



## DICTIONARY OF TERMS

**The definitions are listed by division.**

**NOTE:** Not all the details on the Order of Play Sheets are defined in this Dictionary of Terms. The LinguSHTIK Tournament Rules describe how to play the game and list official references.

Grammatical questions can be answered by referring to Elements of Language, 6<sup>th</sup> Course published by Holt Rinehart Winston. Complete details and examples are available in the LinguSHTIK Handbook and Judges Manual that may be downloaded from [www.agloa.org](http://www.agloa.org).

### Definitions that apply to Elementary, Middle, and Junior/Senior divisions:

#### BASIC SENTENCE PATTERNS

##### 1. S-V (Subject-Verb)

Examples: *Birds sing.*  
*The boy walked.*  
*The children ran over the bridge.*

##### 2. S-V-DO (Subject-Verb-Direct Object)

Examples: *Mother bakes cookies.*  
*Beetles have four wings.*  
*I usually leave the hardest problems until last.*

##### 3. S-LV-PN (Subject-Linking, Verb-Predicate Noun)

Examples: *That girl should be the captain.*  
*Asia is a continent of extremes.*  
*The honor student became a leader.*

##### 4. S-LV-PA (Subject-Linking Verb-Predicate)

Examples: *The honey was very sweet.*  
*Her pies taste delicious.*  
*Bob could not be happier.*

##### 5. S-V-IO-DO (Subject-Verb-Indirect Object-Direct Object)

Examples: *The class gave the teacher a party.*  
*My uncle wished his nieces a safe trip.*  
*Ms. Pratt dropped her husband a hint.*

##### 7. INVERTED

A sentence is inverted if the verb, or part of it, precedes the subject. The sentence may begin with *Here* or *There*. For the purposes of this game, the interrogative sentence shall not be considered inverted.

Examples: *"That is strike three," yelled the umpire.*  
*Here is a letter for you.*  
*Under the tree sat a group of hungry picnickers.*  
*There goes the parade.*

#### SENTENCES CLASSIFIED BY STRUCTURE

##### 1. SIMPLE

A sentence that contains a single sentence pattern is a simple sentence. The sentence must contain only one main subject and one main predicate, although these elements may be compounded. A direct or indirect quote is considered a subordinate clause; therefore, its addition to a sentence will create either a complex or compound-complex sentence.

Examples: *My father left yesterday.*  
*We visited two museums.*  
*Winston and Maurice traveled many miles and saw many things.*

2. **COMPOUND** A sentence that contains two or more independent clauses but no dependent clauses is a compound sentence. Each clause must contain both a subject and a verb. The clauses may be connected by a coordinating conjunction, conjunctive adverb, or a semicolon.

*Examples: The war is over; the guns are silent.*  
*The story sounds false, but I know it is true.*  
*Byron is on a diet; nevertheless, he eats dessert.*

3. **COMPLEX** A sentence that contains only one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses is a complex sentence. A direct quote is considered to be a dependent clause if it contains a subject and a verb.

*Examples: The train stalled because the switches were frozen.*  
*We heard that you were going to Cleveland.*  
*He said, "I will not eat meat."*

4. **COMPOUND-COMPLEX** A sentence that contains two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses is a compound-complex sentence.

*Examples: When Turk caught the ball, he ran for a touchdown, and the crowd went wild.*  
*After the storm was over, we decided to go home, but the snow which had fallen steadily blocked the road.*  
*He stood at the podium, and he said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."*

## SENTENCES CLASSIFIED BY PURPOSE

1. **DECLARATIVE** A sentence that makes a statement.

*Example: In 1945 the United Nations had many member countries.*

2. **IMPERATIVE** A sentence that gives a command or makes a request. \*

*Examples: Please write me.*  
*Stop talking and open your books.*  
*Stop bothering me!*

3. **INTERROGATIVE** A sentence that asks a question.

*Example: Which book did you like best?*

**Note:** As defined in the grammar book, an interrogative sentence asks a question and ends with a question mark. A declarative sentence cannot be made interrogative simply by adding a question mark.

