

English Grammar

Parts of Speech

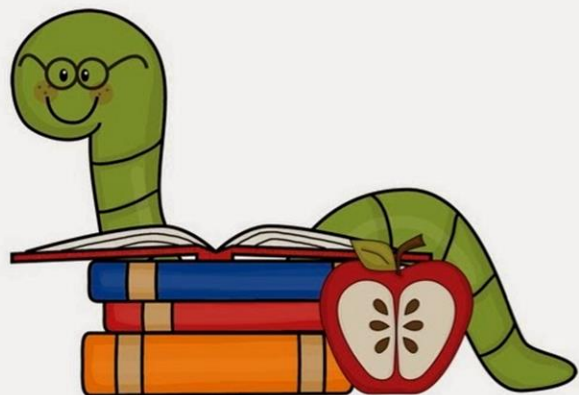
Principal Dr. Falguni Desai

*Shri M.R. Desai Arts & E.E. Laher Kosadia Commerce College,
Chikhili, Gujarat, India
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P

Parts of



Speech

The job a word does in a sentence.



PARTS OF SPEECH

Noun

A noun is the name of a person, place, or thing.

Person	Place	Thing
girl	school	pencil
boy	home	jacket
teacher	store	dog

Adjective

An adjective describes a noun or a pronoun. An adjective tells what kind, how many, or which one.

What Kind	How Many	Which One
happy	more	this
brave	two	that

Verb

A verb can tell what action someone or something is doing. A verb can also express a state of being.

Action	State of Being
run	am
jump	is
sit	are
ask	was
think	were
talk	

Pronoun

A pronoun is used in place of a noun in a sentence. A pronoun may take the place of the name of a person, place, or thing.

I	she	it	they
you	he	we	me

Article

The words *a*, *an*, and *the* belong to a special group of adjectives called articles. An article can be used before a noun in a sentence.

a	an	the
a dog	an apple	the boy
a rabbit	an ant	the bird

Adverb

An adverb describes a verb, adjective, or another adverb. An adverb tells how, when, where, or to what degree.

How	When
quickly	today
Where	To What Degree
outside	barely

Preposition

A preposition combines with a noun or pronoun to form a phrase that tells something about another word in a sentence.

from	to	until
over	with	after

Conjunction

A conjunction joins together single words or groups of words in a sentence.

and	but	or	nor
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Interjection

An interjection expresses strong feeling or emotion. An interjection can be a single word or a phrase.

Help!	Oh!	Ouch!
Ugh!	Whew!	Ah!
Wow!	Look out!	Oh dear!

The boy yelled, "Help!" and he saw a brave dog quickly run to the rescue.

Parts of Speech

Nouns

A **noun** is the name of a person, place, thing, or idea.

Pronouns

A **pronoun** takes the place of a noun in a sentence.

Verbs

A **verb** tells what action someone or something is doing or expresses a state of being.

Adjectives

An **adjective** describes a noun or a pronoun. It tells what kind, how many, or which one.

Articles

The words **a**, **an**, and **the** are special adjectives called **articles**. An **article** is used before a noun.

Adverbs

An **adverb** describes a verb, adjective, or adverb. It tells how, when, where, or to what extent.

Prepositions

A **preposition** describes a relationship between a noun or pronoun and another word in the sentence.

Conjunctions

A **conjunction** joins words or phrases in a sentence.

Interjections

An **interjection** is a word or phrase that expresses strong feeling or emotion.

