

ENGLISH 9

GLOSSARY

TERM	DEFINITION
A	
Acronym	A word formed from the initial letter or letters of each word in a set of words (e.g., NATO, radar).
Alliteration	The repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words (e.g., winter wind).
Analogy	A method of explaining something unfamiliar by using a comparison of similar, more familiar things; a form of reasoning in which one thing is inferred to be similar to another thing in a certain respect, on the basis of the known similarity between the things in other respects (e.g., part to whole, synonym and antonym, degree or cause and effect).
Anecdote	A brief narrative of an interesting, unusual or biographical event often used to illustrate a point.
Antonym	A word opposite in meaning to another word (e.g., good - bad).
Appeal to Authority	A call upon an individual or other source as an expert to give credence to an argument made by an author of a work.
Appeal to Emotion	When a speaker or writer builds an argument using expressive language or other devices instead of presenting evidence; a fallacy in arguments often referred to as "as populum" (to the people).
Appeal to Reason	To call upon a reader's ability to think in a rational way in order to cause a change in his or her thoughts.
Assonance	The close repetition of middle vowel sounds (e.g., rain-plain).

B	
Bait and Switch	A tactic in which a customer is attracted by the advertisement of a low-priced item but is then encouraged to buy a higher-priced one.
Bandwagon	A fallacy in which one is attracted to a popular party, faction or cause that attracts growing support; following the crowd rather than using evidence to justify a conclusion
Bias	An inclination of temperament or outlook; a personal and sometimes unreasoned judgement
Brainstorming	A prewriting technique in which students, either alone or in groups, jot down all words or phrases that come to mind on a topic to expand the range of available ideas, to solve a problem or to clarify a concept.

C	
Cause and Effect	An organizational structure of text in which there is a description of events and their causes or consequences. Often, a single cause will have more than one effect, and a single event may have more than one cause.
Characterization	The method an author uses to create the appearance and personality of imaginary characters in a piece of fiction; often developed by describing a character's physical appearance, by revealing a character's nature through the character's speech, thoughts, feelings or actions, by using the speech, thoughts, feelings or actions of other characters and by using direct comments from the narrator.
Chronological	An organizational structure of text in which events are placed in the order they occur in time.
Coherence	The quality of a piece of writing in which the ideas are clearly arranged so a reader can follow the progression from one idea to the next.
Comparison and Contrast	An organizational structure of text in which a description of similarities and differences among two or more things occurs.

TERM	DEFINITION
Compound Sentence	A sentence with two or more coordinate independent clauses but no dependent clause (e.g., George talked and Harry listened).
Compound Word	A combination of two or more words that function as a single unit of meaning (e.g., bookkeeper - downtrodden).
Comprehension	The process in which a reader constructs meaning through interaction with text; accurately understanding what is written or said.
Conflict	The struggle between opposing forces that brings about the action within a story or drama; can be internal (within a character) or external (between a character and an outside force).
Connotation	The attitudes and feelings associated with a word as opposed to a word's literal meaning.
Consonance	The repetition of identical consonant sounds before and after differing vowel sounds (e.g., stroke/luck).
Construct Meaning	The process of understanding what is read through the interaction with text.
Consumer Documents	Nonfiction works such as warranties, product information and instructional materials designed to help one with daily tasks.
Context Clues	Information a reader may obtain from a text that helps confirm the meaning of a word or group of words.
Conventions	The accepted rules of written and spoken language.
Counter-Argument	A point or statement in opposition to the argument being made in a written document or speech.
Credibility	The quality or state of offering reasonable grounds for being believed.
Cues	Hand, body or facial gestures that communicate meaning with little or no use of language.
Cutaway	A drawing or model of something with part of its outside removed to give a view of the inside.

D	
Declarative Sentence	A sentence that makes a statement.
De initional Footnote	A reference, explanation or comment usually placed below the text on a printed page.
Denotation	The literal or "dictionary" meaning of a word.
Description	One of the four traditional forms of composition in speech and writing that gives a verbal picture of a character and an event, including the setting in which they occur.
Dialogue	A conversation between two or more characters in a work that is used by writers to give insight into the characters themselves.
Diction	Clarity and distinctiveness of pronunciation; choice of words in speaking or writing.
Dynamic Character	A character who undergoes a change during the course of a story.