4. **EXCLAMATORY** A sentence that expresses strong emotion. \*

*Examples: How beautiful it is!*  
*I won the grand prize!*

**\*Note:** Some imperative sentences may have an exclamation point to indicate that the command or request is being issued forcefully. An exclamatory sentence is NOT a command or a request.

## ADJECTIVES:

### 1) ADJACENT ADJECTIVE

For the purposes of this game, an adjacent adjective is an adjective that immediately precedes or follows the noun or pronoun that it modifies. Predicate adjectives will not be accepted as adjacent adjectives. Adjective objective complements will not be accepted as adjacent adjectives since they fulfill a specific grammatical function in the sentence. Adjacent adjectives do not fulfill such a function.

*Examples: I bought the brown hat for Sarah.*  
*The hat, torn and tattered, was found in the gutter.*  
*Several large animals were seen in the neighborhood.*  
(Sentences 2 & 3 each have two adjacent adjectives)

## 2) ADJECTIVES - DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Adjectives have three degrees of comparison: positive, comparative, and superlative. There are some modifiers that have no comparative or superlative forms; they do not vary in degree. These modifiers will be considered **positive** for the purposes of the game.

**POSITIVE** - the simplest, or plain, form of the adjective

*Example - quick - He is a quick student.*

**COMPARATIVE** - The form used to compare two items.

*Example - quicker - John is quicker than Bill.*

**SUPERLATIVE** - The form used to compare three or more items.

*Example - quickest - Alfred is the quickest student in the class.*

Some adjectives of two syllables and ALL adjectives of three or more syllables have their comparative and superlative degrees of comparison formed by using the words **more** and **most** or **less** and **least**.

**A few adjectives are IRREGULAR and use different words for their comparative and superlative degrees.**

*Examples: good better best bad worse worst*

Note: The preceding information about IRREGULAR also applies to adverbs.

## APPOSITIVE

An appositive is a noun or pronoun, often with modifiers, placed beside another noun or pronoun to further explain or identify it. One word appositives may have a possessive adjective or article in front of them and still be considered one word appositives. When additional modification is present the appositive becomes a phrase. In LING, appositives must be punctuated correctly.

*Examples: The word peace is abstract. (This one-word appositive is punctuated correctly.)*

*Nancy, my sister, lives in New Jersey. (single appositive)*

*Nancy, an assistant director of nursing, lives in New Jersey. (appositive phrase)*

## COMPOUND PREPOSITION

A compound preposition is a specific grammatical term that refers to a preposition comprised of two or more words written separately but used together as one preposition. <sup>1</sup>*Examples - in spite of, in addition to, in front of . . .* It is forbidden that the word be required to be a compound preposition.

There are, however, prepositions that are compound words. This means that they are single words made up of several words but written together as one. <sup>2</sup>*Examples - within, without.*

If in the course of play, preposition is the Type demand and then the general demand of compound is made, the player is to write a preposition that is a compound word, example <sup>2</sup>, and not a compound preposition, example<sup>1</sup>.

## COMPOUND WORD

For the game of LinguisHTIK, a compound word shall be defined as one solidly written word comprised of two or more smaller words that retains the combined meanings of the smaller words of which it is comprised with no parts functioning as a prefix or suffix.

In an open compound, or two-word compound, such as "light bulb," the word "light" will be ruled as a noun used as an adjective.

## CLAUSE

A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb and is used as part of a sentence. There are two types: independent and subordinate (dependent). When a type of clause is specified in LING, the word to be formed must be in the specified clause.

## CONJUNCTIVE ADVERB

An adverb that is used to join two independent clauses.

*Examples: The goods were of the best quality; hence, they were satisfactory.  
The candidate made a gross error; therefore, he lost all support.*

\*Note: In LING, when a conjunctive adverb is used in a sentence, the proper punctuation must be used as shown in the examples above. This is true even if conjunctive adverb has not been demanded.

## DOUBLE CONSONANT OR VOWEL

A pair of the same two letters that are consecutive.

