

Glossary

Term	Definition
Adage	A saying that sets forth a general truth that has gained credibility through use over time (e.g., <i>No risk, no gain.</i>)
Affix	A word part that is "fixed to" either the beginnings of words (prefixes) or the endings of words (suffixes). For example, the word <i>disrespectful</i> has two affixes, a prefix (<i>dis-</i>) and a suffix (<i>-ful</i>)
Alliteration	The repetition of speech sounds in the beginning of nearby words (e.g., <i>Peter Piper's pickled peppers</i>)
Allusion	A passing reference in a text to a literary or historical person, place, event, or other literary work. For example, in Mary Shelley's <i>Frankenstein</i> , Walton writes in his second letter to his sister, Margaret, "...but I shall kill no albatross, therefore do not be alarmed for my safety..." This is an allusion to Samuel Taylor Coleridge's <i>Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i> , a prominent literary work in which a sailor suffers great misfortune at sea, including the loss of his entire crew, after killing a highly regarded bird.
American English grammar	The set of rules that govern how American English is structured and used including parts of speech (e.g., nouns, verbs, adjectives)
Analogy	Relationships created between new and familiar words, concepts, and ideas. As a literary term, analogies can be various types of comparisons, such as metaphors or parables, however, analogies can also be stand-alone relationships like those you found on the SAT (e.g., red : color : rose : flower).
Analyze	To break material down into its constituent parts and determine how the parts relate to one another and to the overall structure or purpose of the text(s)
Antecedent	A noun (or noun phrase) that a pronoun refers back to. For example, in "Maria saw John and called to him," the noun John is the antecedent of the pronoun him
Antonym	A word having the opposite meaning of another word (e.g., <i>cool : warm</i>)
Argument	A type of oral or written communication that develops or debates a topic in a logical or persuasive way
Assess	To evaluate or measure the nature, ability, or quality of
Audience	The intended target group of a message, such as adolescents for young adult literature

Author's purpose	The motive or reason for which an author writes, as to entertain, inform, or persuade
Automaticity	A general term that refers to any skilled and complex behavior that can be performed rather easily with little attention, effort, or conscious awareness. Skills become automatic after extended periods of training. With practice and good instruction, students become automatic at word recognition – that is, retrieving words from memory – and are able to focus attention on constructing meaning from the text rather than decoding.
Blend	To combine; the phonological awareness skills of syllable blending and phoneme blending are included in the reading foundations strand. • Syllable blending: the process of taking individual syllables and combining them to form a word (e.g., blending “<i>sun-shine</i>” to form the word “<i>sunshine</i>”) • Phoneme blending: the process of taking individual speech sounds (phonemes) and combining them to form a word (e.g., blending /b/-/a/-/t/ to form the word “<i>bat</i>”)
Central idea	See main idea
Character	Persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work
Claim	An arguable statement
Clarify	To make the meaning more transparent and easier to understand
Clause	A group of words containing both a subject and a predicate (e.g., <i>when she went to the store</i> and <i>he sang</i>)
Closed Syllable	See syllable types
Comparative	• Comparative adjective: an adjective that compares <i>two</i> nouns or pronouns (e.g., Sarah is <i>taller</i> than Monique; the red flower is <i>more</i> colorful than the pink one) • Comparative adverb: an adverb that compares how two actions are performed, showing differences in speed, manner, frequency, or degree (e.g., Jack ran <i>fast</i>, but Jill ran <i>faster</i>)
Compare	To detect similarities between two or more ideas, objects, concepts, or elements from a text
Compose	Arranging ideas and details to create a message
Conditional mood	A grammatical form showing what could happen if certain conditions are met, which could be real or hypothetical (e.g., <i>If I study, I will pass the test</i>)
Connotation	The feeling, emotion, or cultural association that a word

