICTIONARY:** A book of the words in a language arranged in alphabetical order. It has the meanings of the word, how to spell and pronounce the word and other information about the word or the use of it. *The dictionary helped me learn the meanings of the words.*

**DIMETER:** A line of poetry that has two feet in it. *I wrote a poem and used a dimeter in it.*

**DIRECT:** 1. Going in a straight line. *He took the direct route to the football game.*

2. Nothing in between. *They were in direct contact every day.*

3. Being very clear. *His communication was very direct.*

4. Giving directions to actors in a play or show. *My brother is going to direct a play.*

**DIRECTIONS:** The telling or showing of how to do something, what to do or how to get somewhere. *You should read the directions to find out how to put the toy together. The teacher gave the students directions on how to take the test. I gave my friend directions to my house.*

**DIRECT QUOTATION:** Using the words of another exactly as they were spoken and naming the speaker. Example: *Mother said, "Come in for dinner now."*

**DISCUSSION:** Writing or talking together about something. *We had a good discussion about the school rules.*

**DISTINGUISH:** To see how one thing is different from another. *It is too dark to distinguish things clearly.*

**DO:** Cause (any action) to happen or to produce something. *Do some work on your report today.*

**DOCUMENT:** A written or printed paper that gives information or proves something. *A birth certificate is an important document.*

**DRAFT:** A plan, sketch or writing that needs more work. *The student wrote a draft of her paper before she got it just right.*

**DRAMA:** 1. A story that can be acted out for people to see; a play. *The drama was about a girl who lived on a farm.*

2. A subject that teaches about acting and how to do plays. *We learned how to act on stage in our drama class.*

**DRAMATIC:** 1. Having to do with drama or plays. *The children gave a dramatic presentation for the Christmas show.* (See DRAMA.)

2. Out of the ordinary and exciting. *The rainstorm was very dramatic.*

**DRAMATIZATION:** Making a drama out of something. *He made a dramatization based on the book.* (See DRAMA.)

**DRAW CONCLUSIONS:** To decide about something from the information you have found. *Don't draw conclusions from too little information.*

**EDIT:** To look over and correct what has been written so that it is well done and finished. *I will edit this book so that it has no spelling mistakes in it.*

**EDITOR:** A person who decides what goes into a book, magazine or newspaper. *He was the editor of a magazine.*

**EDITORIAL:** Someone's ideas of what they think or feel about something that is put in the newspaper, on the Internet, or said on radio or T.V. *Do you agree with this editorial in today's paper?*

**EFFECT:** That which happens because of a cause; the result. *Crime is often the effect of poor education.*

**ELABORATION:** The action of explaining something with a lot of detail. *The teacher's elaboration of the poem helped the students understand it better.*

**ELEMENTS:** The individual parts that something is made up of. *What are the elements of the story?*

**ENCYCLOPEDIA:** A book that has information about many different things that is in alphabetical order. Encyclopedias are used a lot when doing research. *We saw a beautiful bird and looked up "birds" in the encyclopedia to find out what kind of bird it was.*

**ENDING:** 1. The last part of something or when it is finished. *Everyone likes a happy ending.*

2. The suffix of a word. Examples: *quickly, singing, thankful.*

**ENGLISH:** 1. The name of the language used in the United States, England and several other countries. *English is spoken in many parts of the world.*

2. A course in school for learning about the English language. *The students went to English class every day.*

**ENUNCIATION:** The action of speaking or pronouncing words or parts of words. *Because her enunciation is very good, everyone can understand what she says.*

**EPIC:** 1. A long poem about the great actions of a hero or heroine. *I enjoyed reading the epic by Homer.*

2. A novel or film with the same style and length as the poem. *I saw an epic film.*

**ESSAY:** A short written piece that gives the writer's ideas and feelings about something. *In college, I wrote an essay about my favorite teacher.*

**EVALUATE:** To judge the value or worth of something by looking at the strengths and weaknesses of it. *The teacher will evaluate the student's writing.*

**EVALUATION:** The result of determining an estimated value or worth of something. *My evaluation is that you should sell the car and buy a new one.*

**EVENT:** Something that happens, usually something special or important. *The President's visit to our town was an exciting event.*

**EVIDENCE:** Something that gives proof or a reason to believe something. *There was not enough evidence to prove that the person was guilty.*

**EXCLAMATION POINT:** A mark that looks like ! and is used to show surprise, strong feeling or excitement. Examples: *We won the game! Wow! Look out!*

**EXCLAMATORY SENTENCE:** A sentence that shows surprise or strong feeling. It usually ends with an exclamation point. Examples: *Wow, you finished! Oh, a snake! Watch out, that car is moving fast!*

**EXPLAIN:** To tell the meaning or to give the reasons for something. *I can explain why I was late.*

**EXPOSITION:** Writing that explains an idea or how to do something. *I wrote an exposition on how to grow strawberries.*

**EXPOSITORY:** A way of explaining something. *In college, we do a lot of expository writing.*

**EXPOSITORY ESSAY:** An essay that presents and explains information. *I got an “A” on my expository essay.*

**EXPRESS:** To make something known by words, actions or pictures. *He did not have the words to express how he felt.*

**EXTEND:** To stretch out; to become longer or larger. *Can you extend your story from one page to three pages?*

**FABLE:** A made up story used to teach some lesson in life. The characters in the story are often talking animals. *I wrote a fable using a family of beavers.*

**FACT:** Something that is known to be true, real or that it has happened. *It is a fact that the earth is round.*

**FAIRY TALE:** A story, usually for children, about fairies or other magical creatures. *My children love to hear a fairy tale before they go to bed.*

**FANTASY:** Stories of the imagination that are not realistic. *Alice in Wonderland is a fantasy.*

**FEATURE:** A special story or article written for a newspaper or magazine. *She wrote a feature article for the magazine on bread making.*

**FICTION:** A story made up by the writer, usually a short story or novel. *This novel is fiction even though it includes some true facts.*

**FIGURATIVE:** A way of describing something by comparing it to something else. This makes what is being described clearer or better understood. Examples: *Life is like a bowl of cherries. The ship plows the sea.*

**FIGURE OF SPEECH:** Words used in an unusual way to create a picture in the mind. Example: *He fought like a lion is a figure of speech.*

**FINAL PAPER:** The last copy of an essay, story or book that has all the errors fixed. The final paper is the copy that is ready to give to other people to read. *The college student had his final paper published.*

**FIRST PERSON:** Using pronouns that show that you are talking or writing about yourself. Examples: *I, my, mine, we, ours, us.* (See PERSON.)

**FOCUS:** The part of the sentence that gives the most important information. Example: *In the sentence, “The tree was very green,” “the tree” is the focus.*

**FOLK:** The people of a country. *The country folk lived in the villages outside the cities.*

**FOLK TALE:** A story passed on by telling it to the other people in a community or country. A folk tale may or may not have any truth in the story. *The story about Paul Bunyan is a folk tale.*

**FOOT:** In poetry, one of the parts into which a line of poetry is divided. A foot is based on a rhythm that repeats itself. *In most of Shakespeare's poetry, each foot usually has two beats, one light and one heavy.* Example: *To **be** / or **not** / to **be** / that **is** / the **ques**/tion.*

**FORESHADOWING:** A way of suggesting that something might happen before it actually does. For example, writers often give the reader a hint about something that will happen later on in the story without giving all of the details. This creates excitement and interest in the story. *The writer's use of foreshadowing made me want to keep reading the story to find out what happens.*

**FORM:** 1. The different ways that verbs are spelled and spoken to show time, the person speaking, etc. Example: *I run. I ran. He runs.*

2. Other words change form to say different things as well. Examples: *The car is slow. The car moved slowly. The child is there. The children are there. I saw him. He saw the ship. That ship is his.*

**FREE VERSE:** Poems that do not have a regular meter or rhyme scheme. Example: *"With my borrowed winter coat, I shiver in my California blood."* (Excerpted from the poem *East Calvary Road* by Bonnie Paull. Used with the permission of the author.)

