

The Eight Parts of Speech

Part of Speech

one of the categories of words
that tells how a word is used

What are the eight parts of speech?

The Eight Parts of Speech

nouns

verbs

adverbs

adjectives

pronouns

prepositions

interjections

Conjunctions

1. Noun

names a person, place, thing, or idea

- **People:** Joe, Mr. Jones, teacher, policeman, woman, Mexican
- **Places:** San Diego, Nebraska, Australia, Norcross Park, bedroom, city
- **Things:** car, table, story, soda, computer, roller coaster
- **Ideas:** love, strength, freedom, hate, friendliness, excitement

Types of Nouns

- **Common Noun**- names any one of a group of persons, places, or things, and is not capitalized

man, horse, town, school, day, ocean, country

- **Proper Noun**- names a particular person, place, or thing, and is always capitalized

Mr. Lee, Kathy, Grafton High School, Worcester, July

- **Compound Noun**- two or more words used together as a single noun. May be written as one word, two or more words, or a hyphenated word.

basketball, newspaper, United States of America, attorney-at-law, brother-in-law

2. PRONOUNS

- used in place of one or more than one noun
 - Gloria stepped back from the *picture* and looked at **it**.
 - *Janet* took **her** dog to the veterinarian.

Antecedent

- the word that a pronoun refers to and gives the pronoun meaning

ant

PN

ant

PN

Jill opened her book and read from it.

Types of Pronouns

- **Personal Pronouns**-a pronoun that refers to one of three possible ways of making statements:
 - 1. The persons speaking can talk about themselves (**first person**)
 - 2. They can talk about the persons spoken to (**second person**)
 - 3. They can talk about anyone or anything else (**third person**)

Personal Pronouns

SINGULAR

PLURAL

First person

(the person speaking)

I, my, mine, me

we, our, ours, us

Second person

(the person spoken to)

you, your, yours

you, your, yours

Third Person

(some other person or thing)

**he, his, him, she,
her, hers**

they, their, theirs, them

- **Reflexive Pronouns**-the *-self, -selves* forms of the personal pronouns

myself

ourselves

yourself

yourselves

himself, herself, itself

themselves

- **Relative Pronouns**- used to introduce adjective clauses

who

whom

whose

which

that

- **Interrogative Pronouns**- used in questions

Who...?

Whom...?

Whose...?

Which...?

What...?

- **Demonstrative Pronouns**- used to point out a specific person or thing

This

that

these

those

Indefinite Pronouns

- **Indefinite Pronouns**-not referring to a definite person or thing; frequently used without antecedents

all	another	any	anybody
anyone	anything	both	each
either	everybody	everyone	everything
few	many	more	most
much	neither	nobody	none
no one	one	other	several
some	somebody	someone	

3. Adjective

- modifies (describes) a noun or pronoun
- All adjective answer one of these questions:

What kind?

white car

nylon rope

wise person

Which one?

this road

last week

the **first** day

How many?

one minute

three girls

few people

Adjective or Pronoun?

- Some words are both pronouns and adjectives, depending on how they are used. If they are used to modify nouns, they are adjectives; if they take the place of nouns, they are pronouns
- *Few of his stories are true. (pronoun)*
- *I caught a few fish. (adjective)*

Adjective or Noun

- Nouns can also be used as adjectives, depending on their usage.

NOUNS

- large **table**
- expensive **dinner**
- next **Sunday**

ADJECTIVES

- **table** leg
- **dinner** table
- **Sunday** dinner

Articles

- the most frequently used adjectives: a, an the
- **Indefinite Articles**-refer to one of a general group (A, AN)

A is used before words with a consonant sound.

A woman...

An is used before words with a vowel sound.

An egg...

- **Indefinite Articles**-indicates that the noun refers to someone or something in particular (THE)

The woman

The egg

4. VERBS

- Verb-a word that expresses action or otherwise helps to make a statement
 - *Run, think, is, play, paint,*
- Action Verbs- verbs that express an action; there are two classes, transitive and intransitive
 - *Run, think, play, paint*

- **Transitive**- when the action the verb expresses is directed toward a person or thing named in the sentence

- *Ned sliced the cake.* *Tina mailed a package.*

- **Intransitive**- when it expresses action without reference to an object

- *The children laughed.* *The train arrived on time*

- **A verb can be transitive in one sentence and intransitive in another:**

- The speaker **answered** questions. (Transitive)

- The speaker **answered** angrily. (Intransitive)

Linking Verbs

verbs that help to make a statement by serving as a link between two words *Appear, was, is, am...*

The forms of the verb *be* are the most commonly used...

