DEFINITION OF TERMINAL

The word "**Terminal**" in Scientology is a homonym - which is to say it has several definitions each according to how it is used.

The Pre - 1962 definitions of a terminal were (and are) anything used in a communication system: something that has mass in it.

On processes below Level III use a proper nounal form in an auditing command - don't use 'sleepy' or 'sleepiness' in the command- use 'a sleepy person' or 'a sleeper' Use, in other words, a terminal in the sense that it must have mass.

Also a terminal meant (and means) "something with mass, meaning and mobility"

Also a terminal means "anything that can receive, relay or send a communication" To wit, a 'bullet' though it has mass, would really be a communication particle and the shooter and target would be the terminals. What is at cause and what at effect are the terminals when you are using a comm. formula of cause - distance - effect. This is the commonest use of the word "terminal" in Scientologese. You hear a Scientology saying - "he gave up because he didn't have a real terminal" or "he wasn't a good terminal" meaning in both cases that there wasn't anybody to talk to or listen to even though there were people about. A person who could gives relay or receive comm. was a terminal and a person who couldn't wasn't a terminal.

Electrically a terminal is one of the two poles between or through which current flows.

In GPMs, what we now also call Items were first called terminals because they interacted with each other electrically. They were always in pairs.

These are composed of a (1) mass and (2) a significance. They only interact with the pc or the matching terminal. The pc or the matching terminal can act against the remaining terminal.

Also we got the idea of two different types of terminals in GPMs, because that's the way they are. One, the pc thinks of as his own or himself. The other he thinks of as an opposition. Hence, we use "terminal" to mean what the pc thinks is his idea and mass in the GPM, and we use "opposition terminal" or "oppterm" for short, to mean the mass and significance he thinks of as the enemy to the one he is in.

Both the "terminal" and the "oppterm" in a GPM have mass and significance and have the appearance of receiving and giving communication and so they are called terminals.

When one is speaking of either one "term or oppterm" and isn't being specific as to which it is "term or oppterm" one says "Item"

An Item can also be anything that reads on an assessed list, particularly if it is an adverbial or adjectival noun or a proper noun. So "Item" is a broader, sloppier term which includes a terminal of any kind.

THE WORD "NOUN"

Noun is most properly and severely used to indicate a specific something rather than a condition. Boy, cat, sparks are nouns. These can be converted to nouns which only identify a condition with the characteristic of the forthright noun, such as boyishness, cattiness or sparkability. Here we see a noun made into a condition which in English is called an "adjectival noun" or an "adverbial noun".

Reversely, adjectives, adverbs and verbs can be turned into something loosely called a "noun" which is only an adverbial or adjectival noun. Responsible is an adjective; Responsibleness is an adjective turned into an adjectival noun.

You see the end word of the goal as an RI going both ways.

If the proper, forthright noun is really the subject of the GPM (lets say BOY) this occurs as part of one oppterm. But the goal as an RI converts it to let's say Boyness, making the forthright noun become an adjectival noun.

The other way to, if the GPM end word occurring in the goal as an RI is HIGHNESS, then in the one oppterm it becomes HEIGHT.

English suffers a bit from lack of differentiation in its grammar and terminology but we get around with it somehow. If there is an academic terminology for such differences, then it is insufficiently in general use to communicate the way we have to be able to do. I know words to describe these things in another language but not in English.

There are no proper forthright nouns as end words to the goal as an RI in GPMs. There are some in the one oppterm each GPM has that describes the accomplished fact. This becomes a NESS in the goal as an RI, which data is all we're really interested in.