

Study Guide for Language Skills: GUM Semester Review

Types of Sentences

- **Simple**: Think of ONE! One subject, one verb...
- **Compound**: Think of TWO! Two or more simple sentences joined by a comma.
- **Complex**: independent clause and one or more subordinate clauses
- **Run-on sentence**: consists of two sentences joined only by a comma and no conjunction.

Noun: Person, Place, Thing

Example:

- **persons**: Doctor, aunt, Senator Andrews
- **places**: park, Los Angeles, swamp
- **things**: cup, London Bridge, highway

Pronouns: A word used in place of a noun:

Example:

- I, you, she, he, it
- we, you, they
- me, her, him, us, them

Verb Types

Verb: A verb tells what someone or something does or is. Some verbs show action and some show being. Remember that every sentence has a subject and a predicate. A verb is part of the predicate and tells more about the subject

Action Verb: Show action

Tip Action verbs link subject to another word in the sentence**

Example: William shot an arrow. Show is the action verb, showing the action of William.

Being Verb: A verb that doesn't show action but tells something about what the subject *is*

Example: Soccer and field hockey are my favorite sports.

Helping Verb: A helping verb does exactly what its name says—it helps the main verb

Tip Main verbs can have more than one helping verb**

Example: We have been sitting in the car for a long time.

Helping verbs: have been

Main verb: sitting

Transitive Verb: A transitive verb has two characteristics. First, it is an [action verb](#), expressing a doable activity like kick, want, paint, write, eat, clean, etc. Second, it must have a [direct object](#), something or someone who receives the action of the verb.

Example: Sylvia kicked Juan under the table.

Kicked = transitive verb; Juan = direct object.

Intransitive Verb: An intransitive verb has two characteristics. First, it is an [action verb](#), expressing a doable activity like arrive, go, lie, sneeze, sit, die, etc. Second, unlike a [transitive verb](#), it will *not* have a [direct object](#) receiving the action.

Example: Huffing and puffing, we arrived at the classroom door with only seven seconds to spare.

Arrived = intransitive verb.

Linking Verbs: links subject to noun or an adjective in the predicate part of the sentence, but do not show action:

Tip True linking verbs use parts of the verb ‘to be’:**

- is, are, was, were, am, been

Adjectives: describes a noun or pronoun

Example: What a beautiful sunset. Beautiful is an adjective describing the sunset.

Adverbs: describe verbs, adjectives and other adverbs

Tip tell *how, where, when, or to what extent.***

Prepositions: show the position of a noun or pronoun in relation to another word in the sentence

Example: The bird landed BESIDE the cow.

Interjections: A word or phrase used to express strong emotion or surprise

Example: Yikes, Whew, WOW

Conjunctions: Connect words or individual groups of words:

Example:

- and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet
- either...or, neither...nor

Appositives: is a noun or pronoun that identifies or renames another noun or pronoun

Example: George is a great swimmer. George identifies a name

Appositives Phrases: consists of an appositive plus its modifiers.

Example: George Washington, our first president

Subject Verb Agreement: Subjects and verbs match when there is agreement between them. One basic rule applies to all subjects and verbs.

Tip A verb must agree with its subject in number**

All nouns, pronouns, and verbs have number. Number is the term that is used to indicate whether a word is singular (one) or plural (more than one).

Tip Since the pronouns take the place of nouns, pronouns also have number. The pronoun *you* can be either singular or plural.**

Singular and Plural Subjects

A singular subject takes a singular verb.

A plural subject takes a plural verb.

Verb Phrase: is a main verb plus one or more helping verbs.

Tip Most adjectives and adverbs have three degrees of comparison: the positive, the comparison and the superlative.**

The positive degree is used when a person, place or thing, or action is being described and no comparison is being made.

The comparison degree is used when two people, places things, or actions are being compared.

The superlative degree is used when more than two people, places, things, or actions are being compared.

Predicate Adjective: describes the subject and follows a linking verb such as am, is, are, was, were, appear, feel, look, seem, and smell.

Present Tense: present tense of a verb tells that the action is taking place now or continuously.

Past Tense: past tense of a verb tells the action took place in the past.

Past Participle: past participle of a verb tells the action began in the past and was completed in the past.

Tip**the irregular verbs *bring* and *take* are often confused with each other. When you *bring* something it is coming in or toward you. When you *take* something, it is moving away.

Tip** the irregular verbs *lay* and *lie* are easily confused. The verb *lay* means to place. The verb *lies* means to recline.

Adverbs: modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. Some adverbs are easily confused with adjectives.

Tip** Bad is adjective and badly is an adverb. Good is adjective and well is an adverb.