

Classical Glossary

Alliteration

The repetition of the same consonant sound especially at the beginning of words or syllables.

Artefact

Something made or shaped by humans for their use, such as a stone tool, metal sword or letter, usually of historical interest.

Assonance

Repetition, usually of a similar vowel sound or diphthong in non-rhyming words that are found close together, for example, *longo sermone* (ie a correspondence of vowel sounds, but not of consonants)

Authentic text

Text in Classical Greek or Latin written in ancient times.

Case

A grammatical term that describes the inflected form of a noun, pronoun or adjective by which its function in a clause can be identified.

Conjugation

A group of verbs that share a variation of form by which their person, number, tense, mood and voice can be identified.

Conjunction

A word that joins other words, phrases or clauses in logical relationships, for example, contrast, time, cause or comparison; conjunctions include coordinating conjunctions and subordinating conjunctions.

Context

Context can include the general social, historical and cultural conditions in which an ancient text was written, or refer to the wording surrounding an unfamiliar word that an audience uses to understand its meaning. Context may also refer to the setting of an extract of text within a literary narrative.

Contract verbs

Verbs with stems ending in a short vowel (α , ϵ , o) (Classical Greek)

Crasis

A contraction in which two vowels merge into one, making one word out of two (Classical Greek)

Declension

A group of nouns, adjectives, or pronouns that share a variation of form by which their number and case can be identified and thus their relationship to other words in a sentence.

Deponent verbs

Verbs which have passive forms but active meanings.

Diphthong

Two vowel sounds pronounced together in a single syllable to form a new vowel sound.

Ekphrasis (ekphrasis)

A graphic, often dramatic, description of a visual work of art, either real or imagined.

Elision

The suppression of a vowel (and the letter *m* in Latin) at the end of a word when the following word begins with a vowel.

Enclitic

A particle attached to a preceding word.

Evidence

What can be learnt from a historical source to help construct a historical narrative.

In classical languages curriculum, evidence also means the support from a written text provided for an opinion about its literary qualities.

Euphemism

The substitution of a mild expression for one thought to be harsh or offensive.

Genres

The categories into which texts may be grouped (for example, epic, satire, love poetry, epigram, ode, oratory)

Gnomic statement

An observation or sentiment in the form of a saying (Classical Greek)

Hybrids of Greek and Latin

Words or expressions in English that combine elements of Classical Greek and Latin (for example, television)

Hyperbole

Extravagant exaggeration, not intended to be taken literally.

Inflected form

A change that expresses one or more grammatical meanings through a prefix, suffix or infix, or some other internal variation, for example, a vowel change.

Juxtaposition

The placement of two or more concepts, characters, actions, settings, phrases, or words side by side for a particular purpose (for example, for rhetorical effect or to highlight contrast)

Literary features

The ways in which writers express their ideas to create an impact on their audiences, for example, to persuade or to entertain.

Metrical effects

The special effects created by poets through a choice of words that varies the light and heavy syllables in their verse.

Modified text

Text in Classical Greek or Latin written in ancient times, with omissions or parts rewritten to cater for the diversity of learners (ie abridged or adapted text)

Mood (grammatical)

The form of a verb which shows whether it is indicative, imperative or subjunctive.

Mood (literary)

The emotional atmosphere or perspective created by a writer.

Mycenaean

Anything relating to ancient Mycenae or Mycenaean Greeks (15th – 13th century BCE) (Classical Greek)

Nested clause

A clause that interrupts another clause.

Oratory

The oral delivery of ideas in a persuasive style.

Paradigm

The listing of the grammatical forms of an inflected word; an example of a conjugation or declension showing a word in all its inflected forms.

Periodic sentence

A sentence designed to arouse interest or suspense by keeping the meaning unclear until its end

Restored pronunciation

Reconstruction, based on research, of the way in which Classical Greek or Latin is believed to have been spoken.

Periods of Roman history

The Roman Republic refers to the period of ancient Roman civilisation usually dated from the end of the monarchy in 509 BCE to 27 BCE, when, after the unrest and civil war of the final years of the Republic, the Roman Empire was established in 27 BCE and, through the Pax Romana (Roman Peace), became a period of exceptional political stability, prosperity and cultural endeavour.

Root

A word/word element that cannot be reduced to a smaller unit, and from which other words are formed, for example, duc in reducere.

Supine

The fourth principal part of a Latin verb from which other forms can be predicted, and from which many English words can be derived.

Repetition

A word, phrase, part of a sentence or line of verse that is repeated to emphasise its significance. Repetition can be used as a rhetorical device.

Responding

When students listen to, read or view texts they interact with those texts to make meaning. Responding involves identifying, selecting, describing, comprehending, imagining, interpreting, analysing and evaluating.

Rhetorical device

Language that is intended to have an impact on an audience, such as evoking an emotion or persuading an audience (for example, imagery, metaphors, repetition, rhetorical questions)

Sentence

A group of words, with a subject and verb, that can stand alone to make a statement, give a command or ask a question is a **simple sentence**; a **compound sentence** has two or more main clauses of equal grammatical status, usually introduced by a coordinating conjunction such as 'and', 'but' or 'or'; a **complex sentence** has one or more subordinate clauses that are dependent on another clause, usually introduced by a subordinating conjunction such as 'when', 'because' or 'if'.

Synthetic text

Text in Classical Greek or Latin written in modern times to assist reading comprehension for a diversity of learners.

Tone (literary)

The attitude or feeling the writer expresses through choice of words and/or literary devices, for example, solemn, playful, defensive or sinister.

Transliteration

The conversion of a text from one script to another.

Voice (grammatical)

The form of the verb that shows its relation to the subject, ie active or passive voice.

Voice (literary)

The individual writing style of an author or a narrator.

Voice (inflection)

The elements of spoken intonation which contribute significantly to the impact on an audience, such as voice quality, variation in volume, pacing and tonal expression.

Word order (literary)

The placement of a word or a significant concept in an unusual position, such as at the beginning or end of a sentence or line of verse, to draw the audience's attention to it.