E	
Editing	A step in preparing a written work for publication or review that focuses on clarity and correctness.
<small>eg.</small>	<i>Exempli gratia</i> (Latin), meaning "for example".
Evaluative Question	A question that asks the responder to make a judgment.
Exclamatory Sentence	A sentence that makes a vehement statement or conveys strong or sudden emotion.
Explicit	Fully or clearly expressed; definite.

TERM	DEFINITION
Expository	A spoken or written composition, intending to set forth or explain. <i>NOTE:</i> Good exposition is clear in conception, well organized and understandable. It may include limited amounts of argumentation, description and narration to achieve this purpose.
F	
Fable	A story intended to enforce a useful truth, especially one in which animals speak and act like human beings.
Fallacy	A typical error in reasoning that arises commonly in ordinary discourse and renders unsound the argument in which it appears.
Figurative Language	Language enriched by word images and figures of speech.
First Person Narration	Narration in which the point of view is that of the main character.
Flashback	The technique of stopping the chronological action in a story and shifting to an earlier period to introduce additional information.
Flat Character	A character with only one outstanding trait or feature.
Fluency	The act of reading easily, smoothly and automatically with a rate appropriate for the text, indicating that students understand meaning.
Foreshadowing	The technique of giving clues to coming events in a narrative.
G	
Genre	An established class or category of artistic composition or literature (e.g., poetry, drama or novel).
Gerund	A verb form that ends in -ing, and is used as a noun (e.g., reading is fun).
Glittering Generalities	A propaganda technique in which words have different positive meanings for individual subjects but are linked to highly valued concepts.
Graphic Organizer	A method of organization of information which incorporates diagrams or other pictorial devices.
H	
High Frequency Word	A word that appears many more times than most other words in spoken or written language.
Homograph	A word with the same spelling as another word, whether or not pronounced alike, as <i>pen</i> (a writing instrument) vs. <i>pen</i> (an enclosure) or <i>bow</i> (and arrow) vs. <i>bow</i> (of a ship).
Homonym	A word with different origin and meaning but the same oral or written form as one or more other words, as <i>bear</i> (an animal) vs. <i>bear</i> (to support) vs. <i>bare</i> (exposed). Homonyms include homophones and homographs
Homophone	A word with different origin and meaning but the same pronunciation as another word, whether or not spelled alike (e.g., hair - hare).
Hypothesize	To make an assertion about something assumed but not positively known.

TERM	DEFINITION
Idiom	A combination of words that is not strictly in accordance with grammatical rules and often possesses a meaning other than its grammatical or logical one (e.g., an easy test might be describes as <i>a piece of cake</i>).
i.e.	<i>Id est</i> (Latin), meaning "that is".
Implicit	To be assumed but not directly expressed.
Inference	A general conclusion drawn from information that is given.
Inferential Question	A question that asks a responder to draw a conclusion.
Infinitive	A verb that is usually introduced by <i>to</i> . The infinitive may be used as a noun or a modifier.
Inflection	The process or result of changing the form of a word to express a syntactic function without changing the word's grammatical class, as <i>run</i> to <i>ran</i> or <i>runs</i> .
Informational Documents	Works of nonfiction such as transcripts, reports or journals.
Interrogative Sentence	A sentence that asks a question or makes an inquiry.
Intonation	The rise and fall of a voice pitch.
Irony	The recognition of the difference between reality and appearance; includes <i>situational irony</i> in which there is a contrast between what is intended or expected and what actually occurs; <i>verbal irony</i> in which there is a contrast between what is said and what is actually meant; and <i>dramatic irony</i> in which words or actions are understood by the audience but not by characters.
Irregular	An exception to a linguistic pattern or rule, as <i>good, better, best</i> are exceptions to the usual <i>-er, -est</i> pattern of comparatives and superlatives in English.