**FRIENDLY:** Acting nicely towards someone and showing them kindness. *My boss is a very friendly person.*

**FUTURE:** The time that is not here yet; the time that is coming. *If the day is Friday, the next Sunday is in the future.*

**FUTURE TENSE:** 1. The form of a verb used to show that something will happen in future time. Example: *The boy will eat his dinner.*

**GENERAL:** Not detailed or specific. *I had a general idea of what the new neighborhood was like.*

**GENERALIZE:** To form a general rule about something after looking at specific facts. *After seeing many dogs, I can generalize that most are friendly to people.*

**GENRE:** A kind of writing or painting that makes it different from other kinds of writing or painting. *Novels are a different genre of writing than plays.*

**GHOST WRITER:** A person who writes things for someone else who receives the credit for the book or article. *The president used a ghost writer for his book.*

**GLOSSARY:** An alphabetical list of special words and their meanings. *I looked up a word in the glossary.*

**GRAMMAR:** The way words are put together so that they communicate exact thoughts, ideas and meanings. It is how we agree that words should be put together to communicate well with each other. *If you use good grammar, people will easily understand what you are saying or writing.*

**GRAPHIC:** 1. Providing very descriptive details. *Her story was so graphic I thought I was there experiencing it.*

2. To show something with pictures, diagrams or graphs. *The included graphic helped him to understand the assignment.*

**GRAPHIC ORGANIZER:** A diagram of information used to develop meaning in reading, writing and speaking. *I made a graphic organizer to plan out all the parts of my speech.* (See the illustrations on pages 42 and 43 of this glossary.)

**GREEK:** Having to do with Greece or its people or language. *Many of the heroes in stories are Greek.*

**GREETING:** The words used at the beginning of a letter or other communication that often have the person's name and another word. Common greetings are: Dear (Sue). Hi (Joe). *I forgot to use a greeting in my letter and my friend never wrote back.*

**HAIKU POETRY:** A very short Japanese poem in three lines of 5, 7 and 5 syllables. *We wrote haiku poetry in our English class.*

**HANDWRITTEN:** Written by hand instead of being typed or printed. *I like seeing old handwritten books.*

**HAS:** Holds in the hand or possesses (property or something that is owned); is able to use, etc. Has is used with she, he and it. *She has Joe's car for the afternoon. He has a kite by its string.*

**HAVE:** Hold in the hand or possess (property or something that is owned); is able to use, etc. Have is used with I, you, we and they. *I have an apple. We have a good teacher.*

**HEADING:** The part of a letter that has the sender's address and the date. It goes at the top right-hand corner of the letter. Example:

Jane Doe  
11755 Riverview Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63138  
October 31, 2000



**HEAVY:** Referring to a syllable that is stressed. Example: *In the word “good-by” (good-by), “by” is heavy.*

**HERO:** 1. A courageous and strong man, celebrated for his good actions. *George Washington was truly a hero in the United States.*

2. The most important male character in a story, poem, book, etc., that does good things. *The hero of the story saved the animals from the forest fire.*

**HEROINE:** 1. A courageous and strong woman, celebrated for her good actions. *Joan of Arc was a heroine in France in 1429.*

2. The most important female character in a story, poem, book, etc., that does good things. *She was the heroine of the story because she helped the people learn to read.*

**HISTORICAL:** Having to do with history; events from the past. *The Civil War was an important historical event in the United States.*

**HOMONYM:** Whenever you have words that sound the same or are spelled the same, but name two or more different things, you have a homonym. Examples: *hair (the hair on your head) and hare (the rabbit); bat (the animal that flies) and bat (the club used to hit a baseball) and bat (to take a turn hitting the baseball).*

**HUMOR:** Expressing or understanding what is funny or amusing. *He has a very good sense of humor.*

**HUMOROUS:** Something funny and amusing. *The movie was very humorous.*

**HYPERBOLE:** Words that exaggerate to make a point and are understood not to be true. Example: *There are a thousand reasons why I didn’t get my homework done.*

**HYPOTHESIS:** Something stated that seems to be true (an educated guess) and that can be tested to guide one in further study. *The scientist was testing his hypothesis.*

**HYPOTHESIZE:** To form a hypothesis or educated guess about something. *Can you hypothesize about life on other planets?*

**IAMB:** In poetry, a foot that has two syllables in it, with the stress on the second syllable. Example: *“Today” is an example of an iamb — to/day.*

**IAMBIC:** Having to do with a foot in poetry that has two syllables in it, with the stress being on the second syllable. Example: *The word “good-by” is iambic — good/by.*

**IAMBIC PENTAMETER:** Poetry that has five feet in each line. Each foot in the line is an iamb with two syllables, one stressed and then one unstressed. *The poet used iambic pentameter in his poem.*

**IDEA:** A thought or picture formed in the mind. *What is your idea of the best vacation one can take?*

**IDENTIFY:** To figure out or show who someone is or what something is. *Can you identify the robber?*

**IDIOM:** A group of words that together have a different meaning than each word has by itself. Example: “*To catch one’s eye*” meaning “*to get one’s attention.*”

**ILLUSTRATE:** To explain something with drawings and pictures. *It helps to illustrate what you are learning because it shows you about things or how things work.*

**ILLUSTRATION:** A drawing or picture in a book or story that makes it easier to understand. *He used an illustration to help show what he was talking about.*

**ILLUSTRATOR:** An artist who makes drawings for books or stories. *He works as an illustrator.*

**IMAGE:** The use of words to create a picture in the reader’s mind. *The images of the writer’s childhood were very clear to the reader.*

**IMAGERY:** Comparisons and descriptions used by a writer to create pictures in the mind of the reader. *The poet’s imagery made the poem come alive for me.*

**IMAGINARY:** Existing only in the imagination; not real. *The book Alice in Wonderland presents the imaginary adventures of a young girl.*

**IMAGINATION:** The ability to form new pictures of things in the mind or to combine old ones into new forms. *The writer of this science fiction book has a great imagination.*

**IMPERATIVE SENTENCE:** A sentence that asks or orders someone to do something. It usually doesn’t say the person or thing being talked to. Examples: *Go away! Get me my newspaper, please.*

**INDENT:** To put the letters of the first line in further from the rest of the lines in the paragraph. *I always indent my paragraphs.*

**INDEPENDENT CLAUSE:** Part of a sentence that has a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought. It can stand by itself. Examples: *When I came home I saw her standing there. That sentence has one independent clause. The cat sat on the mat and it licked its paws. That sentence has two independent clauses.*

**INDEX:** An alphabetical list of what is in a book or article with page numbers given for each item. It is usually at the end of a written work. *I looked up a name in the index.*

**INDIRECT QUOTATION:** The use of a statement made by someone else but not in his/her exact words. Example: *My aunt said that she was going to be late to the party.*

**INFER:** To come to a conclusion from the evidence or information that is given. *The jury will infer from the evidence that the man was guilty of the crime.*

**INFERENCE:** The action of making a guess or coming to a conclusion. *From the way he was coughing, I made an inference that he was not well.*

**INFORM:** To share your knowledge or information about something with someone else. *I had to inform the police of what I had seen.*

**INITIALS:** The first letters of a person's names. A period may be used after each letter. Example: *The initials for Bob Allan Cole would be written as B.A.C. or BAC.*

**INSIDE ADDRESS:** The name and address of the person to whom you are writing the letter. The title of the person would also be included for a business letter. *I made sure that I had the inside address on my letter before printing it for the file.*

**INSPIRATION:** Something that causes or moves one to do something. *His speech was an inspiration to me.*

**INTERACTIVE:** To have the actions of one affect the actions of another. *The computer program I used was very interactive.*

**INTERJECTION:** A word or group of words used that show strong feeling. Examples: *Wow! That is a great drawing. Help! I am falling. Good grief! That really smells.*

**INTERNAL:** Located on the inside; within oneself. *He did not say what he thought; he kept his thoughts internal.*

**INTERNAL CONFLICT:** An internal disagreement or inner feeling or contradiction. *The mother had an internal conflict regarding a request from her teenaged son.*

**INTERPRET:** To explain the meaning of or decide the meaning of something. *How do you interpret the artist's painting?*

**INTERROGATIVE SENTENCE:** A sentence that asks a question. It always ends with a question mark. Examples: *Could you get me some water? What is Aunt Sally's address?*

**INTERVIEW:** A meeting in which a person is asked about his views, activities, etc., as by a reporter, when applying for a job or when information is needed from the person. *The reporter will interview the movie star. The teacher had the student come for an interview when she was having trouble in class.*

**INTRODUCTION:** The section at the beginning of a book, letter or other piece of writing that explains what the writing is about, why it was written or more information about where and when it was written. *The introduction helped me understand more about where the President grew up.*

**INTRANSITIVE VERB:** A verb that shows action not going across to something. It is not transitive. Example: *They are playing.* (This sentence does not say what the children were playing. The action does not go across to someone or something else.)

