

Building Academic Vocabulary



8th grade Communication
Arts

Term: clause

- Description: A group of words containing a subject (noun) and a predicate (verb) which forms part of a compound or complex sentence or a whole simple sentence.
 - Independent (main)- complete thought
 - Dependent (subordinate)- no complete thought and can't stand alone
 - Adjective (relative)- describes or relates clause to a noun
- Example: Lindsey studied in the library for her algebra quiz.
 - Lindsey studied in the library for her algebra quiz, which meant she was late for work.

- Non- Linguistic:



Term: phrase

- Description: A group of words that function as a single unit:
prepositional; noun;
verb; adjectival;
adverbial.
 - Any small group of words within a sentence or a clause.
 - Has a subject or a verb, but not both.
- Example: before the first test (PP)

- Non- Linguistic:



Term: complex sentence

- Description: A sentence with an independent clause and at least one dependent clause
- Example: When he handed in his homework, he forgot to give the teacher the last page.
- Non-Linguistic:



Term: parallel structure

- Description: Expressing similar or related ideas in similar grammatical structure.
- All about balance!
- Can be at clause, phrase, or word level.
- Example: Mary likes hiking, swimming, and biking.
- Non-Linguistic:



Term: thesis

- Description: An explanation of the topic or purpose of a paper.
- The main, big idea of a paper.
 - Specific
 - Usually in the first paragraph.
 - May need to revise later.
- Example: The life of a typical middle school student is characterized by time spent studying, attending class, and socializing with peers.

- Non-Linguistic:



Term: figurative language

- Description: Figurative language is language that means more than what it says on the surface. Figurative language has a completely different meaning than literal language.
 - Contains figures of speech such as: simile, metaphor, and personification.
- Example: The muscles on his brawny arms are strong as iron bands.

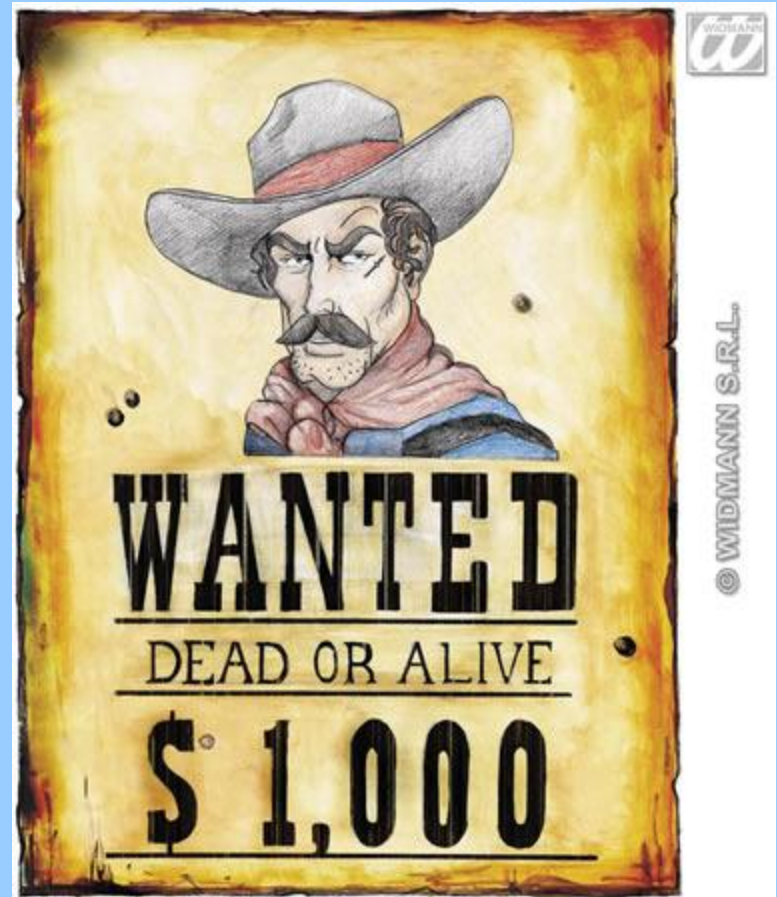
- Non-Linguistic:



Term: connotation

- Description: Implied meaning of a word or phrase in addition to its dictionary definition.
- Example: A stubborn person may be described as being either *strong-willed* or *pig-headed*. Although these have the same literal meaning (i.e. *stubborn*), *strong-willed* connotes admiration for the level of someone's will, while *pig-headed* **connotes** frustration in dealing with someone

- Non-Linguistic:



Term: dialect

- Description: Regional or social variety of language distinguished by pronunciation, grammar, or vocabulary.
- Example:
Southern English= “Knoxville” becomes “nAWksvuhl”
 - We'll be talkin' at you tomorrow.
- Non-Linguistic:



Term: jargon

- Description: Technical language of a special field, profession, or group.
- Example:
- Banking - CD, CSR, BOM
- Military – Leg, PCSing, Rigger
- Education - ISS, OSS, CWC, AP students, IEP
- Medical- Code Blue, STAT, CAT Scan, ABG

- Non-Linguistic:



Term: slang

- Description: Informal language used in casual and playful speech. Unique language known only to special group or subculture.
- Example: Yo, that concert was **off the hinges!**
- Non-Linguistic:



Term: colloquialism

- Description: A common word or phrase used in everyday speech.
- Example: You're not gonna make it up that hill.
- Non-Linguistic:



Term: colon

- Description: A punctuation mark (:) used to introduce one or more directly related ideas, such as a list.
 - Let's you know that something important is about to follow.
- Example: I need to buy several things at the store: milk, butter, bread, and eggs.

- Non- Linguistic:



Term: semi-colon

- Description: A mark of punctuation (;) used to connect independent clauses and to indicate a close relationship between the clauses.
- Example: Call me tomorrow; I will give you my answer then.
- Non Linguistic:



Term: dash

- Description: A punctuation mark (--) used to show a sudden break in a sentence, to emphasize a word or clause, and to show that someone's speech is being interrupted.
- Example: There is one thing--actually several things--that I need to tell you.
- Non-Linguistic:



Term: hyphen

- Description: a punctuation mark (-) used to form compound words and compound modifiers.
- Example: A ***long-anticipated*** decision was finally made.
- Non-Linguistic:

