Some Vocabulary Words — from Mr. Robinson's class
(A list of terms that can help you understand how people use English grammar.)

NOUNS

A **metaphor** — is a poetic way of saying two things are similar... (*e.g. Love is a rose.*)

An **analogy** — is a way of teaching or making a point by showing how two things are similar...
(e.g.*The verb group called linking verbs is like a family with a mother, a father and children.*)

A **mnemonic** — is a mental, musical or written device that helps you remember something...
(e.g. *VPVSP/cSP*, "The ABC Song," a mind map logically connecting several items)

A **common noun** — refers to a noun that does not begin with a capital (upper case) letter.

A **proper noun** — refers to a name or title that _must_ begin with a capital letter.

The **subject** of the sentence is the noun or pronoun (or phrase or clause) that "drives" it.

The **direct object** of a transitive verb is the noun or pronoun (or phrase or clause) that
receives "energy" (e.g. an action, feeling, awareness, sense or emotion) from the subject
of a clause or simple sentence

The **object of a preposition** is the noun or pronoun that follows a preposition to create
a prepositional phrase. (e.g. to school, on a train, around town, with him)

A **transitive verb** — carries some kind of "energy" (e.g. an action, feeling, awareness,
sense or emotion) from the subject of a clause or simple sentence to its direct object.
(e.g. love something, want something, enjoy something, buy something, see something)

An **intransitive verb** — shows that either a physical or mental action from the subject
finishes without a direct object. It may be followed by an adverb, infinitive, gerund,
prepositional phrase, or adverb clause, but **not** by a direct object (noun or pronoun).
(e.g. They left yesterday, smiled sweetly, go to school, come after you finish school)

A **linking verb** — connects the subject to either a "noun complement" that completes
(i.e. equals) it or to an "adjective complement" that completes (i.e. modifies) it.

A **noun (or pronoun) complement** — is the noun (or pronoun) that appears just to the
right of the linking verb "be" or "become" in a clause or simple sentence. It is essentially
equal in meaning to the subject. It is sometimes called a **predicate nominative**.

An **adjective complement** — is the adjective that appears just to the right
of a linking verb (e.g. "be," "become," "seem," "appear," "look," "feel," "taste," "sound,"
"act," "smell") in a clause or simple sentence. It "completes" (or modifies) the subject.
It is sometimes called a **predicate adjective**.

A **phrase** is a group of words **WITHOUT** a subject-verb relationship. (e.g. prepositional phrase, infinitive phrase, gerund phrase, or participial phrase).

A **clause** is a group of words **WITH** a subject-verb relationship. (e.g. independent clause, dependent clause, adjective clause, adverb clause or noun clause).

The noun **aspect** means "the way that we look at something." We might see a different aspect of a city if we view it from one place on a mountaintop than from another place on the mountaintop. Figuratively, we may look at a verb one way ("Is it regular or irregular?") or another way (Is it transitive, intransitive or linking?), depending upon which "aspect" we want to look at. Later, when we talk about verb tenses, we will look figuratively at different "aspects of time."

VERB

The verb **modify** — means "change" (e.g. an adjective or an adverb) "in some way." (e.g. adjectives modify nouns, and adverbs modify verbs; intensifiers modify adjectives and other adverbs — but <u>not</u> verbs).

ADJECTIVES

concrete versus abstract

The adjective **concrete** tells us that the noun that it modifies has physical substance. (e.g. A "concrete noun" or "concrete term" or "concrete plan" refers to a thing that we can actually physically sense or touch.)

The adjective **abstract** refers to ideas, beliefs, feelings or attitudes, but <u>not</u> to things that we physically sense. (eg. "abstract nouns," "abstract ideas," "abstract terms.")

literal versus figurative

The adjective **literal** is similar to the adjective **concrete**, but we use it differently. **Literal** usually refers to <u>how we use a verb</u>, while **concrete** usually refers to the physical properties of a noun. (Examples of literal usage: "The dog <u>buried</u> a bone." — "The woman <u>died of</u> starvation." — "The policeman <u>gave his boss a hand</u> that he had found after the terrible train accident." — "The car <u>coasted</u> down the hill.")

The adjective **figurative** is similar to the word **abstract**, but it also usually refers to how we use a verb and not to the physical properties of a noun. (Compare literal usage in the examples above to how we use the same verbs in a **figurative** way: "The man <u>buried</u> his feelings because he didn't want anyone to know that he was sad." —"The girl <u>died of</u> embarrassment when her skirt fell off." — "The policeman <u>gave his boss a hand</u> because she needed his help." — "The lazy student <u>coasted</u> through the class.")

ADVERBS: Add –ly to the two words above to make adverbs — **literally** and **figuratively**.