	suggests beyond its literal, dictionary definition (which is known as its <i>denotation</i>). For example, <i>home</i> may suggest warmth or family.
Consonant Blend	Two or three consonant phonemes before or after a vowel in a syllable (e.g., <i>bl-</i> , <i>fr-</i> , <i>str-</i> , <i>-nd</i> , <i>-sp</i>)
Consonant -le syllable	See syllable types
Context	1. The parts of a written or spoken statement that precede or follow a specific word or passage, usually influencing the meaning or effect 2. The social or cultural situation in which a spoken or written message occurs
Contraction	A shortening of a word by omission of sound(s) or letter(s) (e.g., <i>they will</i> becomes <i>they'll</i>)
Contrast	To detect differences between two or more ideas, objects, concepts, or elements from a text
Controlled text	Text that includes only those phonics patterns that have been explicitly taught
Connected text	A sequence of multiple, related sentences that form a cohesive passage, story, or article
Conventions	A general agreement about basic principles or procedures of grammar
Coordinating conjunctions	Conjunctions that connect grammatically equal parts of sentences, such as words to words, phrases to phrases, and clauses to clauses (e.g., <i>for</i> , <i>and</i> , <i>but</i> , <i>so</i>)
Correlative conjunctions	Pairs of conjunctions that work together to connect grammatically equal parts of sentences (e.g., <i>either/or</i> , <i>neither/nor</i> , <i>both/and</i>)
Counterclaim	An arguable statement intended to dispute another claim
Cumulative adjective	An adjective that must appear in a specific order with other adjectives to modify a noun correctly, without commas separating them (e.g., the small blue car)
CVC words	CVC stands for consonant-vowel-consonant. It refers to simple, three-letter words that follow a predictable pattern: they start with a consonant sound, have a short vowel sound in the middle, and end with a consonant sound.
Decode	To apply knowledge of letter-sound relationships, including knowledge of letter patterns, to correctly pronounce written words
Delineate	To describe or outline with precision
Demonstrate	To make evident or prove
Denotation	The general or literal meaning of a word (e.g., <i>home</i> is a place where a person lives)
Derivational suffix	A suffix that is used to make (derive) a new word, changing

	the word's core meaning and part of speech (e.g. changing a verb to a noun as in <i>teach</i> to <i>teacher</i>)
Describe	To convey the appearance, nature, and/or attributes of elements or ideas
Dialogue	The verbal interaction between two or more characters in a dramatic or narrative work
Diction	The stylistic choice and use of words and phrases in speech or writing
Digraph	A two-letter combination (e.g., <i>th</i> , <i>ph</i>) that stands for a single phoneme in which neither letter represents its usual sound
Diphthongs	Single vowel phonemes that glide in the middle; the mouth position shifts during the production of the single vowel phoneme, especially the vowels spelled <i>ou</i> and <i>oi</i>
Domain-specific vocabulary	Vocabulary words specific to a content area (e.g., <i>photosynthesis</i> , <i>personification</i> , <i>algorithm</i>)
Drama	A literary genre designed for performance in the theater in which actors take on the roles of characters, perform the indicated actions, and utter the written dialogue
e.g.	<i>For example</i> or <i>such as</i> ; used to give an example of the preceding word or words
Edit	The correction of mechanical features of writing, such as spelling, punctuation, and capitalization, in order to prepare materials for publication or presentation
Encode	To translate spoken sounds into written symbols (i.e., spell)
Etymology	The history of a word or word part shown by tracing its development since its earliest recorded occurrence in the language where it is found
Evaluate	To make judgements about the value of ideas, purposes, or claims of a text based on criteria and standards
Evidence	Facts, figures, details, quotations, or other sources of data and information that provide supports for claims or an analysis of the text and that can be evaluated by others
Explain	To make clear by describing in more details or giving relevant facts or ideas
Explicit	Directly stated
Fable	A short narrative that contains a moral or principle of human behavior (e.g., Aesop's <i>The Hare and the Tortoise</i> – slow and steady wins the race)
Figurative language	Words or expressions with meanings other than the literal interpretation. An example of figurative language is a simile (e.g., Her eyes were as blue as the ocean).
Figures of speech	Spoken and written language that departs from literal