L	
Limited Point of View	The vantage point in which a narrator tells the story in the third person but often confines himself or herself to what is experienced, thought and felt by a single or limited number of characters.
Literal Meaning	The actual meaning of a word or a phrase.

M	
Main Idea	The gist of a passage; the central thought,; the chief topic of a passage expressed or implied in a word or phrase; the topic sentence of a paragraph; a statement in sentence form which gives the stated or implied major topic of a passage and the specific way in which the passage is limited in content or reference.
Media	A means of communication, especially of mass communication, such as books, newspapers, magazines, radio, television, motion pictures and recordings.
Metaphor	A figure of speech in which an implied comparison is made between two unlike things (e.g., <i>he's a tiger</i>).
Mood	The feeling or atmosphere that a writer creates for a reader; a reflection of an author's attitude toward a subject or theme.

TERM	DEFINITION
N	
Narrative	One of the four traditional forms of composition in speech and writing that tells a story or gives an account of something, dealing with sequences of events and experiences, though not necessarily in strict order.

O	
Omniscient Point of View	The vantage point in which a narrator is removed from the story and knows everything that needs to be known.
Onomatopoeia	Words whose sound imitates their suggested meaning, (e.g., <i>buzz</i> , <i>hiss</i> and <i>clang</i>).
Onset	The consonants preceding the vowel of a syllable, (e.g., <i>sir</i> in <i>strip</i>).
Open-Ended Question	A type of question intended to produce a free response rather than a direct or one-word response.
Overlay	A transparent sheet containing details, such as a chart or map, that is placed on top of another transparency on an overhead projector during a presentation.

P	
Parallel Structure	The phrasing of language so as to balance (grammatically) ideas of equal importance. <i>NOTE:</i> Parallelism may apply to phrases, sentences, paragraphs, longer passages or whole selections.
Persuasive	One of the four traditional forms of composition in speech and writing that moves the reader by argument or entreaty to a belief or position.
Persuasive Technique	A method used in speaking or writing to get an audience to agree with the speaker or writer's point of view.
Phoneme	A minimal sound unit of speech that, when contrasted with another phoneme, affects the naming of words in a language, as /b/ in <i>book</i> contrasts with /t/ in <i>took</i> , /k/ in <i>cook</i> and /h/ in <i>hook</i> .
Pitch	The difference in the relative vibration frequency of the human voice that contributes to the total meaning of speech.
Plagiarism	To steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own; to use another's productions without crediting the source.
Plot	The careful sequencing of events in a story generally built around a conflict. Stages of plot include exposition (background), rising action, climax, falling action and denouement (resolution).
Point of View	The perspective or attitude of a narrator of a piece of literature.
Prefix	An affix attached before a base word or root, as <i>re-</i> in <i>reprint</i> .
Prewriting	The initial creative stage of writing, prior to drafting, in which a writer formulates ideas, gathers information, and considers ways to organize them.
Primary Source	Firsthand information, such as an eyewitness account.
Prior Knowledge	Knowing that stems from previous experience. <i>NOTE:</i> Prior knowledge is a key component of schema theories of reading comprehension in spite of the redundancy inherent in the term.
Problem-Solution	An organizational structure of text that is similar to cause and effect, except that outcomes are a result or solution of a perceived need or problem
Propaganda	The spreading of ideas, information or rumor for the purpose of helping or injuring an institution, a cause or a person.
Public Documents	Nonfiction materials such as newspapers, editorials and speeches.
Pun	The usually humorous use of a word in such a way as to suggest two or more of its meanings or the meaning of another word similar in sound; a play on words. (e.g., the substitution of the slogan <i>visualize world peace</i> with <i>visualize whirled peas</i>).