*Examples: miss (double consonant) foot (double vowel)*

## INFINITIVE

An infinitive is a verb form that is used as a noun or a modifier, usually preceded by "to."  
The word "to", called the sign of the infinitive, is sometimes omitted.

*Examples: She made me (to) leave. Help me (to) do my homework.*

**In LinguISHTIK, the word to be formed is the infinitive itself;** however, the "to" needs to be written if required by the sense of the sentence.

## INFINITIVE PHRASE

An infinitive phrase consists of an infinitive and any complements or modifiers it may have.

*Examples: We have time to walk around the block.  
To walk around the block is good exercise.*

## NOUN USED AS ADJECTIVE

A noun may function as an adjective.

Although many noun functions apply also to pronouns, THIS ONE DOES NOT.

Additionally, a *noun used as adjective* may be neither singular or plural, nor can it be nominative, objective, or possessive case. Since adjectives have no number or case and these nouns function as adjectives, they lose the ability to express number or case.

Note: many pairs of nouns and the *nouns used as adjectives* that modify them become so common that they are listed in dictionaries as compound nouns. The designation *noun used as adjective* may include these compound nouns used as two words, but not hyphenated nouns.

*Examples: Mr. Smith is a science teacher.  
Mr. Jones is a criminal lawyer.*

## PHRASE

A phrase is a group of words that functions as a single part of speech and does not contain a subject and verb.

When a type of phrase is specified in LING, the word to be formed must be **in** the specified phrase.

## SPILLOVER CONFUSION

When dealing with sentence patterns, observe the rules governing subject-verb-complement. The addition of dependent clauses or phrases will not affect the sentence pattern.

When dealing with sentence structures, observe the rules for simple, complex, etc. sentences. The addition of phrases will not affect the sentence structure.

Additionally, if a pattern is called and the player writes a solution within a compound sentence, the player must be careful to include the word to be formed in the portion of the sentence that meets the required pattern demand. See Example sentences and explanations:

A demand has been made for a direct object to be contained in an S-V sentence.

**CORRECT** - *One of the girls who selected a difficult song for the audition fainted afterwards.*

(EXPLANATION: Song is the direct object in the subordinate clause that is contained within a S-V pattern.)

**INCORRECT** - *The girl stood up and she sang a song.*

(EXPLANATION: Even though there is an S-V pattern in the compound sentence, the direct object was written in that portion that contains an S-V-DO pattern.)

## SUBORDINATORS

A conjunction that begins a subordinate clause (usually an adverb clause), joins the clause to the rest of the sentence, and shows a relationship between the clause and the remainder of the sentence. Some of the subordinating conjunctions can be used as other parts of speech such as pronouns, prepositions, and adverbs.

*Examples: whom, that, since, when, after, although, because*

## VERBS:

### AUXILIARY

A verb used with the main verb to create tense and mood. If Auxiliary is called, the player forms the helping verb only, not the main verb.

*Examples: The children will laugh at my jokes. He does know the rules.*

### MAIN VERB

For the purposes of the game of LinguiSHTIK, the main verb in a clause identifies the action or existence of the subject of the clause.

*Examples: The boy cried. The girl is laughing. The lady became a doctor.  
When the bell rang the children walked into the classroom.*

### REGULAR and IRREGULAR VERBS

A **regular** verb forms its past and past participle by adding “-d” or “-ed” to the infinitive form.

*Examples: He walks. He walked.*

An **irregular** verb forms its past and past participle in some other way, usually by changing the spelling or by making no change at all.

*Example: He begins the game today. He began the game yesterday.*

### SIMPLE TENSES

In LinguiSHTIK, the simple tenses of the verb shall be considered to be the plain tense as shown in the following examples. When it is necessary to use an auxiliary verb to form the passive voice, the word to be formed is the main verb.