	meaning in both pattern and usage (e.g., personification, metaphor, hyperbole)
First-person narrator	A narrator who is a participant in the story and uses the pronouns <i>I</i> and <i>me</i>
Flashback	The technique of disrupting the order of events in a story by shifting to an earlier time in order to introduce information
FLOSS rule	A spelling generalization for the doubling of the final consonant in one-syllable words with a short vowel sound when the final consonant is F, L, S, or Z (e.g., <i>cliff, bell, grass, jazz</i>)
Folktale	A short narrative in prose of unknown authorship which has been a part of an oral tradition over generations (e.g., <i>Johnny Appleseed</i>)
Formal language/style	A style of speaking and writing used to inform an audience, marked by careful attention to organization of content and to grammatical structure and pronunciation
Genre	A type or class of literature (e.g., fiction, drama, poetry)
Gerund	See verbals
Grapheme	A written representation of a phoneme (a sound); may be a single letter or group of letters
Homograph	A word that shares the same spelling as another word but has a different meaning. Homographs may or may not have the same pronunciation (e.g. <i>bark: the outer layer of a tree vs. bark: the sound a dog makes</i> ; and <i>lead: to guide or direct vs. lead: a heavy metallic element</i>).
Homophone	One of two or more words pronounced alike but different in meaning and spelling (e.g., <i>to, too, two</i>).
High-frequency words	Words that occur most often in written English, including articles, common nouns, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and auxiliary (helping) verbs
High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)	Instructional materials that provide standards-aligned instructional content, a coherent and grade-level appropriate scope and sequence, evidence-based instructional strategies and embedded formative assessments that support data-driven instruction and educative materials that provide implementation support for educators to ensure all students' learning needs are met. High-quality instructional materials are critical for instructional equity and ensure that each student acquires the knowledge and skills to be successful through a standards-aligned instructional foundation. High-quality instructional materials act as a common language and platform for engaging all partners in students' educational

	experience by incorporating student and educators supports.
i.e.	<i>That is</i> ; used to state something more clearly
Idiom	Phrases or expressions that have meanings different from the literal (e.g., The kids clean their rooms <i>once in a blue moon</i> .)
Imperative mood	A grammatical form used to express a command, make a request, or give instructions
Implicit	Intended or suggested rather than directly stated
Indicative mood	A grammatical form used to state facts, express opinions, or ask questions
Inference	An assumption/conclusion that a reader makes based on evidence from the text and the reader's own experiences
Inflected endings/inflection	In grammar, the change of form that words undergo to show distinctions in number, tense, person, mood, or voice
Inflectional suffix	A suffix that is used to show grammatical properties such as number, tense, or comparison without changing the word's core meaning or part of speech (e.g. <i>cats, played, tallest</i>)
Informal language	Language used in casual settings with peers, including language such as slang, colloquialisms, and contractions
Informative/explanatory writing	Writing that represents knowledge originating from instruction, study, or research and that is meant to reveal or further clarify by describing in more details
Integrate	To identify elements and fit them into an existing structure
Intensive pronoun	A type of pronoun that emphasizes the subject through adding -self or -selves (e.g., I will handle the project <i>myself</i> .)
Interjection	A word or phrase used to express emotion, feeling, or reaction; it is grammatically independent of the rest of the sentence (e.g., <i>wow, oops, well</i>)
Interpret	Understand and explain the meaning of
Interrogative word	A word (such as <i>who, what, which</i>) used in asking questions
Interrogative mood	A grammatical form indicating a question
Irony	Text or dialogue in which there is a root sense of hiding what is actual in order to achieve special rhetorical or artistic effect <i>Verbal irony</i> is a statement in which the meaning the speaker implies differs sharply from what is directly said. For example, when someone says, "What a nice day!" if it is raining outside, this is verbal irony. <i>Dramatic irony</i> involves a situation in a play or story in which the author and the audience or reader have information that is unknown to the characters or