TERM	DEFINITION
Reliability	Suitable or fit to be relied on; trustworthy.
Resolution	The point in a literary work at which the chief dramatic complication is resolved.
Revision	The stage of the writing process in which one considers and improves the meaning and underlying structure of a written draft.
Root Word	In a complex word, the meaningful base form after all affixes are removed. <i>NOTE:</i> A root may be independent or free, as <i>read</i> in <i>unreadable</i> , or may be dependent or bound, as <i>-liter-</i> (from the Greek for letter) in <i>illiterate</i> .
Round Character	A character who is complex and multi-dimensional.
Rubric	An authoritative set of rules which can be used as a means of evaluation

Scope	The extent of an author's treatment of a subject.
Secondary Source	A source that is reporting on or analyzing information from another source.
Sensory Details	Details perceived by sight, hearing, smell or any mode by which one perceives stimuli outside or within the body.
Sequencing	The arrangement in which things follow in a logical order or a recurrent pattern; a following of one thing after another in time.
Setting	The time and place of the action of a literary work.
Sidebar	Supplementary information that is printed alongside the main text.
Sight Word	A word that is immediately recognized as a whole and does not require word analysis for identification.
Simile	A figure of speech in which a comparison is made between two unlike things using the words "like" or "as" (e.g., she's as sly as a fox).
Skim and Scan	To examine or read something quickly, but selectively, for a particular purpose.
Soliloquy	A speech, usually given alone on stage, in which a character speaks aloud his or her thoughts.
Static Character	A character who does not change during a story.
Stereotyping	A standardized mental picture that is held in common by members of a group and that represents an oversimplified opinion, prejudiced attitude, or uncritical judgment.
Style	An author's distinctive manner of expression.
Subplot	The secondary action of a story that reinforces or contrasts with the main plot.
Suffix	An affix attached to the end of a base, root or stem that changes the meaning or grammatical function of a word, as <i>-en</i> added to form <i>oxen</i> .
Symbol	A concrete thing used to suggest something larger or more abstract.
Synonym	One of two or more words in a language that have similar meanings (e.g., answer - respond).
Syntax	The way in which sentences are formed; the grammatical rules that govern their formation; the pattern or structure of word order in sentences, clauses and phrases.
Synthesizing Question	A question that asks a responder to combine separate elements into one concept.

T	
Tempo	The rate of speed in which a presentation is given.
Testimonial	A propaganda technique based on quotations or endorsements from famous people, in or out of context, that attempts to connect a famous or respectable person with a product or item.

TERM	DEFINITION
Text Features	Organizers of written materials such as indexes, prefaces, appendices, definitional footnotes, sidebars, table of content, illustrations or photographs.
Theme	A topic of discussion or writing; a major idea or proposition broad enough to cover the entire scope of a literary work or work of art. <i>NOTE:</i> A theme may be stated or implied, but clues to it may be found in the ideas that are given special prominence or tend to recur in a work.
Thesis	The basic argument advanced by a speaker or writer who then attempts to prove it, the subject or major argument of a speech or composition.
Third Person Narration	Narration in which the point of view is that of someone outside the story who refers to all characters by name or as "he," "she" or "they."
Tone	The reflection of an author's attitude toward his or her subject.
Topic Sentence	A sentence intended to express the main idea in a paragraph or passage.
Transfer	A persuasive technique in which a product is associated with something attractive or respectable.
Transitions	Words and phrases that help explain relationships between sentences and allow a reader or writer to move from one idea to another.
Transitive Verb	A verb that takes a direct object, as <i>read</i> in <i>Francesca read the book</i> .

U	
Unknown Words	Words that are unfamiliar to a reader in both print and meaning.

V	
Validity	A truthful or factual condition; a logical argument; the evidence that the inferences drawn from test results are accurate.
Venn Diagram	A mapping technique using overlapping circles showing features either unique or common to two or more concepts.
Viewpoint	The stance or vantage point from which a story is narrated.
Visual Aid	An instructional device, such as a chart, map, diagram, cutaway or overlay, that helps a reader to comprehend information.
Visualize	To form a mental picture.
Voice	In many languages, a syntactic pattern that indicates the verb-subject relationship; the principal voices in English and many other languages are active and passive.

W	
Word Families	Groups of words with clear relationships (e.g. specifies, and specification).

Word Origins	The history or etymology of words; the meanings of roots and affixes
Workplace Documents	Job-related nonfiction materials such as memoranda, meeting minutes and travel schedules.
Writing Circle	A revision strategy in which each writer submits a paper to a group and receives advies for editing.