**IRONY:** 1. When you say or write words that mean the exact opposite of what you really feel or think. Example: *He said “good job” to his dog after he chewed up his favorite shoes.*

2. A situation that turns out exactly the opposite of what might be expected. Example: *The firehouse burned down.*

**IS:** Exists; continues or remains; has a specified place or position. *There is a ring on her finger. The cake is still on the table.*

**ITALICS:** 1. A way of printing where the letters lean to the right. *It looks like this.* When you can't use italics (when you are writing by hand, for example) you can underline instead. It is used to show importance. Example: *Push harder!*

2. Used to show the titles of books, magazines, movies and works of art. Example: He wants to read *War and Peace.*

3. Used to show the names of planes, trains, ships and so on. Example: He was diving for treasure from a ship called *The Queen Anne.*

4. To show that words are foreign words. Example: She waved goodbye and said *adios!*

5. To show that you are talking about a word itself. Example: How do you spell *dictionary?*

**JOURNAL:** 1. A book that a person writes in about things that happened that day, or about their thoughts and feelings about things. *Susan writes in her journal every night. We keep a journal in English class.*

2. A magazine or newspaper. *Mike wants to write for a journal when he grows up.*

**JUDGMENT:** Making a decision about something after careful study. *I trust my father's judgment about buying the used car.*

**KEY WORD:** One of the main words in a sentence, paragraph or subject. *A key word in football is “touchdown.” The key word in the sentence, “Summer is my favorite time of year” is “summer.”*

**LANGUAGE:** 1. A way of using sounds and spoken words or letters and written words to get ideas and thoughts from one person to another. *The girl used spoken language and also the rubbing of her stomach to communicate how hungry she was.*

2. The speech of a particular country, group of people, etc. *The language used in Mexico is Spanish.*

3. A school subject that teaches a way of using spoken and written words to communicate. *I have an English language class every day after lunch.*

**LANGUAGE ARTS:** The subjects and the skills taught in schools in these areas: reading, writing, speech, spelling and grammar. *She is taking a language arts class on how to give good speeches.*

**LECTURE:** A talk that someone does in front of other people. *The teacher gave us a lecture on good writing.*

**LEGEND:** A story about the past that many people think has a lot of truth in it because it has to do with real people. *Most people in the United States have heard the legend about Daniel Boone.*

**LETTER:** A written or printed communication to another person or group of people. *I wrote a letter to my aunt from summer camp.*

**LETTER, BUSINESS:** A letter that uses a certain form or style to communicate about business matters. *The secretary types the business letter for her employer.*

**LETTER, COVER:** A letter that explains or introduces something else that follows. *Please enclose a cover letter when you send the package.*

**LETTER, FRIENDLY:** A letter that is written to friends or family. *I received a friendly letter from a neighbor who moved away.*

**LETTER, PERSONAL:** A letter that communicates about private rather than business matters. *My mother sent me a personal letter.*

**LIGHT:** Referring to a syllable that is unstressed. Example: *In the word “good-by” (good-by), “good” is light.*

**LIMERICK:** A funny poem with 5 lines. The first, second and fifth lines rhyme with each other and the third and fourth lines rhyme with each other. Example: 1) *Sally is a little girl;* 2) *She has a funny curl;* 3) *She wraps it around her fingers;* 4) *But she never ever lingers;* 5) *She moves around all day in a fast whirl.*

**LITERAL:** 1. True to life, not exaggerated. *The amazing story was literal.*

2. Just the usual meaning of the words, nothing added. *What is the literal meaning of the speaker's words?*

**LITERARY:** Having to do with books or those who read or write literature. *My mother belongs to a literary club.*

**LITERATURE:** Stories, poems, plays and other writings that get read by many people over many years. *I took an American literature class in college to read the wonderful writing of many great people.*

**LOCALE:** A particular location where a story or play takes place. *The locale of many of my favorite movies is Florida.*

**LYRIC:** Poetry that has a musical rhythm and often describes strong feelings and thoughts. *The lyric was very beautiful to read aloud.*

**LYRICS:** Something that can be sung; the words of a song. *I know all of the lyrics to the song.*

**MAIN CHARACTERS:** The most important persons in a play, novel, etc. *The main characters in the play were two brothers.*

**MAIN IDEA:** What the story or book is about. *The main idea of some books is that drugs are bad.*

**MAIN TOPIC:** The most important subject or idea of an essay, book or other written work. *I introduced the main topic at the beginning of my essay.*

**MANUSCRIPT:** The author's written work that is given to a publisher or printer. *The manuscript was 500 pages long.*

**MARK:** A line, dot, check or something that is written to show or mean something. *A letter is a mark that shows the sounds of a word.*

**MARK THROUGH:** To take words out of something already written by drawing a line through them. *I will mark through the sentences I don't want to keep in the story I wrote.*

**MATTER:** A topic or something that is thought about. *The matter of the class was music.*

**MEANING:** The thoughts or ideas that are being communicated by the words. *What is the meaning of this story?*

**MEDIA:** Communication through newspapers, radio, magazines and television. *The media had many stories about the storm.*

**METAPHOR:** A way of describing something that compares it with something else. Example: *You are the sunshine of my life.*

**METER:** A particular rhythmic pattern in a poem. *The meter in the poem gave the poem a sad feeling.*

**MODEL:** An example that should be copied by others. *His behavior was a model for the other students.*

**MODERN:** 1. Having to do with the present times or just recent past. *I only like modern art.*

2. Being very new or up-to-date. *We bought the most modern television set.*

**MODIFIER:** A word that describes. Adjectives and adverbs are types of modifiers. Examples: *The large, brown cat jumped on the small table. She danced very slowly.* (See ADJECTIVE and ADVERB.)

**MODIFY:** To alter or change in some way. *You need to modify the essay so it communicates more clearly.*

**MONOLOGUE (or MONOLOG):** 1. A long speech by one actor in a play or movie. *The main character of the movie gave a great monologue.*

2. A play performed by one actor alone doing all the talking. *Hamlet's monologue is very famous.*

3. A long, uninterrupted speech or talk by one person. *The person's monologue was too long for the young children to sit still through.*

**MORAL:** 1. The ability to know what is right and wrong and to act on what one knows. *He tried to be a moral person.*

2. A lesson about right and wrong that is presented in a fable, story, etc. *The moral of the story was not to be selfish.*

**MOTIVE:** The reason a person acts in a certain way. *The writer made the motive of his character very clear.*

**MULTIMEDIA:** Using many means of communication (television, radio, newspapers, etc.) for getting information or data out to the general public. *A multimedia approach was used in advertising the movie.*

**MYSTERY:** A story or play about a crime or strange and puzzling event. *He wrote a mystery about the strange things that happened.*

**MYTH:** An old story that is handed down through the years. It often tells of gods and their relationship to humans. *Did you read the myth about the sword of King Arthur?*

**MYTHOLOGY:** A group of myths handed down through the years. *Greek mythology is studied by many people.*

**NAME:** A word or group of words that a person or thing is called. Examples: *Joe, The Titanic, table, dog.*

**NARRATE:** To tell a story in writing or speech. *The explorer will narrate his adventures on television.*

**NARRATIVE:** A story of what happened at a certain time and place. *The narrative of his adventures was very exciting.*

**NARRATOR:** Someone who tells a story. *The narrator of "Peter and the Wolf" had a beautiful speaking voice.*

**NON-FICTION:** Writing about facts and reality. Examples: *textbooks, biographies, true stories.*

**NOTE:** 1. A short message from someone. *The girls were passing a note during class.*

2. Something written at the bottom of a page that tells more about a word or part of a book, known as a footnote. *I read the note at the bottom of the page and it helped me to understand the paragraph.*

**NOTES:** Words or short sentences written down to help a person remember things heard or read or what one wants to say in a talk. *I took notes during the lecture, especially when the teacher told how to do the math problem. I had my notes with me during my talk but I didn't have to look at them at all.*

**NOUN:** A word used to name a person, place or thing. Examples: *The man went to the store. The state of Texas is located next to Louisiana on the map.*

**NOVEL:** A long story, usually a complete book, written about imaginary people and places. It may be based on actual history. *"War and Peace" is a long Russian novel.*

**NOVELETTE:** Same as a novella—a short novel—but is usually a romantic story. *She wrote a novelette when she was only 13 years old.*