	actors. For example, in <i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarves</i>, Snow White does not know the apple offered to her by the disguised evil queen is poisonous, but the audience or reader knows this. • <i>Situational irony</i> is represented by a mismatch between expectation and reality. For example, you save money for months to buy your new video game console, and the day before you finally go to get it, your mother surprises you with the new game system as a gift.
Kernel sentence	The start of a simple sentence that has a noun and a verb
Key details	Points of information in a text that strongly support the meaning or tell the story
Linking words	Words used to connect ideas within a sentence or between sentences and paragraphs
Literal	Taking words in the usual or most basic sense; not figurative or metaphorical
Learned spelling patterns	Groups of letters that can represent the same sound. For example, <i>-er</i> , <i>-ir</i> , and <i>-ur</i> can represent the same sound in <i>her</i> , <i>sir</i> , and <i>fur</i> .
Main idea	The chief topic of a passage
Mechanics	Technical elements of writing, including punctuation, capitalization, spelling, formatting, etc.
Metaphor	A type of comparison in which a word or expression's literal usage and meaning is applied to a distinctly different thing (e.g., "All the world's a stage..." – Shakespeare)
Modal auxiliary verb	Verbs that express ability or possibility (e.g., <i>can/could</i> , <i>will/would</i>)
Mood	The emotion(s) expressed by an author or artist in the rhetoric, structure, and/or perspective of his or her work
Moral	A principle or value of human behavior
Morpheme	Smallest meaningful unit of language
Morphology	The study of meaningful units in a language and how the units are combined in word formation
Myth	A narrative of ancient origin that a particular cultural group believes to be a true explanation of why the world is as it is and that provides a rationale and rules for societal customs (e.g., <i>The Adventures of Perseus</i>)
Narrative writing	A story involving events, characters, and what the characters say and do
Narrator	The person in a fictional narrative who relates the account or story
Nonliteral	See figurative language

Nuance	A subtle difference in a shade of meaning or expression
Onset-rime	The natural division of a syllable into two parts; the onset comes before the vowel, and the rime includes the vowel and what follows after it (e.g., <i>pl-an</i>)
Open syllable	See syllable types
Opinion	A personal view, attitude, or appraisal
Orthography	A writing and spelling system that represents language
Parallel structure	A form of language construction in which word forms, sentences, clauses, or paragraphs are constructed in the same way
Paraphrase	To restate the meaning of a text, speech, or passage in one's own words while retaining the original message
Parenthetical element	A word, phrase, or clause that adds extra information or clarification to a sentence but is not essential to its main meaning. The sentence should still make sense if the parenthetical is removed.
Perfect verb tense	A verb form to show an action is complete or finished in relation to a certain point in time; consists of present perfect (e.g. <i>has finished</i>), past perfect (e.g. <i>had finished</i>), and future perfect (e.g. <i>will have finished</i>)
Personification	When an inanimate object or an abstract concept is spoken of as though it were endowed with life or with human attributes or feelings (e.g., <i>The sun smiled down on us.</i>)
Perspective	A position from which something is considered or evaluated
Phoneme	An individual sound unit of speech
Phoneme-grapheme correspondence	Relationship between the sounds of spoken language (phonemes) and the letters or letter combinations (graphemes) that represent them in writing
Phrase	A group of words not containing a subject and a predicate (e.g., <i>running in the rain</i>)
Plagiarism	The practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own
Plot	The events and actions of a narrative work
Poetry	Literature that can be in metrical form and that expresses an idea or concept often using figurative language. The three most common types are narrative, dramatic, and lyric.
Point of view	Chiefly in literary texts, the narrative point of view (as in first- or third-person narration)
Prefix	An affix attached before a root word (e.g., dis connect)
Premise	An assertion or proposition which forms the basis for a work or theory