<i>Be</i>	<i>is</i>	<i>am</i>	<i>was</i>	<i>should have been</i>
<i>would be</i>	<i>being</i>	<i>are</i>	<i>can be</i>	<i>have been</i>
<i>could be</i>	<i>were</i>	<i>has been</i>	<i>will be</i>	<i>would have been</i>
<i>shall be</i>	<i>had been</i>	<i>should be</i>	<i>could have been</i>	
<i>will have been</i>	<i>shall have been</i>			

Other frequently used linking verbs are:

<i>Appear</i>	<i>become</i>	<i>feel</i>	<i>grow</i>	<i>look</i>	<i>Remind</i>
<i>Seem</i>	<i>smell</i>	<i>sound</i>	<i>stay</i>	<i>taste</i>	<i>turn</i>

The above can also be used as action verbs:

- The soup **tasted** good. (linking)
- The cook **tasted** the soup. (action)

A linking verb is a link between words on either side of it.

- **She is a doctor.**
- **The meal smells good.**

Verb Phrases- a group of words that consists of a main verb preceded by one or more helping verbs.

Helping (or Auxiliary) Verbs- helps the main verb fit into the sentence

- **is** leaving thought **should** move **must have**

Besides all forms of the verb be, helping verbs also include:

has	had	shall	will	can
may	does	should	would	could
might	do	did	must	

Verb phrases can be interrupted by other parts of speech

- She **had** always **been** *thinking* of her future.
- Her book **may** not **have been** *stolen* after all.

Verb phrases are often separated in questions:

- **Can** her sister *help* us?
- **Did** you *see* the film?

5. Adverb

- modifies a verb, adjective, or adverb. They often end in -ly.

Adverbs Modifying Verbs

Adverbs modify verbs by answering one of the following questions:

- Where? *I moved **forward**.*
- When? *I moved **immediately**.*
- How? *Did you go **quietly**?*
- To what extent? *She **barely** moved.*

The most frequently used adverbs are too and very. Others that are commonly used are:

extremely

dangerously

definitely

quite

always

so

recently

unusually

entirely

rather

completely

terribly

never

actually

quietly

not

unusually

especially

surprisingly

dreadfully

sometimes

oddly

barely

forward

Adverbs Modifying Adjectives

- Sometimes an adverb modifies an adjective
 - *Ruth is an **unusually** good goalie.*
 - *Our dog stayed **strangely** silent.*

Adverbs Modifying Other Adverbs

- Sometimes an adverb modifies another adverb
 - *Roy is **almost** always hungry.*
 - *She saw it **rather** recently.*

6. PREPOSITIONS

show the relationship of a noun or a pronoun to some other word in the sentence

- I walked **to** the house.
- I walked **around** the house.
- I walked **through** the house.

Hint: “anywhere a mouse can go”

Aboard	about	above	across	after
against	Along	among	around	at
before	behind	below	beneath	on
beside	besides	between	beyond	down
concerning	during	except	for	from
in	inside	into	like	near
of	off	out	over	past
since	through	throughout	till	up
toward	under	underneath	until	upon
with	within	without		
But (meaning except)		by		

- Many of the words can also be adverbs. To differentiate, ask yourself whether the word relates a following noun or pronoun to a word that precedes.
 - *Look **around**.* (adverb)
 - *Look **around** the corner.* (preposition)
- There are also *compound prepositions*, which have more than one word:

– according to	as of	aside from
– because of	by means of	in addition to
– in front of	in place of	in spite of
– instead of	next to	on account of
– out of	owing to	prior to

7. CONJUNCTIONS

- joins words or groups of words

There are three kinds of conjunctions:
coordinating,
subordinating, and
correlative.

- **Coordinating Conjunctions**-join single words or groups of words of the same kind

- For

- And

*Baseball **and** tennis*

- Nor

- But

- Or

*At home **or** in the library*

- Yet

- So

- **Correlative Conjunctions**-connect items of the same kind, and are **always used in pairs**

- Both...and

- not only...but also

- either...or

- neither...nor

- whether...or

Both Jim and Ken are athletes.

Either make the bed, or wash the dishes.

8. INTERJECTIONS

- an exclamatory word that expresses emotion. It has no grammatical relation to the rest of the sentence. They often end in an exclamation point.
- ***Wow! It worked*** ***Well, forget it.***
Terrific! We won!

Some common interjections...

Wow!

Ouch!

Oh,

Whew!

Well,

Ahem!

Um,

Ah,

Uh,

Alas,

Oh dear!

Eh?

...err...

Hey!

Hi!

Hmm...

Oh,

Uh-huh.

Golly!

Gee!

Aha!

Darn!

Goodness!

Hey,

Hurray!

Tsk.

Eek!

Drat!

DETERMINING PARTS OF SPEECH

What part of speech a word is depends upon how the word is used. The same word may be used as different parts of speech:

- *The quarterback made the first **down**.* (noun)
- *She made a small **down** payment.* (adjective)
- *You must **down** the medicine.* (verb)
- *She glanced **down**.* (adverb)
- *She glanced **down** the hall.* (preposition)