

# ENGLISH SUPPORT DOCUMENT

# LANGUAGE FEATURES

## Focus Language Features

The purpose of this document is to provide an initial reference when you are considering which language features you will teach in-depth during the trimester. Once you have selected the features you will focus on you may want to develop your own understanding further by consulting grammar reference books, the internet and other reference sources.

Other aspects of language such as simile, metaphor, personification and figurative language should be taught in context within appropriate genres. Similarly, aspects of spelling and punctuation should be taught as teaching opportunities arise naturally within the context of the text type and should be determined by the needs of the students.

<b>Nouns</b>	<b>Pronouns</b>	<b>Adjectives</b>	<b>Adverbs</b>
<b>Verbs</b>	<b>Connectives</b>	<b>Prepositions</b>	<b>Phrases and clauses</b>
<b>Tense</b>			

**ADJECTIVE:** *a word that describes a noun or a pronoun*

### Types of adjectives

- descriptive: **huge** house, **mysterious** place, **gloomy** forest
- comparative: **shorter** giraffe, **hotter** climate, **more** interesting book
- superlative: **shortest** giraffe, **hottest** climate, **most** interesting book
- quantitative (how many): **two** houses, **five** bananas, **some** students
- interrogative: **What** is he wearing? **Where** are they going? **Why** don't you answer?
- demonstrative: **this** girl here, **that** boy over there, these horses near the fence, those horses in the field
- distributive (referring to each one): **every** child, **each** month, **either/neither** day
- possessive: **my** hat, **your** bike, **his** cat, **her** book, **its** tail, **our** car, **your** house, **their** school

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**ADVERB:** *a word that modifies some parts of speech*

Types of adverbs

- manner: *slowly, suddenly, eagerly, anxiously*
- time: *today, last year, finally, already, yesterday, afterwards, eventually, then, now*
- place: *here, nearby, upstairs, outside, near, down, by*
- frequency: *sometimes, always, never, usually, occasionally, often, ever, twice*
- degree: *quite, nearly, really, sort of, maybe, enough, very*
- interrogative (asking questions): *when, where, why, how*
- reason (answers why): *therefore, so, consequently, since*
- relative (introduces a relative clause): *when, where, why, whatever*

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**NOUN:** a word that names a person or a thing, such as a place, an object, a thought, an emotion or an activity – make a note here about articles and lack of them in Arabic

### Types of nouns

- common
  - **count nouns:** books, camels and cars (individual countable entities)
  - **non-count nouns:** music, flour, luck (undifferentiated mass or notion)
- proper nouns are names of specific people, places, times, occasions, events, publications, and so on – Monday, Saleh, Tokyo, Mrs Jones, The Hague
- abstract
  - **quality:** courage, justice, beauty, hope, love, joy, kindness
  - **state:** life, death, youth, freedom, pleasure, equality, schizophrenia
- collective: group, flock, jury, team, swarm
- articles
  - **definite:** the (used to refer to a particular person or thing)
  - **indefinite:** a and an (does not refer to any particular person or thing)
- gerunds: swimming is good for your health (these are forms of verbs that act like nouns – see verbs)

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**PRONOUN:** *a word that is used instead of a noun so that it is not necessary to repeat the noun*

#### Types of pronouns

- personal: *I, me, he, she, it, we, you, they, him, her, them, us*
- possessive: *mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs*
- reflexive/ emphatic: *myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, oneself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves*
- relative: *that, which, who, whose, whom*
- demonstrative: *this, that, these, those*
- interrogative: *who, what, why, where, when, whatever*
- indefinite: *anything, anybody, anyone, something, somebody, someone, nothing, nobody, none, no one*
- reciprocal: *each other, one another*

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## CONNECTIVES and CONJUNCTIONS

### Conjunctions

Conjunctions are words used to link words, phrases or clauses within a sentence. There are two kinds of conjunction:

- **Coordinating conjunctions** link items that have equal status grammatically, (eg. and, but, or, so).

*We could fly to Dubai **or** we could take the coach.*

*He plans to fly to Doha **but** he will arrive there very early.*

- **Subordinating conjunctions** are used when the two items do not have equal status, (eg. when, while, before, after, since, until, if, because, although, that). Most commonly, this happens when a main clause is joined to a subordinate clause.