Primary sources	An original text used largely for informational purposes, as in research (e.g., journals, photographs, research data)
Prose	Written or spoken language that is not verse
Proverb	A short, concise statement of widely accepted truth about everyday life (e.g., <i>Actions speak louder than words.</i>)
Publish	To prepare written material for presentation to an audience
Pun	A deliberate and humorous play on words that are the same or similar in sound but different in meaning (e.g., <i>The shovel was a ground-breaking invention.</i>)
Purpose	The goal a reader or writer seeks to attain
Redundancy	The use of words and phrases in communication that are repetitive and not necessary
Reflexive pronoun	Pronouns ending with “self” or “selves” where the direct object and the subject are the same (e.g., I baked the cake <i>myself</i> .)
Relative pronoun	Words that connect clauses and tell more information about a noun or pronoun (e.g., <i>who, whom, whose</i>)
Revise	The part of writing and preparing written material concerned chiefly with reconsidering and reworking text relative to task, purpose, and audience
Rhetoric	The effective use of language in prose, verse, or oration to communicate with, inform, or persuade an audience
Rhyme	Repetition of the last stressed vowel and of all the speech sounds following that vowel
Rhythm	A recognizable, varying pattern in the beat of the accents in a stream of speech sounds
Roots	A basic word part, usually of Latin origin, that carries the main component of meaning and that cannot stand alone (e.g. <i>spect, vis</i>)
Satire	The use of ridicule or sarcasm, often in humorous or witty ways, to expose immorality or foolishness
Scaffolding	The gradual withdrawal of adult support within the learning process in order to shift more and more responsibility for learning onto the student
Scene	The subdivision of acts in a play in which there is no change of place or in continuity of time
Schwa	Neutral vowel in unaccented syllable in English; example: <i>asleep</i> , the /a/ pronunciation is the schwa sound; ə is the symbol for schwa.
Second person-narrator	A narrator who addresses a story to a someone he or she calls “you”
Secondary sources	A text used largely for informational purposes that references, analyzes, interprets, or critiques one or more

	primary sources, as in research
Segment	To break apart; the phonological awareness skills of onset-rime segmentation, syllable segmentation, and phoneme segmentation are included in the Reading Foundations strand. - Onset-rime segmentation: the process of taking a spoken syllable and breaking down into onset and rime (e.g. segmenting “bat” into “b-at”) - Syllable segmentation: the process of taking a spoken word and breaking down into individual syllables (e.g., segmenting “sunshine” into “sun-shine”) - Phoneme segmentation: the process of taking a spoken word and breaking down into individual sound (phonemes) (e.g., segmenting “bat” into /b/-/a/-/t/)
Seminal U.S. documents	Influential and important works in United States history
Sensory language	Details from the five senses; used to appeal to the reader
Sequence of events	The order in which events take place in a story or text
Setting	The general place, historical time, and social circumstances in which action occurs in a story or play
Shades of meaning	The varying degrees of meaning for closely related words (e.g., <i>big</i> , <i>large</i> , <i>huge</i> , <i>gigantic</i>)
Soliloquy	The act of a character in a drama, alone on stage, uttering his thoughts aloud
Silent letter combination	A letter combination where one or more letters is silent (i.e., does not represent the phoneme) but another letter does represent the phoneme (e.g., <i>kn</i> in <i>knock</i>).
Simile	A comparison between two distinctly different things indicated by the word “like” or “as” (e.g., <i>quiet as a mouse</i>)
Sonnet	A lyric poem consisting of a single stanza of 14 lines of iambic pentameter (i.e., ten syllables, five pairs of one stressed and one unstressed syllable)
Stanza	A grouping of lines of verse in a poem often set off by a space in the printed text.
Subjunctive mood	A grammatical form using verbs that express a mood for something wished for or imagined (e.g., <i>What might have happened if the plane had landed on time?</i>)
Subordinating conjunction	Conjunctions that connect a dependent clause to an independent clause (e.g., <i>because</i> , <i>although</i> , <i>as soon as</i>)
Suffix	An affix attached to the end of a base, root or stem. Also see derivational suffix and inflectional suffix
Summarize	Condensing a text to its general theme(s) and/or major