Parts of Speech

part of speech	function or "job"	example words	example sentences
<u>Verb</u>	action or state	(to) be, have, do, like, work, sing, can, must	My dog <u>is</u> a collie. I <u>like</u> to play fetch with her.
<u>Noun</u>	thing or person	pen, dog, work, music, town, London, teacher, John	This is my <u>dog</u> . He lives in my <u>house</u> . We live in <u>London</u> .
<u>Adjective</u>	describes a noun	a/an, the, 69, some, good, big, red, well, interesting	My dog is <u>big</u> . I like <u>big</u> dogs.
<u>Adverb</u>	describes a verb, adjective or adverb	quickly, silently, well, badly, very, really	My dog eats <u>quickly</u> . When he is <u>very</u> hungry, he eats really <u>quickly</u> .
<u>Pronoun</u>	replaces a noun	I, you, he, she, some	Tara is Indian. <u>She</u> is beautiful.
<u>Preposition</u>	links a noun to another word	to, at, after, on, but	We went <u>to</u> school <u>on</u> Monday.
<u>Conjunction</u>	joins clauses or sentences or words	and, but, or, nor	I like dogs <u>and</u> I like cats. I like cats <u>and</u> dogs. I like dogs <u>but</u> I don't like cats.
<u>Interjection</u>	short exclamation, sometimes inserted into a sentence	oh!, ouch!, hi!, well	<u>Ouch!</u> That hurts! <u>Hi!</u> How are you? <u>Well,</u> I don't know.

Grammar is the system and structure of a language. The rules of grammar help us decide the order we put words in and which form of a word to use.

When you're talking about grammar, it's useful to know some basic terms. The following are called **parts of speech** and they each have their own function.

You can learn a lot about a language by studying examples of parts of speech. In language, the parts of speech are the categories of words based on their function within a sentence. This is true with English, as well as any number of other languages such as French and Spanish. Understanding parts of speech is a helpful way to look at words to help you understand the underlying grammar and logic of any language you study.

THE EIGHT PARTS OF SPEECH

There are eight parts of speech in the English language: noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, conjunction, and interjection. The part of speech indicates how the word functions in meaning as well as grammatically within the sentence. An individual word can function as more than one part of speech when used in different circumstances. Understanding parts of speech is essential for determining the correct definition of a word when using the dictionary.

1. NOUN

A noun is the name of a person, place, thing, or idea.

A noun is a word for a person, place, thing, or idea. Nouns are often used with an article (*the, a, an*), but not always. Proper nouns always start with a capital letter; common nouns do not. Nouns can be singular or plural, concrete or abstract. Nouns show possession by adding 's. Nouns can function in different roles within a sentence; for example, a noun can be a subject, direct object, indirect object, subject complement, or object of a preposition.

The young girl brought me a very long letter from the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared. Oh my!

2. PRONOUN

A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun.

She... we... they... it

A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun. A pronoun is usually substituted for a specific noun, which is called its antecedent. In the sentence above, the antecedent for the pronoun *she* is the girl. Pronouns are further defined by type: personal pronouns refer to specific persons or things; possessive pronouns indicate ownership; reflexive pronouns are used to emphasize another noun or pronoun; relative pronouns introduce a subordinate clause; and demonstrative pronouns identify, point to, or refer to nouns.

The young girl brought me a very long letter from the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared. Oh my!

3. VERB

A verb expresses action or being.

jump... is... write... become

The verb in a sentence expresses action or being. There is a main verb and sometimes one or more helping verbs. ("*She can sing.*" *Sing* is the main verb; *can* is the helping verb.) A verb must agree with its subject in number (both are singular or both are plural). Verbs also take different forms to express tense.

The young girl brought me a very long letter from the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared. Oh my!

4. ADJECTIVE

An adjective modifies or describes a noun or pronoun.

pretty... old... blue... smart

An adjective is a word used to modify or describe a noun or a pronoun. It usually answers the question of which one, what kind, or how many. (Articles [a, an, the] are usually classified as adjectives.)

The young girl brought me a very long letter from the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared. Oh my!

See the TIP Sheet on "Adjectives" for more information.

5. ADVERB

An adverb modifies or describes a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

gently... extremely... carefully... well

An adverb describes or modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb, but never a noun. It usually answers the questions of when, where, how, why, under what conditions, or to what degree. Adverbs often end in -ly.

The young girl brought me a very long letter from the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared. Oh my!