**NOVELLA:** A short novel. *His first published book was a novella.*



**OBJECTIVE:** Not influenced by personal opinion or feelings. *The jury tries to be objective when it is making its decision.*

**OMNISCIENT:** Knowing everything; having complete knowledge and understanding. *God is considered by many to be omniscient.*

**ONOMATOPOEIA:** The use of words that when spoken actually sound like the real thing that it means. Examples: *buzz, boom, slurp, tweet, hiss.*

**OPINION:** What one thinks about something based on his own feelings and experience. An opinion does not have to be based on facts. *What is your opinion of the Boston Red Sox team?*

**ORAL:** 1. Involving the mouth. *His temperature was taken with an oral thermometer.*  
2. Spoken, not written. *The student gave an oral report.*

**OUTLINE:** A general plan made without the details. *The student wrote an outline for his essay.*

**PARADOX:** A statement that seems to say the opposite of some fact or truth but could still be true. *“Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink,” states a paradox.*

**PARAGRAPH:** One or more sentences that are connected to each other because they are about the same main idea. You usually show where a paragraph starts by indenting (starting it farther from the left of the page than other sentences) the first sentence of the paragraph. *The paragraph started on the bottom of one page and continued onto the next page.*

**PARAPHRASE:** Using different words to tell the same meaning of something spoken or written. *Can you paraphrase this poem for me?*

**PARTS OF SPEECH:** The different jobs that words do in sentences. Some words name things, some words describe things and some words show action. These different jobs that words do are called the *parts of speech*. Examples: *nouns and verbs.*

**PASSAGE:** A short part of a written or oral work. *The teacher quoted a passage from the poem.*

**PAST:** The time that has already gone by. *If today is the 10th of the month, the 5th of this month is past.*

**PAST TENSE:** The form of a verb used to show that something happened in past time. Example: *The kitten was in the tree.*

**PEN NAME:** A made-up name used by an author instead of using his real name. *Henry Smith used the pen name of John Green when he wrote science fiction books.*

**PERFORM:** To act in a play, play musical instruments, dance, etc., or to do something special in front of an audience. *The class will perform a play at the end of the school year.*

**PERIOD:** A dot used to show where the end of a sentence is. This is a period . *You will find a period at the end of this sentence.*

**PERIODICAL:** A magazine published regularly, such as weekly or monthly. *I read my favorite periodical every month.*

**PERSON:** Different pronouns are used depending on who or what is being referred to. In grammar, this is referred to as *person*. The *first person* would be the person or people speaking, such as the pronouns *I* or *we*. The *second person* would be the person or people spoken to—*you*. The *third person* would be the person, people, thing or things spoken about, such as the pronouns *he*, *she*, *it* and *they*. (See FIRST PERSON, SECOND PERSON and THIRD PERSON.)

**PERSONAL:** 1. Meant for one person only and it may be in private. *I had a personal conversation with the principal.*

2. In grammar, the word personal means having to do with the grammatical term “person,” as defined in this word list. *“I” and “we” are personal pronouns.*

**PERSONAL NARRATIVE:** A story in which the person writing it is the main character. *Sam’s story was all about himself, so it was a personal narrative.*

**PERSONIFICATION:** Describing something as if it were human. Examples: *The trees sighed a deep sigh. The lightning danced around the yard.*

**PERSPECTIVE:** A way of looking at things in order to understand them better. *By reading the book, he got a new perspective on this famous person.*

**PERSUASION:** The act of convincing someone of something. *A good lawyer has to use persuasion sometimes.*

**PERSUASIVE:** Able to get someone to do something by using reason. *I bought a new car from a very persuasive salesman.*

**PHRASE:** Words grouped together which are not as complete as a sentence. A phrase does not have both a verb and its subject. Example: *“In the park” is a phrase.*

**PLAY:** A written story that is acted out on stage for people to watch. *The audience loved the play.*

**PLOT:** The main idea and the order in which things happen in a movie, book or play. *The plot in the mystery was very complicated.*

**PLURAL:** Talking about more than one person or thing. Examples: *men, dogs, tables.*

**POEM:** A special way of telling something that usually has words that rhyme, a repeated rhythm and words that create clear pictures in the mind. *The poem was very beautiful.*

**POETRY:** Words more carefully chosen than in regular writing to describe one's feelings. Poetry may include repeated sounds and a rhythm. It can also be called *verse*. *The young man chose poetry instead of a letter to share his feelings.*

**POINT:** The meaning or purpose of a statement or action. *What was the main point of this story?*

**POINT OF VIEW:** 1. How someone thinks about or looks at something. *His many years spent alone on a farm affected his point of view.*

2. The way an author uses the character or characters to tell the story. Examples: *The author of Huckleberry Finn told the story by using the main character as the narrator speaking with the use of "I."* *The author of the Harry Potter books tells the characters' experiences with the use of "he," "she" "they," etc.*

**POSSESSIVE:** A word in grammar (a noun or pronoun) that means ownership. Examples: *"His" is a possessive pronoun. "John's" is a possessive noun.*

**PREDICATE:** That part of a sentence that tells what the subject *does, is* or *has*. It is made up of the verb and all the words that follow it. Example: *John drives the car*. In this sentence, *John* is the subject. *Drives the car* is the predicate (it tells what *John*—the subject—does).

**PREDICT:** To tell what one believes will happen in the future. *Can you predict the weather?*

**PREDICTION:** A statement telling that something is going to happen in the future. *His prediction on who would win the World Series was correct.*

**PREFACE:** An introduction to a book or speech. *The preface made the book sound very interesting.*

**PREFIX:** The letter or letters added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning and create a new word. Examples: The *"un"* in *unsure* is a prefix. The *"mis"* in *misunderstood* is a prefix. The *"in"* in *incomplete* is a prefix.

**PRELUDE:** Any action, event or comment that comes before the main event. *The music was the prelude to the start of the play.*

**PREPOSITION:** A word which shows the relationship between a person, place or thing and some other word or words in the sentence. Example: *The cat sat under the tree.* (The word “under” shows where the cat was in relation to the tree.)

**PREQUEL:** Writing about the earlier events that led up to the later time that had already been written about. *The prequel told about the childhood of the men who were the main characters in the first film.*

**PRESENT:** The current time. Example: *If it is 3 p.m. on Monday, then 3 p.m. on Monday is the present.*

**PRESENTATION:** Something special done in front of an audience. *The students did a special presentation of songs, poems and a play that they had written.*

**PRESENT TENSE:** 1. The form of a verb used to show that something is happening in present time. Example: *The kitten is in the tree.*

2. To show that something is true at all times. Example: *The sun rises in the east.*

3. To show that actions are being done all of the time. Example: *He practices the piano every day.*

**PREWRITING:** Everything you do before you start writing: choosing a topic, picking your ideas and thinking about your topic are examples of prewriting. *Joe took the prewriting time to make his list of characters.*

**PRIMARY:** The main or most important. *She was the primary character in the story.*

**PROMPT:** A writing assignment given to students that asks them to write about a topic that has already been picked. It also tells the student who their audience is and why they’re writing it. *The teacher gave the class a prompt and they all wrote very nice essays.*

**PRONOUN:** Any word used in the place of a noun. Example: *David is a quarterback. He scored twenty-six points against Central.* (“He” takes the place of the word “David.”)