*I was late for the meeting **because** the plane was delayed.*

### Connectives

Connectives join words, phrases, clauses and also **sentences**. Connectives are often conjunctions, but adverbs, adverbial phrases and adverbial clauses can also work as connectives, (eg. however, finally, in other words, that is to say).

## Types of connectives/conjunctions

	<b>Connectives (Adverbs and phrases linking clauses and sentences)</b>	<b>Conjunctions (Link clauses)</b>
<b>Addition</b>	also too similarly in addition indeed	moreover and let alone even
<b>Opposition</b>	however nevertheless on the other hand in contrast though alternatively anyway	but or although though whereas while
<b>Time / Sequencing</b>	then later afterwards meanwhile first(ly) second(ly) to begin with in the first place	next to conclude before since lastly finally
<b>Logical</b>	therefore consequently as a result so then besides anyway after all	because since as if now (that) so (that) in case provided (that)
<b>Explanation</b>	for example for instance in other words that is to say	thus whether unless for in that

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## PREPOSITION

A preposition is a word that links nouns, pronouns and phrases to other words in a sentence. Prepositions are usually used in front of nouns or pronouns and they show the relationship between the noun or pronoun and other words in a sentence. The word or phrase that the preposition introduces is called the **object** of the preposition

A preposition usually indicates the temporal, spatial or logical relationship of its object to the rest of the sentence.

### Types of prepositions

- time: School starts **in** September./ My birthday is **on** 2 October. / The meeting starts **at** 2.30.
- place: Put your bag **on** the chair. / Stand **beside** the desk. / The cat was **under** the table.
- instrument: She led the child **by** the hand./ He swept the room **with** a brush./ They were walking in the rain **without** an umbrella./
- cause: They are talking **about** the weather. / What did he die **of**? / He bought it **for** her birthday.

A prepositional phrase is made up of a preposition and a noun phrase. (See clauses and phrases.)



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## PHRASES AND CLAUSES

### CLAUSES

A **clause** is a group of words that contains a verb (and usually other components too). A clause may form part of a sentence or it may be a complete sentence in itself.

She was reading the newspaper.
[clause]

He had a long career	but he is remembered mainly for one early work.
[clause]	[clause]

- Every sentence contains at least one main clause. A main clause may form part of a **compound sentence** or a **complex sentence**, but it also makes sense on its own.

She was reading the newspaper.
[main clause]

- **Compound sentences** are made up of two or more main clauses linked by a conjunction such as *and*, *but*, or *so*.

He loves sport	and	he's captain of the local basketball team.
[main clause]	[conjunction]	[main clause]

I was born in Italy	but	my mother is Jordanian.
[main clause]	[conjunction]	[main clause]

- **Subordinate clause**

A subordinate clause depends on a main clause for its meaning. Together with a main clause, a subordinate clause forms part of a **complex sentence**. Here are two examples of sentences containing subordinate clauses:

After we had had lunch,	we went back to work.
[subordinate clause]	[main clause]

I first saw her in Paris,	where I lived in the early eighties.
[main clause]	[subordinate clause]

- **Relative clause**

A relative clause is one connected to a main clause by a word such as *which*, *that*, *whom*, *whose*, *when*, *where*, or *who*.

I first saw her in Dubai,	where I lived in the early eighties.
[main clause]	[relative clause]

She wants to be with Muna,	who is her best friend.
[main clause]	[relative clause]

He was wearing the watch,	that he was bought for his birthday.
[main clause]	[relative clause]

- There are two types of relative clause:

- Defining relative clause
- Non-defining relative clause

- **Defining relative clause**

A defining relative clause (also known as a **restrictive relative clause**) gives essential information about a noun that comes before it: without this clause the sentence wouldn't make much sense. A defining relative clause can be introduced by *that*, *which*, *whose*, *who*, or *whom*. You should not place a comma in front of a restrictive relative clause.

He held out the foot	<b>which</b> was hurt.
He held out the foot	<b>that</b> was hurt.
[main clause]	[defining relative clause]

- **Non-defining relative clause**

A non-defining relative clause (also called a **non-restrictive relative clause**) provides extra information that could be left out without affecting the meaning or structure of the sentence. Non-defining relative clauses are normally introduced by *which*, *whose*, *who*, or *whom*, but never by *that*. You should place a comma in front of them.

