Grammatical terms and explanations

The examples below do not provide a fully comprehensive list but are intended to help teachers explain frequently-occurring grammar points to students.

Term	Explanation	Example
noun	name of a person, place or thing	John, Cork, car
verb	action word	to read, to move
article		a, an, the
preposition	indicates place	at, on, in, between, behind, beside, in front of, outside, inside, over, under, next to, opposite
	indicates movement	across, along, past, from, up, down, into, through, out of, onto, off
	indicates time	on (Monday), at, in (November), from to, by, before, after, until, since, during
adjective	describe nouns	dry, regional, steep, important
adverb	describe manner	rapidly, steeply
	describe place	here, there
	describe time	then, now, soon, just
	describe frequency	often, usually, sometimes
	describe degree	very, really, almost, so, too, enough, quite, completely, a lot
	comparison	as as, less, more, the more the better
question words		what, who, where, when, why, how, whose, which
tenses	Talking about the present	
	Present simple	I walk, it travels
	Present continuous	I am walking, it is travelling

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Term	Explanation	Example
tenses	Talking about the past	
	Past simple	I walked, it travelled
	Past continuous	I was walking, it was travelling
	Present perfect	I have walked, it has travelled
	Present perfect continuous	I have been walking, it has been travelling
	Past perfect	I had walked, it had travelled
	Past perfect continuous	I had been walking, it had been travelling
tenses	Talking about the future	
	will	I will walk, it will travel
	going to	I'm going to walk, it's going to travel
	will be + ing	I'll be walking, it will be travelling
	Future perfect	I will have walked, it will have travelled
the passive	emphasises the object of the sentence	The door is locked. (He locked the door.)
	used when the agent of the action is not important or not known	The car was stolen. (? stole the car.)
conjunctions and linking words/ phrases	join ideas and text together	and, but, or, either, in the first place, on the other hand, in addition, however, in order to, neither nor, either or, although, as a result, unless, as long as, in case
pronouns	replace the noun – person, place or thing	I, me, we, us, you, he, she, him, her, they, them, it
some and any	some used in positive sentences	We have some money.
-	any used in negative sentences	We don't have any money.

Term	Explanation	Example
lf clause Type 1	To talk about future situations that the speaker thinks are probable.	If you leave before ten, you'll catch the train.
		If + present simple + will/can
If clause	To talk about situations that are possible, but not very probable	If we saved €1,000 we would go to France.
Туре 2		lf + past tense + would
If clause	To talk about past situations that did not happen.	If it had rained yesterday, the match would have been cancelled.
Туре 3		If + past perfect + would have