**PRONUNCIATION:** The forming of sounds to say words. *My pronunciation of Spanish improved with practice.*

**PROOFREAD:** Examining writing for mistakes and making the corrections to it. *It is a good idea to proofread any paper you write (so you find and correct any mistakes you may have made) before you turn it in to the teacher.*

**PROPOSAL:** An idea or plan presented for consideration or discussion; proposal. *The idea of having a carnival at the school was a proposition from the students.*

**PROPOSITION:** An idea or plan presented for consideration or discussion; proposal. *The idea of having a carnival at the school was a proposition from the students.*

**PROSE:** The usual spoken or written words of the language that are not poetry. *The students wrote their papers using prose.*

**PROTAGONIST:** The leading character or hero in a story or play. *A famous actor played the protagonist in the movie.*

**PUBLIC:** People in general. *The public likes the new television comedy show.*

**PUBLICATION:** A copy of a printed book, magazine, newspaper or other piece of writing. *This glossary is a publication.*

**PUBLISH:** To print and make copies of books, newspapers, etc., and make them available for sale to the public. *Would you like to publish a book?*

**PUNCTUATION:** The way of using marks or symbols in writing and printing that make the written communication clearer. These marks are used to help you get the feeling of what is being written or printed. Punctuation marks help make written communication easier to understand. Example (without punctuation): *his mother said go to the store and he did at the store he bought bread butter and milk* (with punctuation) *His mother said, "Go to the store," and he did. At the store he bought bread, butter and milk.*

**PURPOSE:** The reason for doing something; a goal. *The purpose of study is to learn about things and be able to use what you have learned in life.*

**QUESTION:** Something asked of another or others to get information. Examples: *Is it raining outside? May I go to a movie?*

**QUESTION MARK:** A mark that looks like ? used after a sentence that asks a question. Examples: *What is your name? Where is my dog?*

**QUOTATION:** The exact words that another said or wrote. Examples: *The teacher said, "It's time to go home now." He used a famous quotation in his speech.*

**QUOTATION MARKS:** 1. Marks that look like this “ ” that show exactly what someone has said or is saying. The first set of marks “ shows when the talking starts and the next set of marks ” shows when you have come to the end of what the person actually said. Example: *"Please pass the salt," said Rose.*

2. Marks used when a word is being talked about in a sentence. Example: *"Funny" is a five-letter word.*

**REALISTIC:** True to real life, not imaginary. *The story of World War II was very realistic.*

**REALITY:** That which is real; the real world as viewed by a person. *Her reality was different from mine.*

**RECALL:** To remember something. *Can you recall where you were living when you were five?*

**RECOGNIZE:** To know and remember from past experience. *I will be sure to recognize you the next time we meet.*

**RECORD:** To write something down so that it can be looked at or read later. *I will record the answers to my question.*

**REFLECTIVE:** Thoughtful; thinking about something. *The movie made me reflective.*

**RELATE:** To tell the story of something; to tell what happened. *Please relate that story again.*

**RELEVANT FACTS:** Facts that are related to the point being made. *The relevant facts of the news story were the place and time.*

**REPETITION:** Repeating something already said or done. *Repetition is often used in poetry and songs.*

**REPORT:** Something written that tells a person about something. *I wrote a report on tigers and how they live.*

**RESEARCH:** To look and carefully study to find out more about something. Examples: *Sam will research how spaghetti is made. The class did research on wild animals.*

**RESOLUTION:** 1. Something decided upon; a decision made. *He made a New Year's resolution to never be late again.*

2. A written statement of a decision made. *The club passed a resolution to change the meeting day and time.*

**RESPOND:** To answer a question or offer one's thoughts on something. *How did he respond to the news?*

**RESPONSE:** The words or actions that are said, done or written in answer to another. *His response was a good one.*

**REVIEW:** 1. To go back over or study something again, sometimes done to get ready for a test. *The class will review the lesson before taking the test.*

2. Telling the good and bad things about a book, movie or play. It can also include a person's ideas or opinions about it. *He liked the review on the book, so he went right out and bought the book.*

**REVISE:** To correct or change the original wording or actions done before. *The teacher told me to revise my essay.*

**RHETORIC:** The ability to use words very effectively in speaking or writing. *My college offered a course in rhetoric.*

**RHYME:** 1. To have words end in the same sound. Example: "fat" and "cat" rhyme.

2. A short poem that has words in it that rhyme. Example: *Baa-baa black sheep have you any wool? Yes, sir, yes, sir, three bags full.*

**RHYTHM:** A repeated movement or sounds that follow a regular pattern. *The rhythm of the song made me want to dance.*

**ROMAN NUMERALS:** Letters used by Romans long ago in what is now the country of Italy. These letters were used for numbers. Roman numerals are often used now as page numbers for a book's introduction. Examples: I = 1; V = 5; X = 10.

**ROOT WORD:** (See BASE WORD.)

**ROUGH DRAFT:** A copy of a story or book that needs things to be fixed in it before it is finished. *The student wrote a rough draft of her story before she felt it was perfect.*

**RUN-ON SENTENCE:** A sentence that has two or more sentences within it, without the proper punctuation. It is an incorrect way to write sentences. Examples: *I like baseball let's go to the game tomorrow.* (Correct way: I like baseball. Let's go to the game tomorrow.) *Jim is a photographer he's going to the basketball court to take pictures.* (Correct way: Jim is a photographer. He's going to the basketball court to take pictures.)

**SALUTATION:** The opening greeting to the person. *"Hey Sally!" was the salutation I used in my letter.*

**SATIRE:** The use of humor to make fun of or to criticize someone or something that is bad or foolish. *"Gulliver's Travels" is a famous satire.*

**SCENE:** 1. The place and time of the action in a story or play. *The scene was set on the streets of New York City.*

2. One of the parts of an act in a play. *The first act in the play by Shakespeare had more than one scene.*

**SCIENCE FICTION:** A story using some facts from science and technology. Science fiction creates fantastic situations often involving life in the future and on other planets. *“Star Wars” is a science fiction movie.*

**SCREENPLAY:** A written story from which a movie is made. A story in book form would need to be written a little differently for it to be made into a movie; the writing would be the screenplay. *The book was made into a screenplay and became a very good movie.*

**SCRIPT:** The manuscript (written words) of a play, movie, radio or television show. *Each actor received a copy of the script in order to learn his lines.*

**SECOND PERSON:** Pronoun that shows that you are talking to or writing about the person or people being spoken to. Example: *You are getting very tall.* (See PERSON.)

**SEMICOLON:** A semicolon is used to separate parts of a sentence or definition that are different, but are related (have to do with one another). Example: *In the winter he goes skiing; in the summer he goes swimming.*

**SENSE:** The special feelings of the body or mind that let a person or animal become aware of things around him. The five most important senses are sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. *The writer used words that describe how the scene affected his sense of sight.*

**SENSORY:** Having to do with the senses of touch, taste, smell, sight, hearing and pain. *Superman has great sensory skill: he can see and hear things a mile away, and he doesn't feel pain.*

**SENTENCE:** 1. A spoken group of words put together in a way that communicates a complete thought. Example: *“I want a sandwich for lunch” is a sentence. “For lunch” by itself is not a sentence.*

2. A written group of words put together in a way that communicates a complete thought. A written sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with a period, question mark or exclamation point. Example: *I love ice cream!*

**SENTENCE FRAGMENT:** A part or piece of a sentence, not a complete sentence. Examples: *in my shoes; ate the cake.*

**SEQUEL:** A book or movie that continues a story begun in an earlier book or movie. *“Heidi's Children” was a sequel to the book “Heidi.”*

**SEQUENCE:** One thing following after another in a certain order. *The alphabet shows letters in a sequence.*



**SEQUENTIAL:** Following in a regular order. *The events in the story were sequential.*

**SETTING:** The time and place where the action is taking place in a story. *The setting of the story was in New Orleans.*

**SHORT STORY:** A story with a full plot but shorter than a novel. *I just read a book that has my favorite short story in it.*

**SIGNATURE:** The way a person writes his name on letters, important papers, etc. *He put his signature on the letter.*

**SIGNIFICANCE:** The meaning of something. *He didn't understand the significance of my words.*

**SILENT:** 1. Not speaking out loud; being quiet. *The students were silent while reading their books during class.*

2. When a letter in a word does not make any sound, it is called a *silent* letter. Example: *The "e" in the word "ride" is silent.*

**SIMILE:** A way of describing something by comparing it to something else and using the word "as" or "like." Examples: *She is as light as a feather. He swims like a fish.*

**SINGULAR:** Talking about only one person or thing. Examples: *pencil, tree, apple, Bob, Ellen, he, I.*

**SITUATION:** What is happening in a story and what made it happen. Some condition that is the result of things that have happened earlier. *Jim messed up at work, which put him into a bad situation with his boss.*

**SKETCH:** 1. A short story or act performed in a theater. *The famous actress presented a sketch from Mark Twain.*

2. To put one's thoughts down in a rough outline form. *I did a sketch before I wrote my essay.*

**SLANG:** This is very informal language, below the level of speech taught in schools. Slang can be new words or new meanings put to existing words. Some of the slang words used to refer to *money* are: *bread, bucks, dough, moolah* or *dinero*. There can be many slang words for the same thing. Slang words are widely used and different groups use different slang. Examples: *Cool! Awesome! (both meaning "incredible"). Yo! (meaning "hello"). Yadda yadda yadda (meaning "and so on and so forth").*

