

Common Core English Language Arts Standards Glossary

Reading: Literature & Informational Text

Allusion	reference to a well-known person, place, thing, or event that the reader should recognize
Analogy	a comparison of similar objects used to help clarify one of the objects
Appeal to the senses	focuses on getting readers to use their sense of smell, taste, hearing, etc. to involve them personally in the story
Central Idea/Theme	main idea/subject
Central Message, Lesson, Moral	practical lesson contained in a fable, tale, or experience
Connotative meanings	association or secondary meaning of a word
Inferences	conclusions and unique interpretations drawn from using prior knowledge and textual clues
Key details	supporting details, main details
Key ideas (informational)	main topic or idea
Literal	true, actual meaning
Mediums	print, digital, video, multimedia
Metaphors	figure of speech that compares two unlike things which have something in common
Nonliteral	figurative or metaphorical, not the actual meaning
Orally	audio recording, reading
Prose	writing or speaking in the usual sentence form, not poetry
Quantitatively	charts, graphs, diagrams
Retell/Recount	tell again, to narrate in order
Rhetoric	the art and science of all specialized literary uses of language; ability to use language effectively
Search tools	key words, sidebar, hyperlink, search engine
Series of Episodes	separate parts in the plot of a story
Similes	figure of speech that compares two things using like or as
Structure (informational)	description/list, compare/contrast, sequence/time order/chronology, problem/solution, cause/effect
Style	the particular way in which an author writes (use of types of words/sentences)
Technical meaning	pertaining to the useful or mechanical arts (science, business, trade)
Text features	title, heading, subtitle, subheading, table of contents, inset, labels for pictures/diagrams,

	bold print, glossary, index, introduction, author's note, appendix, sidebar, bullets, caption, photograph, diagram, map, bibliography, electronic menu, icon, cut-away
Tone	writer's attitude toward his/her subject: series, objective, humorous, subjective
Visually	illustrations, pictures, words

Reading Foundational Skills

Common prefixes	letter group added in front of a base/root word to contribute to the meaning of a word*
Consonant digraphs	two-letter consonant combinations that represent phonemes not represented by single letters - th, sh, ch, wh, ph, ng (sing), gh (cough)
Derivational suffixes	suffixes that are not inflections, generally come from Latin; these words mark or determine the part of speech created when the suffix was added*
Grapheme	written symbol used to represent a phoneme, can be more than 1 letter, 1 grapheme can represent more than 1 phoneme
Inflectional endings	suffixes that indicate tense, plurality, comparison, or part of speech - s, es, d, ed, ing, y, ly, er, est, en
Latin suffixes	sample suffixes from Latin are: -able, -ible, -ation, -fy, -ify, -ment, -ty, -ity*
Onset	one or more consonant letters which precede the vowel phoneme in a syllable
Phonemes	smallest unit of sound which distinguishes one word from another
Prose	writing or speaking in the usual sentence form, not poetry
Rime	the vowel and consonant letters which follow it in a syllable; there can only be 1 vowel phoneme in a rime
Sight words	word that is known by the reader automatically, words that are pronounced without decoding

Writing

Digital tools	computer, laptop/netbook, iPod Touch/iPad/ other tablet, mobile device (smartphone), Keynote, PowerPoint, OpenOffice Presentation, HyperStudio, Photo Story, Voice Thread, Moodle, Saki, Drupal, FirstClass, Sharepoint, Weebly, Blogger, OpenText Social Workspaces, Edmodo
Informative/Explanatory	defined in Common Core's glossary*
Literary nonfiction	genre that uses literary styles and techniques to create factually accurate narratives
Narrative	defined in Common Core's glossary*
Opinion pieces/Arguments	defined in Common Core's glossary*
Recount	to narrate in order
Technology	email, wiki, texting on cell phone/iPod Touch/iPad, Google docs, shared spaces on FirstClass, social media sites/workspaces, blog

Speaking & Listening

Collaborative Conversations/Discussions	One-on-one, in groups, teacher-led, student-led
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Language

Abstract Noun	names something you can think about but cannot feel or touch - freedom, liberty, February
Adages	a traditional saying expressing a common experience or observation - "Don't judge a book by its cover."
Adjective	
• Comparative	compare two people, places, things, or ideas, generally uses the ending -er or the addition of more in front of the adjective
• Coordinate	adjectives that must have commas between them; their order can be rearranged or if you remove the commas and insert the word and between them, it still makes sense
• Superlative	compares three or more people, places, things, or ideas, generally uses the ending -est or the word most in front of the adjective

