

The Building Blocks of Sentences

Modal Verbs

Modal verbs are words like: **will, would, can, could, should, might** and **must**. They change the meaning of other verbs.

Examples: You **should** help your mother. We **must** follow the directions.

Conjunctions

Conjunctions usually connect words or clauses together inside a sentence.

Examples: **and, but, or, when, because, although, if**

Dave **and** his friend went outside.

They couldn't get to school **because** the snow was too deep.



Adverbs

Adverbs usually tell us information about 'how', 'when', 'where' or 'how much'. They can be used with verbs, adjectives or other adverbs.

Examples: He shouted **loudly**. The game was **really** exciting. She ran **very** quickly.

Connecting Adverbs

Connecting adverbs link ideas in one sentence or clause to ideas in another.

Examples: **however, furthermore, consequently, secondly, meanwhile**

I enjoyed my dinner. **However**, I'd like something different tomorrow.

Connecting adverbs and conjunctions are sometimes called **connectives**.

Adverbials

Adverbials are adverbs and groups of words used like an adverb.

Example: The ship sails **in ten minutes**.

They are called **fronted adverbials** if they are at the front of a sentence.

Example: **In ten minutes**, the ship sails.



Prepositions

Prepositions often tell us where something or someone is.

Examples: The message is **in** the bottle. They are back **from** France.



Interjections

Interjections are used to show feeling and emotion. They often have exclamation marks after them.

Example: **Ouch!** I've hit my finger!