**SOLILOQUY:** A speech made by an actor to himself when alone on the stage. His thoughts and feelings are told to the audience but not to the other characters in the play. *Hamlet's famous "To be or not to be" speech is a soliloquy.*

**SONNET:** A poem that has fourteen lines and a certain rhyming pattern. *I read a sonnet written by my favorite poet.*

**SOUND:** Something you can hear with your ears. *The sound of her voice was enjoyed by all of the students as she read aloud to the class.*

**SOURCE:** Where information comes from. A person or thing can be a source, such as a teacher, a library book. *The Internet is a very good source for researching things.*

**SPEAKER:** The one who talks or tells the story. *The speaker at our graduation was very well-known to all of the students.*

**SPECULATE:** To make a guess about something. *Some people speculate on who will win the game.*

**SPEECH:** 1. Getting ideas across to other people with spoken words. *It is important to have good speech so that you can be well understood.*

2. A public talk. *The president gave a speech.*

**SPOKEN:** When something is said out loud; words that a person has said. *As soon as the words were spoken, he knew he should have kept quiet.*

**STAGE:** A floor that is higher up than the floor where the audience sits. It is used for speeches, plays, shows, etc. *She sang a song by herself from the stage.*

**STAGE DIRECTIONS:** Instructions in a script telling the actors what to do; directs the action or movements of actors on a stage. *The actors followed the stage directions.*

**STANZA:** One section of a poem or song that usually has repeated sounds and a rhythm; a verse. *The poem had four stanzas.*

**STATE:** To say something clearly. *Please state your name so that everyone can hear you.*

**STATE OF BEING:** The way that something is or exists. The condition something is in. Examples: *Rose is happy. Her hair is long.*

**STEREOTYPE:** A certain unchanging idea or opinion about a person or group that does not allow for individual differences. *A stereotype can stop a person from seeing people as they really are.*

**STORY:** The telling of something that happened that is either true or made up. *The children wanted to hear a story before bedtime.*

**STRATEGY:** A plan made for something. *Her strategy for passing the LEAP test was to use her study skills in every class.*

**STRESS:** To give a syllable more emphasis or force in speech. Example: *In the word “under” the stress is on the syllable “un.”*

**STRUCTURE:** The way something is put together with different parts to it. *The structure of the sentence made her communication very clear and easy to understand. The structure of the body has arms, legs, feet, hands, etc.*

**SUBJECT:** The person or thing that is being talked about, written about or studied. Examples: *He sees them. The tea is hot. Math is my favorite subject.* Sometimes the subject is not stated. Example: *Stop!* (The subject is understood to be you.)

**SUBJECTIVE:** A personal view of how one feels about something. *She gave her subjective feelings about what happened.*

**SUBJECT MATTER:** What a story or essay is about. *The subject matter of Martin Luther King Jr.’s famous speech was freedom.*

**SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT:** The subject and verb must match or agree in number in a sentence. Number is talking about singular or plural subjects and verbs. If you are talking about only one person, place or thing as the subject (a singular subject), then the verb must also be singular. If the subject is plural, the verb must also be plural. Examples: *The boy is playing basketball. The boy was playing basketball. The boys are playing basketball. The boys were playing basketball.* (“*The boys is playing basketball*” is not correct, because the subject and verb are not in agreement.) Note that “you” uses the plural verb. Examples: *You are going to the store. You were going to call me.*

**SUBPLOT:** The smaller or less important events or activities (plots) in a story. Example: *In Charlotte’s Web, which is a farm story about a very smart spider who saves a little pig’s life, there is a subplot about a greedy rat who doesn’t like to help anyone but himself.*

**SUB-TOPIC:** An idea included along with the main idea in a piece of writing. *There was a sub-topic in the essay.*

**SUFFIX:** The letter or letters that are added to the ending of a word to change its meaning and create a new word. Examples: *The “ed” in “laughed” is a suffix. The “ly” in “kindly” is the suffix. The “less” in “speechless” is a suffix.*

**SUMMARIZE:** To tell something in a few words. *Please summarize the book for me.*

**SUMMARY:** A short report that tells what the main ideas are in something. *She wrote a summary of the book for her English teacher.*

**SUPPORT:** 1. A smaller part in a play than the main character. *The butler's role was a support for the hero in the play.*

2. Statements that back up an argument or point made by someone. *Can you support what you are saying with more facts?*

**SUPPORTING DETAILS:** Facts, examples or descriptions that are in support of something, or against it. Example: *Joe decided to change jobs. The reasons are that he didn't get paid very much, he had to work twelve hours a day, and his boss was mean.*

**SUSPENSE:** A feeling of growing excitement caused by not knowing what will happen next in a story or play. *The ghost story was full of suspense.*

**SYLLABLE:** A single spoken sound that is a word or a part of a word. Examples: *I, dress, stu•dent el•e•phant.*

**SYMBOL:** Something that can stand for an idea, a thing, the way something is, etc. *A heart is a symbol for love. (See MARK.)*

**SYMBOLISM:** The use of symbols to represent an idea or a thing. *A black cat is often used as symbolism for bad luck in stories.*

**SYNONYM:** Words (in the same language) having close to but not exactly the same meaning. Examples: *like* and *enjoy*; *car* and *automobile*; *flower* and *blossom*.

**SYNTAX:** The order of words and the way words are put together in phrases or sentences to show meaning. *Please correct your syntax in this sentence.*

**SYNTHESIS:** The putting together of parts to make a whole. *This book was a synthesis of all his research on Africa.*

**SYNTHESIZE:** To make a whole by putting parts together. *The writer can synthesize all his experiences into a book.*

**TABLE:** A way of arranging information in a certain order or an exact way, to make it easier to understand. *He made a table to show all of the facts he knows about the situation.*

**TABLE OF CONTENTS:** A listing of all the sections or chapters in a book and the page each one starts on. *The table of contents is close to the front of a book.*

**TALE:** A made up story about something. *The fisherman liked to tell tales about the fish he caught. The children's book had a tale of Peter Rabbit.*

**TASK:** The job someone has to do. Examples: *It was his task to bring his younger sister safely home. My task on the weekends is cleaning my room.*

**TECHNIQUE:** A special method or way of doing something. *He has a great technique for cooking scrambled eggs because they always taste delicious.*

**TENSE:** Verbs express time by changing their form (their sound and spelling); present, past or future time. Example: *plays (present); played (past); will play (future).*

**TERM:** A word or group of words which has an exact meaning in a subject.

**TEXT:** The main part of what is printed on a page, not including pictures, notes and so on. *The text was in very small print but still easy to read.*

**TEXTBOOK:** A book used in teaching a subject, especially one used in a school. *I bought a textbook for my science class.*

**THEME:** 1. The main subject or topic of something. *The theme of the novel was Man against nature.*

2. A short written piece on a single subject. *We write one theme a week in our English class.*

**THEORY:** An idea or opinion about something. *Her theory was that the same mysterious person who was calling her friend was also calling her.*

**THESAURUS:** A book that lists different words which mean the same or have a similar meaning as another word or have the opposite meaning. *The thesaurus showed that “pay” and “salary” have a similar meaning. “Happy” and “sad” are words in the thesaurus with the opposite meaning.*

**THESIS:** An essay or story idea that the writer wants to prove or develop. *He wrote a thesis about why he felt that the Saints are a better team than the Colts.*

**THIRD PERSON:** Using the pronoun that shows that you are speaking or writing about a person, people, thing or things. Examples: *he, she, it* and *they*. *They went to the store.* (See PERSON.)

