

An X-Word Grammar Glossary

X-W-G	For the Intermediate/Advanced Student*	Other Terminology
x-word	first auxiliary verb; yes-no question word*	(first) auxiliary verb
main verb	last verb in a verb phrase	main verb
middle aux	any auxiliary verb <i>between</i> the x-word & main verb*	(middle) auxiliary verb
base form	basic form of any verb; command form	verb stem; bare infinitive
infinitive	<i>to</i> + base form	infinitive
-ing form	any verb form with <i>-ing</i> ending	present participle
participle	verb form used with <i>have, has, had</i>	past participle
subject	everything between the two x-word positions	complete subject
predicate	the word or group of words that says something about the subject and begins with x or x-v	predicate
verbal	a non-finite verb, a verb without an x-word	present participle (some)
referents	all the words that refer back to a specific box	pronouns, complements, some objects, etc.
adverbials	words and phrases that tell when, how, where, etc.	adverbs of time, etc.
trunk	the part of a sentence that makes a yes-no question	independent clause
shifter	a word or words that can shift around the trunk	-
clause	a trunk + includer	dependent clause
phrase	a preposition plus its object	prepositional phrase
box	a nouny structure in subject, object or complement position; also any referent that fills those positions	nominals & pronominals
FANBOYS	<i>for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so</i>	coordinating conjunction
joiner	FANBOYS and semi-colons used for T+T*	-
includer	clause-introducers, e.g. <i>when, if, because, etc.*</i>	subordinating conjunction and relative pronoun
linker	trunk-introducers, e.g. <i>Therefore, However, etc.</i> NEVER FIRST TRUNK*	conjunctive adverb; transitional word or phrase
insert	an <i>extra</i> group of words that tells more about a part of the sentence by being "inserted" next to it; ALWAYS SET OFF BY DOUBLE PUNCTUATION OR CAP AND PUNCTUATION.	non-restrictive clause, appositive, parenthetical element, etc.

*See a Grammar Worksheet 5 for all the terminology beginners meet.

* See over for Listable Word Classes—small groups of function words easier to *list* than to define.