SIMPLE VERB TENSES					
PRESENT		PAST		FUTURE	
Active	Passive	Active	Passive	Active	Passive
play or plays	am, is or are played	played	was or were played	will or shall play	will or shall be played
give or gives	am, is or are given	gave	was or were given	will or shall give	will or shall be given

## Definitions that apply ONLY to Middle and Junior/Senior divisions:

### ADDITIONAL SENTENCE PATTERNS:

#### 8. S-V-DO-OC (noun) (Subject-Verb-Direct Object-Objective Complement {noun})

Examples: *We called Mayfield our home.*  
*The judges selected Alice Adams Miss Ohio.*  
*The sponsor appointed the girl captain.*

#### 9. S-V-DO-OC (adj.) (Subject-Verb-Direct Object-Objective Complement {adj.})

Examples: *Our neighbor painted his house purple.*  
*The dog licked the dish clean.*  
*Those people thought the clown funny.*

### ADJECTIVE [additional information for these divisions]:

#### 3) ADJECTIVE - OBJECTIVE COMPLEMENT

An adjective functions as an objective complement when it is the outer or second complement in a S-V-DO-OC sentence pattern. It completes the sense of the direct object. Adjective objective complements shall not be accepted as adjacent adjectives since they fulfill a specific grammatical function in the sentence.

Examples: *He certainly considered the tiger angry.*      *Mr. Jones painted his barn brown.*

### DIRECT QUOTATION

<sup>1</sup>For the purposes of this game, a direct quotation must have an attributive statement such as, *He said, ". . ."* <sup>2</sup>Also for the purposes of this game, a direct quotation must contain a subject and a verb and will be considered a noun clause. A direct quotation must be properly punctuated and capitalized.

Examples:      <sup>1</sup>*acceptable - He said, "I put the cows in the barn."*  
                     *unacceptable - "I put the cows in the barn."*  
                     <sup>2</sup>*unacceptable - He said, "Under the bridge near the barn."*

### GERUND

In general, a gerund is a verb form ending in **-ing** that is used as a noun. It can also be called a **verbal** noun and may be used in any way that a noun is used. These should not be confused with participles.

Examples:      *Traveling is fun. (Used as subject)*  
                     *They do not like my singing. (Used as direct object)*  
                     *By studying, you can pass this course. (Used as object of the prep.)*

### INFINITIVE [additional information for these divisions]:

An infinitive has two forms: present and present perfect. They may be in either the active voice (which may have two forms: simple or progressive) or the passive voice. The function for the infinitive may be demanded.

Examples:      *To wait for the bus is tiresome. (noun, subject)*  
                     *Everyone wanted to travel. (noun, direct object)*  
                     *We lacked the strength to resist. (adjective, objective complement)*  
                     *We study to learn. (adverb)*

### NOUN OBJECTIVE COMPLEMENT

When the inner complement in the pattern S-V-DO-OC is a direct object, the outer complement is an objective complement. The objective complement relates to or completes the direct object. It may also be an adjective. (SEE ALSO Adjective Objective Complement)

Examples: *The committee declared Joe the winner.*  
*We elected Mary chairman of the committee.*

## PARTICIPLE

A participle is a verb form used as an adjective. It comes in two forms: the present participle that ends in "-ing" and the past participle that often ends in "-ed, -d, -en, or -t." Participles should not be confused with the participle used in a verb phrase or with gerunds. Particular care must be exercised when it comes to the progressive form. The following are not participles but rather part of the verb phrase - *I am frustrated. I was swimming.* Finally, participles cannot be used as *noun used as adjective.*

*Examples: The rapidly developing storm kept small boats in port.  
The broken toys could not be replaced easily.*

### Definitions that apply ONLY to Junior/Senior divisions:

## ADDITIONAL BASIC SENTENCE PATTERNS

### 10. S-V-Retained DO (Subject-Verb-Retained Direct Object)

*Examples: The teacher was given the apple by the student.  
On her birthday, the mother was given flowers by her children.*

### 11. S-V-Retained IO (Subject-Verb-Retained Indirect Object)

*Example: Flowers were given the mother by her children.*

### 12. S-V-Retained OC (noun) (Subject-Verb-Retained Objective Complement {noun})

*Example: Marvin was elected president by his friends.*

### 13. S-V-Retained OC (adjective) (Subject-Verb-Retained Objective Complement {adj.})

*Example: Howard considered the girl pretty.*

## ELLIPTICAL CLAUSE

An elliptical clause is a clause in which some words have been left out when its meaning can be clearly understood. Most elliptical clauses are adverb clauses that begin with a subordinating conjunction and have an understood subject and/or auxiliary verb. An elliptical clause may be either dependent or independent.