He held out his hand,	which Tom shook.
[main clause]	[non-restrictive relative clause]

If a non-defining relative clause is in the middle of a sentence, you should put commas before *and* after it.

Salem,	who had fallen asleep on the sofa,	suddenly woke up.
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Clauses are made up of **phrases**.

## PHRASES

A **phrase** is a small group of words that forms a meaningful unit within a clause . A phrase can sometimes just be one word. There are several different types of phrase.

- **Noun phrase:** This is a phrase is built around a single noun

A vase of **roses** stood on the table.

She was reading a **book** about the history of England.

- **Verb phrase:** This is the verbal part of a clause, for example:

She *had been* **living** in Paris.

I *will be* **going** to university next year.

- **Adjective phrase:** This is a phrase is built around an adjective, for example:

She's led a very **difficult** life.

A lot of the kids are *really* **keen** on cycling.

- **Adverbial phrase:** This is a phrase is built round an adverb by adding words before and/or after it, for example:

She recovered from her illness very **slowly**.

He wanted to leave the city *as fast as possible*.

- **Prepositional phrase: This is a** phrase in which the preposition always comes at the beginning, for example:

She wanted to live **near** the sea.

The cat was hiding **behind** the curtains

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**VERB:** a word that is used to express action, mood, occurrence or state

### Types of verbs

There are two main types of verb: main (or principal) verbs and auxiliary verbs.

- **Main verbs**

- Regular

These are verbs that have *-ed* or *-d* added to them for the past tense and the passive/past participle: *look, looked; play, played; talk, talked*

- Irregular

These are verbs that do not have a regular pattern: *read, read; run, ran; write, wrote*

- Transitive

These are verbs that take a direct object: *The girl rode the bicycle.*

Transitive verbs have two forms – **active and passive.**

- **Active** – the subject performs the action.  
*The boy saw the snake.*
- **Passive** – the subject receives the action  
*The snake was seen by the boy.*

- Intransitive

Intransitive verbs do not take a direct object and are not normally used in the passive verb form.

*fish swim, babies cry, he laughed, the sun set*

- **Auxiliary verbs**

Auxiliary verbs assist the main verb in a clause to express several basic grammatical contrasts, such as in number, person and tense. There are two kinds of auxiliary verb – primary and modal.

- Primary

**The primary auxiliaries** are *be, do* and *have*:

*I am* studying English.

*Do* you like tea?

He *has* gone to the mall.

- Modal

Modal verbs help to modify the main verb so that it changes the meaning or mood of the main verb. They include: *can, could, may, might, must, will, would, shall, and should*.

She was delighted that she *could* take a few days off.

Hamad said he *might* go to the football match.

The school said I *must* wear school uniform.

- **Gerunds and infinitives** are forms of verbs that act like nouns. They can follow adjectives and other verbs. Gerunds can also follow prepositions.

- **The infinitive**

In English, a verb's infinitive is its unmarked form, such as *be, do, have, or sit*, often introduced by the particle *to*.

- **Gerunds**

These are the 'ing' form of the verb. Gerunds are verbs that are used as nouns. In other words, by adding 'ing' to any verb you can change that verb into a noun. Gerunds are often used at the beginning of sentences when focusing on activity as the subject of conversation.

*Swimming* is good for your health and fun.

*Listening* to English will help you improve your understanding of the language.

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## TENSE

The tense of a verb tells you when a person did something or when something existed or happened. In English, the main tenses are:

- the **present**: *I am, he plays, they like, we started*
- the **past**: *I was, he played, they liked, we started*
- the **future**: *I will/shall, he will play, they will like, we will/shall start*

These main tenses can be further subdivided, as follows:

- the **present continuous** – *she is playing*
- the **past continuous** – *she was playing*
- the **future continuous** – *she will be playing*
- the **present perfect** – *she has played*
- the **present perfect continuous** – *she has been playing*
- the **past perfect** – *she had played*
- the **past perfect continuous** – *she had been playing*
- the **future perfect** – *she will have played*
- the **future perfect continuous** – *she will have been playing*

The **continuous** is also called the **progressive**.