**THOUGHT:** The act of thinking; a single idea. *A thought is often unspoken but any thought could be put into words and communicated to another.*

**TIME:** 1. When something happens. *At 3:30 it will be time to go home.*

2. A certain part of the past. *The story is about something that happened during the time of the dinosaurs.*

**TIMELINE:** A long line with dates spaced evenly across it to show what has happened in the past. *I made a timeline for history class.*

**TITLE:** The name given to a book, song, poem, etc. *The book's title was printed in red.*

**TITLE PAGE:** A page in the beginning of a book where the title of the book, the author's name and other information is written. *Someone tore the title page out of this book.*

**TOPE:** A certain emotional feeling communicated in speaking or writing. *The play had a sad tone.*

**TOPIC:** The main idea of a talk, writing or debate. *The topic of the debate was on gasoline prices.*

**TOPIC SENTENCE:** The sentence that expresses the main idea of a paragraph or essay. *The teacher told the student that he had a good topic sentence.*

**TRADITION:** Having certain ideas, beliefs or doing special things that are passed on from parents to children over many generations. *There is a tradition of throwing rice at the bride and groom after a wedding.*

**TRADITIONAL:** Having to do with a certain idea, belief or special thing done that has been handed down from parents to children. *It is traditional to have a parade on New Year's Day.*

**TRAGEDY:** A story or play about a serious event usually ending in the death of the main character. *Shakespeare's "Hamlet" is a tragedy.*

**TRAIT:** Something that is a special quality of a person or animal; a characteristic. *Her interest in others was her best trait.*

**TRANSITION:** The moving or passing from one thing, place or form to another. *In writing, it is good to have a transition from one paragraph to another.*

**TRANSITION WORD:** A word used to easily connect two ideas that might be different. Example: *The lake was big; however, it was not deep.*

**TRANSITIVE VERB:** A verb that shows action going across to someone or something else. Examples: *They are playing chess.* (The action goes over to chess, telling what they are playing.) *He hit the ball.* (The action goes over to the ball, telling what was hit.)

**TRIBUTE:** Something given, done or said that shows thanks, praise or respect. *We went to a tribute for Rev. Martin Luther King.*

**TROCHAIC DIMETER:** Poetry that has two feet in each line. Each foot in the line is a trochee with two syllables, the first stressed and the second unstressed.

Example: *Work/ers / earn it.*

*Spend/thrifts / burn it.*

*Bank/ers / lend it.*

*Rich folks / spend it.*

**TROCHEE:** A type of foot that has two syllables in it, with the stress on the first syllable. Example: *Love me!*

**UNDERLINING:** 1. Putting a line under a word or words to show importance.

Example: *Push harder!*

2. To show the titles of books, magazines, movies and works of art. Example: *He read War and Peace.*

3. To show the names of planes, trains, ships and so on. Example: *He had read a great deal about the Titanic.*

4. To show that words are foreign words. Example: *She waved goodbye and said adios!*

5. To show that you are talking about a word itself. Example: *How do you spell dictionary?*

**UNDERSTAND:** To get the meaning or importance of something; to know what something means very well. *Shawn knows the meaning of all of the words, so he will understand *what the story is about*.*

**USAGE:** The common way words are used. *The usage of some words is different in the South than in the North.*

**VENN DIAGRAM:** A drawing that uses circles or ovals to show how certain things compare to each other. The circles overlap and the overlapping section is where the common details are. *I used the Venn diagram to compare the boys' and girls' backpacks.* (See the illustration on page 41 of this glossary.)

**VERB:** A word or words in a sentence that show action or state of being. A verb tells what the subject of the sentence is doing, being or having. Examples: *I ran to catch the bus. The ball is on the chair. I have a hat.*

**VERSE:** 1. Words that are used to describe one's feelings and may include repeated sounds and a rhythm; poetry. *The poet's verse is very well-known.*

2. One section of a poem. *The student learned one verse of the poem.*

**VIEW:** One's idea about something or someone; an opinion. *What is your view of public education today?*

**VIRGULE:** A / used between two or more words to show that the meaning of either one can be used. Examples: *Get the Teacher/Tutor to pass your drill. America/USA is very large.*

**VOCABULARY:** 1. All of the words of a language or all the words that one knows and uses. *Using a dictionary helps build one's vocabulary.*

2. The words used in a certain area of study. *Paul was starting to learn the vocabulary of science.*

**VOLUME:** A collection of written material bound together; a book. *The author wrote a volume on the Civil War.*

**WAS:** One person or thing existed; one person or thing continued or remained; one person or thing had a specified place or position. Examples: *Yesterday there was a dog by the fence. The cat was in the tree for a long time. The man was there an hour ago.*

**WERE:** More than one person or thing existed; more than one person or thing continued or remained; more than one person or thing had a specified place or position. Examples: *There were times when he did not go to school. The trees were still there after 200 years. The children were at home.*

**WORD:** A group of letters or sounds that can have one or more meanings and are put together to get an idea across. Once in a while a word is just one letter or sound. Examples: *boy, girl, run, climb, mountain, it, I, a, horse, he, following.*

**WRITE:** To put words, letters, or numbers on paper for other people to read. To use words to communicate your idea or ideas. *I will write a story about last weekend.*

**WRITER:** The person that puts things in writing to share his thoughts with others. *James Baldwin was a famous writer.*

**WRITING:** 1. Making letters and words with a pen, pencil, chalk, etc., on a piece of paper or something like that to communicate ideas. *The teacher is writing what the students are supposed to do for homework on the board.*

2. Something written. *He sent his writing to a publisher.*

**WRITTEN:** Some writing that was done in the past. *The words were written with a blue pen.*



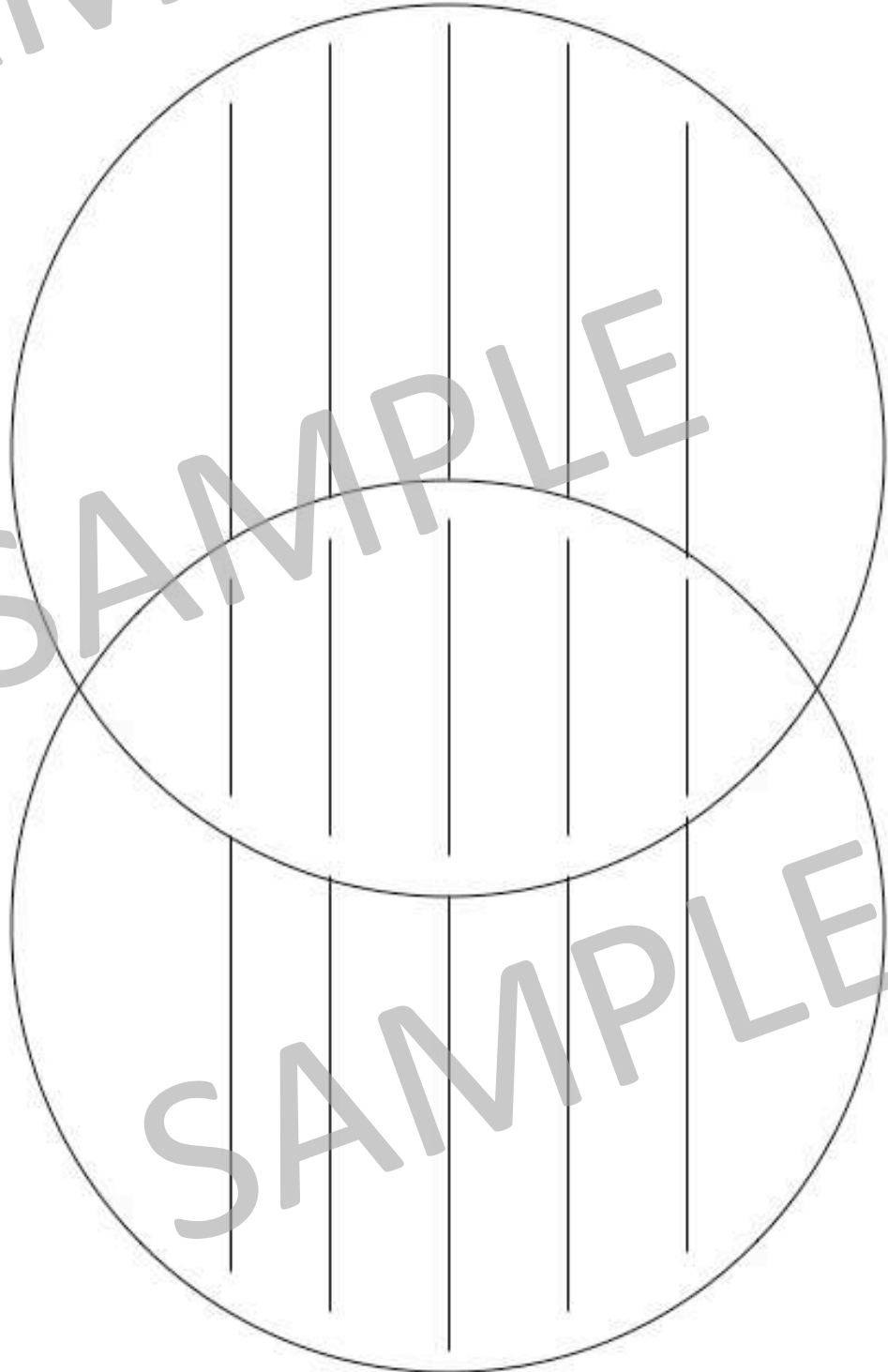


### Venn Diagram

Write details that tell how the subjects are different in the outer circles.  
Write details that tell how the subjects are alike where the circles overlap.

