

Glossary Information Sheets and Worksheets

Here you can learn how to:

- **understand the specialist grammar words used in the Graduate School Information Sheets.**

This sheet only covers those language-related grammar words not covered in the information sheets themselves.

- **Compound nouns** (in Information Sheet 5)

A compound noun is a noun that is made with two or more words. A compound noun is usually [noun + noun], e.g., *football boots* or [adjective + noun], e.g., *full moon*. but there are other combinations. They are often used in academic written English.

- **Conjunctions** (in information sheets 4, 9 & 17a)

Conjunctions are words that link other words, phrases, or clauses together, e.g., *and*, *but*, *so*, *yet*. If you are not sure whether a word is a conjunction, check in a good dictionary.

- **Modifiers** (in information sheets 5 & 16)

A modifier is any word or phrase that describes, clarifies or gives more detail about something. Adjectives and adverbs are common modifiers, e.g., *A dark-haired student was quickly eating a banana*. In that sentence, both *dark-haired* and *quickly* modify what they are referring to (*student*, *eating*). A modifier can also be a phrase that is modifying a word or sentence, e.g., *Having seen the student, Alice went to say hallo*. In this sentence *Having seen the student* is modifying *Alice*, the subject of the sentence.

- **Phrasal verbs** (in information sheets 5 & 18)

A phrasal verb is a verb that is made up of a main verb together with an adverb or a preposition, or both, e.g., *to look at*, *to look for*. They are important in spoken English. In general, in written academic English, they should be replaced by a one-word alternative, e.g., *investigate*, *search*