	points
Superlative	• Superlative adjective: an adjective that compares <i>three</i> or more nouns or pronouns (e.g., Sarah is the <i>tallest</i> student; the red flowers are the <i>most colorful</i> in the garden) • Superlative adverb: an adverb that compares a verb among <i>three</i> or more items or situations, showing the greatest extent (e.g., The race was close, but Matt ran the <i>fastest</i>.)
Suspense	A lack of certainty on the part of a concerned reader about what is going to happen to characters with whom the reader has established a bond
Syllabication	The process of dividing words into syllables
Syllabication patterns	Patterns used to divide words into syllables when decoding multisyllabic words
Syllable types	English has six basic syllable types: • Closed syllable: a syllable with a short vowel spelled with a single vowel letter and ending in one or more consonants (e.g., <i>hat</i>, <i>kit-ten</i>) • Open syllable: a syllable ending with a long vowel sound that is spelled with a single vowel letter (e.g., <i>me</i>, <i>yo-yo</i>) • Vowel-consonant-e (VCe) syllable: a syllable with a long vowel spelled with one vowel plus one consonant plus silent e (e.g., <i>note</i>, <i>fire-place</i>) • Vowel team syllable: a syllable with a long or short vowel spelling that uses 2-4 letters to spell the vowel sound (e.g., <i>toy</i>, <i>light</i>, <i>four-teen</i>); includes diphthongs <i>ou/ow</i> and <i>oi/oy</i> • Vowel-r syllable: a syllable with <i>er</i>, <i>ir</i>, <i>or</i>, <i>ar</i>, or <i>ur</i> (e.g., <i>for</i>, <i>start</i>); the vowel sound before the letter <i>r</i> often changes its pronunciation • Consonant -le syllable: an unaccented final syllable containing a consonant before “l” followed by a silent “e” (e.g., <i>ea-gle</i>, <i>drib-ble</i>)
Synonym	A word having a meaning similar to another word (e.g., <i>cold</i> : <i>chilly</i>)
Syntax	The set of rules that govern how words are ordered into phrases, clauses, and sentences
Synthesize	A process of arranging and combining pieces, parts, and elements into a pattern or structure not clearly there before
Temporal word	A word that indicates time, helping to sequence events or clarify when something happened (e.g., <i>first</i> , <i>next</i> , <i>before</i> ,

	<i>after</i>)
Text complexity	The level of difficulty in reading and understanding a text based on a series of factors: the readability of the text, the levels of meaning or purpose in the text, the structure of the text, the conventionality and clarity of the language, and the knowledge demands of the text
Text features	Print features, as well as graphic, informational, and organizational aids (e.g., bold print, italics, maps, charts, labels, headings)
Theme	An abstract concept broad enough to cover the entire scope of a literary work. It may be a general, universal life lesson, or moral message (e.g., "love conquers all").
Thesis statement	A concise, one or two sentence statement of a paper or speech's main argument
Third person-narrator	A narrator who is outside the story proper and refers to all of the characters as <i>he</i> , <i>she</i> , or <i>they</i>
Tone	The author's attitude reflected in the style of the written word
Transitions	Words, phrases, or sentences that establish connections between ideas when writing or speaking (e.g., <i>similarly</i> , <i>in addition</i> , <i>finally</i>)
Trigraph	A three-letter combination that represents one phoneme (e.g., <i>-tch</i> in <i>ditch</i> and <i>-dge</i> as in <i>dodge</i>)
Verbals	Words formed from verbs that function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs in a sentence. There are three primary types: • Gerunds: verb forms ending in <i>-ing</i> that function as nouns (e.g. I enjoy <i>hiking</i> in the fall.) • Participles: verb forms that function as adjectives, modifying nouns or pronouns (e.g. The <i>barking</i> dog kept us awake.) • Infinitives: formed by placing the word "to" before the base form of a verb; can function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs (e.g. I want <i>to learn</i> Spanish; his dream has always been <i>to travel</i>.)
Vowel-Consonant-e (VCe) syllable	See syllable types
Vowel-r syllable	See syllable types
Vowel team syllable	See syllable types
Vowel team	A combination of two, three, or four letters that stand for a vowel (e.g., <i>au</i> , <i>ea</i> , <i>oo</i> , <i>igh</i>)
Welded/glued sounds	Welded sounds occur when two or more letters merge to create a unique sound that cannot be easily divided into the individual sounds of each letter:

	-ang, -ing, -ong, -ung, -ank, -ink, -onk, -unk, -an, -am, -all
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