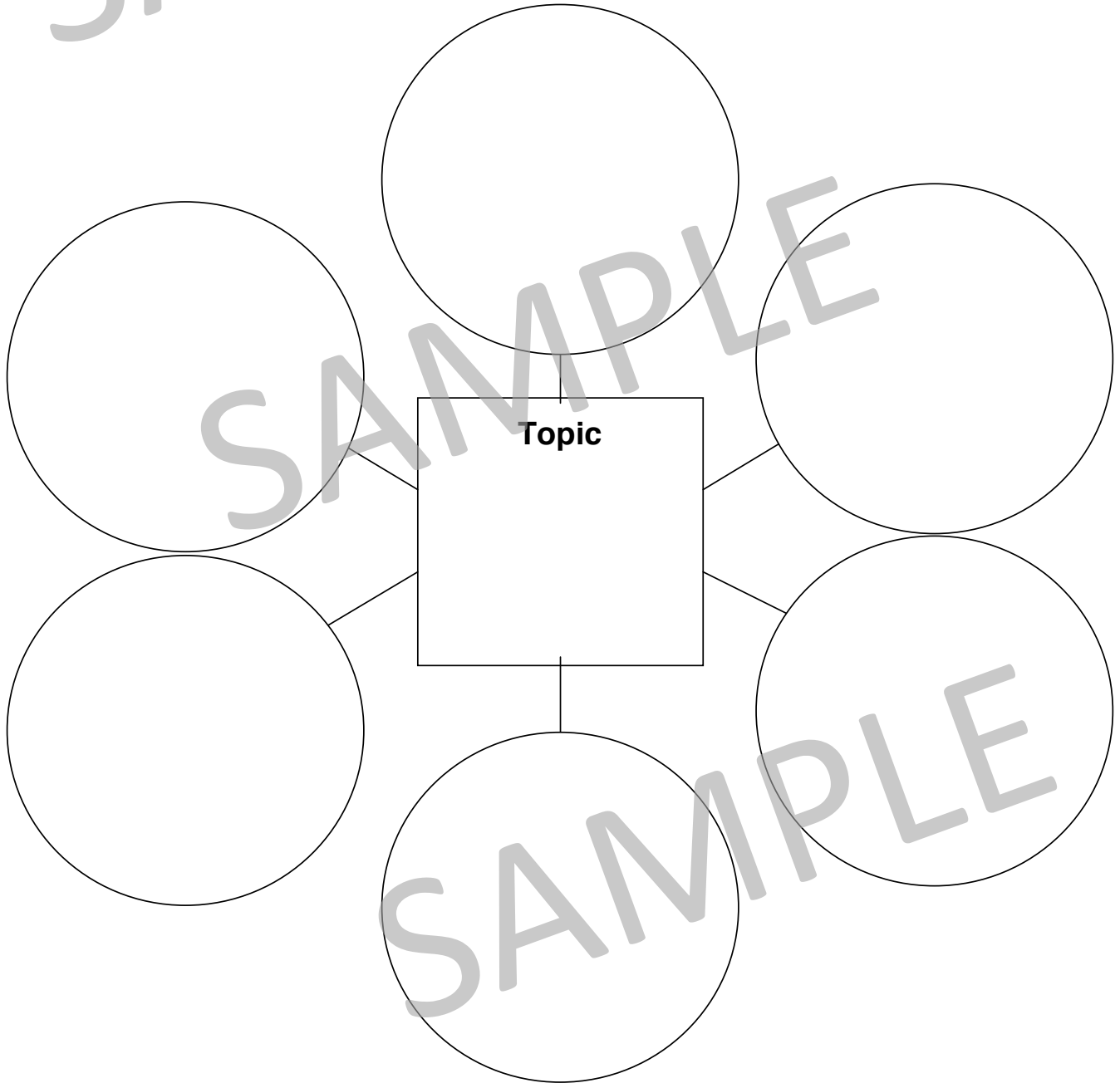
Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_



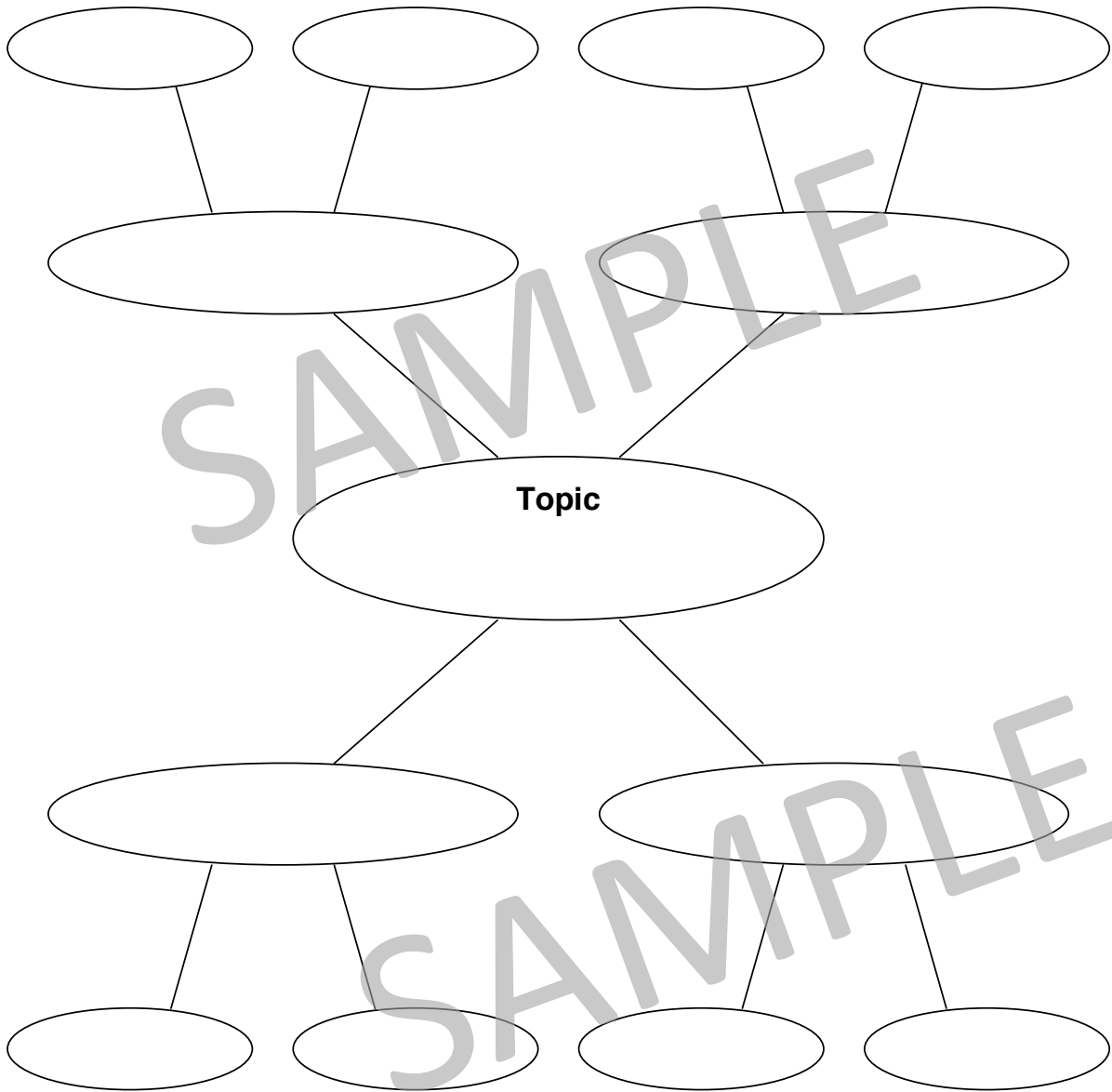
### Graphic Organizer

Write details about your topic in the circles below:



### Graphic Organizer

Write the topic in the center circle and the details in the smaller circles.



SAMPLE

SAMPLE



[WWW.APPLIEDSCHOLASTICS.ORG](http://WWW.APPLIEDSCHOLASTICS.ORG)  
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