

Glossary & Grammar

Glossary (words in bold from the letters)

Words can have more than one meaning. However, in the context of these words, as used in the letters, the meaning below is the correct one.

engrossed	to be absorbed by something/really interested	feels overwhelming	when something feels very strong and is almost too much
complexity (of a character)	they have lots of different sides to their personalities	ordinary	with no special or distinctive features/normal
simplicity (a simple person)	a person who enjoys and appreciates the little things in life	abrupt	speaking with only a few words/speaks in an unfriendly way
grappled	to struggle with his problems	dismissive	to show dislike and annoyance by i.e. rolling your eyes, turning your back to someone
my predicament	my difficulty	an element of life	a part of life
despair	to be completely without hope	turbulent times	characterized by conflict/not stable or calm
to feel <u>disconnected</u> from the world	to feel that you have no contact or connection with reality	exacerbate	to make a negative feeling worse
assist	to help	<u>current</u> experiences	the experiences he's having now
to <u>elaborate</u> further	to tell someone in more detail	a recluse	a person who lives on his own and tends to avoid other people
delve	to dig	frantic paddling	paddling quickly with anxiety and fear
the <u>cruz</u> of the problem	the most important point	petulance	to be childishly sulky or bad-tempered

initial	first		
secluded	not seen or visited by many people/sheltered		

Grammar

Some of the grammatical features explained:

Modal verbs
<p>These are verbs that indicate likelihood, ability, permission or obligation.</p> <p>Words like: <i>can/could, may/might, will/would, shall/should and must</i></p>
Formal tone
<p>A formal tone helps establish the writer's respect for the reader and suggests that the writer is serious about his or her topic. It is the kind of tone that educated people use when communicating with other educated people. Most academic writing uses a formal tone.</p>
Non-contracted verb forms
<p>Contracted words, also known as contractions are short words made by putting two words together. Letters are omitted in the contraction and replaced by an apostrophe. The apostrophe shows where the letters would be if the words were written in full.</p> <p>Examples of contracted words: <i>don't, isn't, haven't it's, we're, we'll</i> Examples of non-contracted words: <i>do not, is not, have not, it is, we are, we will</i></p>

Subjunctive mood

The subjunctive is a verb form or mood used to express things that could or should happen. It is used to express wishes, hopes, commands, demands or suggestions. For example:

If I were you I'd accept.
I suggested that he face up to the bully.
It is vital that she attend the meeting.
I wish I were able to fly.
I suggest you take a rain coat with you.
I demand that they be counted again!

The subjunctive is the same as the (indicative) verbs we use in almost every case, but it is different in the third person singular and when using the verb to be. For the subjunctive we remove the final s at the end of the verb, so

I request that he write to her (instead of he writes to her)

and in the subjunctive we use the forms *I were* and *they be*, so

I wish I were able to fly (instead of I was)

She asked that they be told immediately (instead of they were told).

The subjunctive isn't used in English very often. Nowadays is usually replaced with modal verbs like might, could or should, but it does survive in traditional expressions like 'come what may', 'perish the thought' or 'God save the Queen'.

Conditionals

A conditional sentence is a sentence that gives a condition i.e. *If it rains, we will stay indoors*. By using the conjunction 'if' a conditional is made.

Personal pronouns (one)

A personal pronoun is a word which can be used instead of a person, place or thing. There are twelve personal pronouns for people: *I, you, he, she, it, we, they, me, him, her, us and them*. There are three personal pronouns for things: *they, them, it*.

The pronoun 'one' is a gender-neutral, indefinite pronoun that means, roughly, "a person." It is used in more formal writing.

Parenthesis

Parenthesis is a word, phrase or sentence that is put in writing as extra information or an afterthought. If the parenthesis is taken away, the passage would still be complete without it.

Brackets, commas or dashes can be used to show parenthesis:

I miss seeing Amelia (my best friend from primary school) every day.

I miss seeing Amelia, my best friend from primary school, every day.

I miss seeing Amelia – my best friend from primary school – every day.

Proverbs

A proverb is a short, well-known and meaningful saying, stating a general truth or piece of advice. In this case, look for meaningful sayings from Charlie Mackesy's book i.e. *Always remember you matter, you are important and you bring things to this world no one else can.*

Passive constructions

A sentence is written in active voice when the **subject** of the sentence is performing the action.

A sentence is written in passive voice when the subject of the sentence has something done to it by someone or something.

For example:

**The cat was chasing
the mouse.**



**The mouse was being
chased by the cat.**

Active voice: The cat was chasing the mouse.

In this sentence, 'the cat' is the subject, 'was chasing' is the **verb** and 'the mouse' is the **object**.

Passive voice: The mouse was being chased by the cat.

In this sentence 'the mouse' has become the subject which is having something done to it by the cat.

Sentence opener variety (fronted adverbials of time to suggest order of responses)

A sentence opener is a word or phrase that you use at the start of sentences. They are a great way to improve the flow of a piece of writing, as well as to get readers interested and eager to read more.

In any writing it is important to use a variety of sentence openers i.e. a *verb* (-ing/-ed), a *conjunction* (if, when, as), an *adverb* (-ly), a *preposition* (in/on/at), two *adjectives* (i.e. Exhausted and lonely,) and also *determiners* (the, this) and *pronouns* (you, he, I).