*Dependent Examples: When (he was) running down the street, the boy was careless.  
He is taller than his uncle (is tall).*

*Independent Example: Jessica had five dollars; Monica (had) three (dollars).*

## INFINITIVE [additional information for this division]:

### Present Infinitive

Expresses an action or a state of being that follows another action or state of being

*Examples: They had come to ask you.  
He is coming to ask you. (future)  
The children were sad because they had hoped to go with you.*

### Present Perfect Infinitive

Expresses an action or state of being that precedes another action or state of being

*Examples: I'm glad to have studied at that school.  
To have been elected as the president of the chapter is a great honor.*

INFINITIVE FORMS				
KIND	ACTIVE		PASSIVE	
PRESENT	<u>SIMPLE</u> to ask	<u>PROGRESSIVE</u> to be asking	<u>SIMPLE</u> to be asked	<u>PROGRESSIVE</u> to be being asked
PRESENT PERFECT	to have asked	to have been asking	to have been asked	to have been being asked

## RETAINED OBJECT

Retained objects can only be found in sentences written in the passive voice. They are separate and distinct from any other type of object since they do not meet the defined functions of such objects. For example, a direct object directly receives the action of the verb; indirect objects indirectly receive the action of the verb, objective complements complete the direct object. Since a passive voice sentence has no action, no object can directly or indirectly receive the action. The following sentences are written in the active voice.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>IO DO</b>                           | <b>DO OC(adj)</b>                          |
| A. <i>The boy gave Mary flowers.</i>   | B. <i>Howard considered Martha pretty.</i> |
| <b>DO OC(noun)</b>                     | <b>DO</b>                                  |
| C. <i>We elected Marvin president.</i> | D. <i>We sent flowers.</i>                 |

In all cases above, the objects function as defined. There is action and there is a receiver of that action. When, however, these sentences are transformed into the passive voice, there is no longer an action; however, they remain objects. These objects are correctly called retained objects.

- A1. *Mary was given flowers by the boys. (retained DO)*
- A2. *Flowers were given Mary by the boys. (retained IO)*
- B. *Martha was considered pretty by Howard. (retained OC-adj.)*
- C. *Marvin was elected president by his friends. (retained OC-noun)*
- D. *Flowers were sent by us. (NO RETAINED OBJECT)*

You should note in the passive constructions A1 and A2 of the original sentence A that it can be determined whether the direct or the indirect was retained as object. In LinguisHTIK when the demand of retained direct, indirect, or objective complement is made, it is suggested, but not required, that players write their active voice construction that they transformed into passive voice for their solution on the same paper as the solution itself. This may serve to avoid disagreements in the presentation of the solutions.

## VERBS [additional information for this division]:

### TRANSITIVE and INTRANSITIVE VERBS

A **transitive** verb is one that has a direct object.

*Example: The cat ate the mouse. The judge explained the contest rules.*

An **intransitive** verb is one that has no direct object. All linking verbs are intransitive.

*Example: The cat ate. Patiently, the judge explained. The contestants still misunderstood.*

### VOICE OF THE VERB

A verb can be of one of two voices: **active or passive**.

**Active voice** is when the subject performs the action of the verb.

**Passive voice** is when the subject is not the performer of the action. Frequently with passive voice the subject will actually be the receiver of the action. (The action is performed on the subject).

*Examples: Bill painted the barn. (active)                      The barn was painted by Bill. (passive)*  
*We gave Mary flowers. (active)                      The flowers were give Mary by us. (passive)*