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# METALANGUAGE LIST

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*Note: Below are the five subsystems of the English language, and the relevant metalanguage and metalinguistic terms for each. Don't worry if you don't know them yet, just make a conscious effort to learn bit by bit and solidify this knowledge by including them in your essay responses.*

## Phonetics and Phonology

- Prosodic features: pitch, stress, volume, tempo and intonation
- Vocal effects: coughs, laughter, breath
- Paralinguistic features: hand gestures, body language, facial expressions
- Assimilation, vowel reduction, elision, insertion
  - Elision: Elision and assimilation is the removal of certain consonants or vowels in words and assimilating words to sound differently than once originally pronounced.
- Features of Broad, General and Cultivated accents:
- Alliteration, assonance, consonance, onomatopoeia, rhythm, rhyme
- IPA – International Phonetic Alphabet

## Morphology and Lexicology

- Auxiliary verbs, modal verbs, determiners, interjections
  - Auxiliary verbs are verbs that often followed by other verbs (e.g. can, will, should, shall, could, be etc.)
  - Modal verbs are also auxiliary verbs that indicates modality
- Affixation: prefix, suffix, infix
  - Prefix: before the word (e.g. un-happy, where 'un' is the prefix)
  - Suffix: after the initial morpheme (e.g. -ly, -ing)
  - Infix
- Inflection and derivation
  - Inflection still retains the meaning of the word (e.g. -s, -ed, -ing, etc.)
  - Derivation changes the meaning of the word or the type of word (e.g. adjective into an adverb – clear into clearly, with -ly as the suffix)
- Root, bound and free morphemes
  - Free morphemes can function as independent words (e.g. town)
  - Bound morphemes appear only as parts of words, always in conjunction with root morphemes (e.g. bound: consideration, root: -ation)
- Suffixation in Australian English
  - Tradie, Ambo etc. – all evidence of egalitarianism, friendliness and a common social bond
- Formation of words: blend, acronyms, initialisms, shortenings, compounding, contractions, collocations, neologisms
- Morphological and lexical patterning in texts

## Syntax

- Phrases, clauses and sentences
  - Phrase, then clause, then sentence
  - Clauses contain a predicate and a subject
  - Phrases do not have a subject and predicate (e.g. the amusement park)
- Sentence types and their function in texts:
  - Declarative: I am going to the shops now.
  - Imperative: Eat your food!
  - Interrogative: Can you please sleep now?
  - Exclamatives: I hate you!
- Sentence Structure:
  - Fragments
  - Simple: I ate the food.
  - Compound: We can eat all day and then go home.
  - Complex: The students are studying tomorrow because they have an upcoming test.
  - Compound-complex: Although I like to go camping, I haven't had the time to go recently, and I haven't found anyone to go with.
  - Ellipsis: The economic crisis affected me more than her.
  - Nominalisation
  - Coordination: and, but, so
  - Subordination: because, if, after, when, therefore
- Active and passive voice
- Syntactic patterning:
  - Antithesis
  - Listing
  - Parallelism
  - Parenthesis: brackets, sidenotes

## Discourse

- Coherence
  - Cohesive text
  - Inference
  - Logical ordering
  - Formatting
  - Consistency
  - Conventions
  - Parenthesis
  - Paragraphing
  - Repetition
- Cohesion
  - Information flow (importance of information placement)
    - Clefting: it was him that stole the cookie (it-clefting)
    - front focus: On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September, the man vacated the apartment

- end focus: The man vacated the apartment, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September
  - there-construction: There were three people at the carnival today
  - Left dislocation: “Those dementors, they’re horrible things”
  - Right dislocation: “they’re horrible things, those dementors”
  - Passives: “The book was written by me”
- Anaphoric and Cataphoric reference:
  - Anaphoric: Pam went home because she felt sick (‘she’ referring back to ‘Pam’).  
Anaphoric refers to previous information in the text
  - Cataphoric: Refers to future information, therefore placing greater importance and emphasis on the information (e.g. When he arrived, John noticed the door was open).
- Deictics:
  - Deixis is reference by means of an expression whose interpretation is relative to the (usually) extralinguistic context of the utterance
  - E.g. I, we, me, then, here, there etc.
  - “A tree was planted over there” – where is ‘over there’?
- Repetition
- Synonymy
- Antonymy
- Collocation
  - Two or more words commonly used together in English
  - Fish and chips
  - To feel free
- Ellipses
  - Omission of certain words
- Substitution
- Conjunctions
- Semantic field
- Auxiliary verb ‘do’
- Features of spoken discourse
  - Adjacency pairs:
    - Hello, how are you
    - Have a good night, bye
  - Pauses (e.g. umm, err)
  - Interrogative tags
  - Discourse particles
  - Overlapping speech
- Strategies in spoken discourse
  - Minimal response:
    - Hmm, yeah, right, oh
  - Holding the floor, topic management, turn-taking
- Prosody

### **Conversational Strategies:**

1. Minimal Responses
2. Adjacency Pairs

3. Topic Management
4. Floor holding
5. Discourse Markers

#### **Floor Holding:**

1. Connectors
2. Hesitations
3. Fixed Expressions

#### **Non Fluency:**

1. Minimal Responses
2. Discourse
3. Self-corrections
4. False Starts
5. Pause Fillers/Hesitations

#### **Semantics**

- Semantic field
- Lexical choice and semantic patterning in texts: irony, metaphor, oxymoron, simile, personification, animation, puns, lexical ambiguity etc.
- Lexical meaning, especially sense relations: synonymy, antonymy, idiom, denotation and connotation etc.
- Euphemistic and dysphemistic terms