Adverb	
• Comparative	formed by adding -er to one-syllable adverbs or the word more or less before longer adverbs
• Conjunctive	connects two words, phrases, or clauses - accordingly, also, besides, consequently, conversely, finally, furthermore, hence, however, indeed, instead, likewise, meanwhile, moreover, nevertheless, next, nonetheless, otherwise, similarly, still, subsequently, then, therefore, thus
• Relative	can be substituted for a relative pronoun and proposition to make a sentence easier to understand - when, where, why
• Superlative	formed by adding -est to one-syllable adverbs or the word most or least before longer adverbs
Affix	a morpheme (smallest word component that has meaning) that is attached to a word stem to form a new word - prefix, suffix
Clauses	group of related words that contain a subject and a verb
• Independent	a clause that can stand by itself and still make sense
• Dependent	cannot stand by itself, needs an independent clause to make sense; would be a sentence fragment by itself
• Noun	do anything an noun would do; can be subjects, object, and objects of prepositions
• Relative/Adjectival	contains a subject and verb, begins with a relative pronouns, functions as an adjective, telling what kind, how many, or which one
• Adverbial	tend to tell us something about the sentence's main verb: when, why, under what conditions
Conjunction	connect individual words or groups of words
• Coordinating	and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet
• Correlative	either/or, neither/nor, not only/but so, both/and, whether/or, as/so
• Subordinating	after, although, as, as if, as long as, as though, because, before, if, in order that, since, so, so that, though, unless, until, when, where, whereas, while
Determiners	little words that precede and modify nouns, express the reference of a noun or noun-phrase in context - some

	examples: the, those, his, this size, a, zero, some, any
Figures of speech	
• Personification (gr. 6)	when a nonhuman thing is given human characteristics
• Allusion (gr. 7)	reference to a well-known person, place, thing, or event that the reader should recognize
• Verbal irony (gr. 8)	when what is said is opposite of what is meant
• Pun (gr. 8)	a phrase that uses words in a way that gives them a funny effect
• Euphemism (gr. 9-10)	a substitution for an expression that may offend or suggest something unpleasant
• Oxymoron (gr. 9-10)	technique in which two words with opposite meanings are put together for special effect
• Hyperbole (gr. 11-12)	an extreme exaggeration or overstatement that a writer uses for emphasis
• Paradox (gr. 11-12)	a statement that is contrary to common sense, but may, in fact, be true
Frequently confused words	words that sound alike or nearly alike but have different meanings and cause writers trouble*
Greek affixes and roots	common roots, suffixes, and prefixes that come from Greek*
Idioms	Phrases that are used in a special way; the individual words mean something different than the phrase together
Inflections	suffixes that indicate tense, plurality, comparison, or part of speech - <i>s, es, d, ed, ing, y, ly, er, est, en</i>
Interrogative	question words - who, whose, whom, which, what, how, why, when, where
Latin affixes and roots	common roots, suffixes, and prefixes that come from Latin*
Nonliteral meaning	figurative or metaphorical, not the actual meaning
Phoneme	smallest unit of sound which distinguishes one word from another
Phrases	collection of words that may have nouns or verbs, but does not have a subject doing a verb
• Noun	group of words containing a noun or pronoun that function as a noun/pronoun
• Verb	group of related words that contains one or more helping verbs and a main

	verb
• Adjectival	group of words that serves to describe a noun in a sentence
• Adverbial	group of related words that play the role of an adverb
• Participial	short phrases that appear at the beginning or end of a sentence; one type employs the -ing ending on a verb phrase at the beginning or end of a sentence; another is a dangling modifier
• Prepositional	phrase that begins with a preposition and ends with a noun, pronoun, clause, or gerund
• Absolute	made up of a noun and modifiers, it is a group of words that modifies an independent clause as a whole
Pronoun	
• Indefinite Pronoun	refer to people or things that are not named or known - all, another, any, anybody, anyone, anything, both, each, each one, either, everybody, everyone, everything, few, many, most, much, neither, nobody, none, no one, nothing, one, other, several, some, somebody, someone, something, such
• Intensive Pronoun	used to add emphasis, use the same form as reflexive pronouns, but can be removed without altering the sentence (intensive - I will do it <i>myself</i> ; reflexive - I nominated <i>myself</i> .)
• Personal Pronoun	the most common pronouns - I, you, he, she, it, we, they, me, him, her, them, whom, us, them
• Possessive Pronoun	show ownership, apostrophes are not used - my, mine, your, yours, his, her, hers, its, our, ors, their, theirs, whose
• Reflexive Pronoun	refers back to the subject of the sentence - myself, himself, herself, itself, yourself, themselves, ourselves
• Relative Pronoun	connects a dependent clause to the independent clause - who, whose, which, what, that, whoever, whatever, whichever
Pronoun case	
• Subjective	used as the subject of the sentence
• Objective	used after an action verb or in a prepositional phrase
• Possessive	show ownership
Preposition	
	words that show position or direction and introduce prepositional phrases*

Proverbs	a simple and concrete says popularly known and repeated; expresses a truth based on common sense or practical experience
Root word	the form of a word after all affixes are removed
Verb Forms	
Modal Auxiliaries	a type of auxiliary verb that does not have a participial or infinitive; they also do not take the inflections -s or -es - shall, should, will, would, may, might, can, could, mote, must
Verbals	
• Gerunds	a verbal with an -ing ending that functions as a noun
• Participles	a verbal that is used as an adjective and most often ends in -ing or -ed
• Infinitives	a verb consisting of the word to plus a verb and functions as a noun, adjective, or adverb
Verb Mood	
• Indicative	expresses an assertion, denial, or question
• Imperative	expresses command, prohibition, entreaty, or advice
• Interrogative	used for asking questions by inflecting the main verb
• Conditional	indicates a conditional state that will cause something to happen, often uses the words might, could, or would
• Subjunctive	expresses doubt or something contrary to fact