6. PREPOSITION

A preposition is a word placed before a noun or pronoun to form a phrase modifying another word in the sentence.

by... with.... about... until

(by the tree, with our friends, about the book, until tomorrow)

A preposition is a word placed before a noun or pronoun to form a phrase modifying another word in the sentence. Therefore a preposition is always part of a prepositional phrase. The prepositional phrase almost always functions as an adjective or as an adverb. The following list includes the most common prepositions:

The young girl brought me a very long letter from the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared. Oh my!

7. CONJUNCTION

A conjunction joins words, phrases, or clauses.

and... but... or... while... because

A conjunction joins words, phrases, or clauses, and indicates the relationship between the elements joined. Coordinating conjunctions connect grammatically equal elements: and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet. Subordinating conjunctions connect clauses that are not equal: because, although, while, since, etc. There are other types of conjunctions as well.

The young girl brought me a very long letter from the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared. Oh my!

8. INTERJECTION

An interjection is a word used to express emotion.

Oh!... Wow!... Oops!

An interjection is a word used to express emotion. It is often followed by an exclamation point.

The young girl brought me a very long letter from the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared. Oh my!

<u>Noun</u>	<u>Pronoun</u>	<u>Adjective</u>	<u>Verb</u>
Describes a person, place, thing, event, idea, etc.	A word used in place of a noun.	Used to describe a noun or pronoun.	Tells of an action, a state of being, or an event.
Examples: Mom, coach, Toledo, book, party, storm, moment.	Examples: She, he, it, they, us, I, you, we, them.	Examples: Green, blue, fearless, quick, enormous, wonderful.	Examples: Am, is, are, run, jump, play, raining, reading.
<u>Adverb</u>	<u>Preposition</u>	<u>Conjunction</u>	<u>Interjection</u>
Used to describe everything except nouns and pronouns. It answers questions such as <i>how</i> , <i>when</i> , <i>where</i> or <i>why</i> and often ends in <i>ly</i> .	Tells the relationship between nouns, pronouns, or other words in a sentence. Most often used before the noun.	Joins words, phrases or sentences together. Some are used in pairs. Some are adverbs, being used as conjunctions.	A word expressing emotion. Strong interjections are followed by exclamation points. Mild interjections are followed by commas.
Examples: Near, far, today, now, very, easily, quietly.	Examples: He jumped over the fence. I sat beside the fire. We went into the store.	Examples: And, but, so, either, or, neither, nor, because, finally, still, yet.	Examples: Hey! Wow! Ouch! Oh, I think I've got it.

Articles - The words *a*, *an*, and *the*. These are used to signal the presence of a noun.

SUMMARIZING

- Noun – The name of a person, place or thing is called a noun.
- Pronoun – The word used in place of nouns.
- Verb – It tells about the activity of things and persons or their state.
- Adjective – A word that qualifies the noun or pronoun.
- Adverb – A word that qualifies a verb, an adjective or another adverb.
- Preposition – A word showing the relation or connection of a noun or pronoun with another noun or pronoun is called the preposition.
- Conjunction – It is used to join the words or phrases.
- Interjection – A word or a sound which expresses sudden feelings or emotions.

EXERCISE

Decide which parts of speech are the underlined words

1. You have to believe in yourself if you ever expect to be successful at something.
2. We left for the mountain just before six in the morning.
3. We first went to the store to buy a few things.
4. We had a breakfast at a café near the rail station.
5. My friend wasn't strong enough to lift his heavy rucksack.
6. I helped him carry it.
7. The weather was very cold.
8. My friend said, "Oh! What a cold weather!"
9. We didn't spend the night there.
10. We got back home late at night but we didn't go to sleep immediately. We were very hungry.

To solve this exercise, you have to identify the noun, pronoun, verb, adverb, adjective, preposition, conjunction, interjection in the given sentences.

1. Tom went to market to buy **books** (_____).
2. He went to the market **but** (_____) did not buy new books.
3. I **liked** (_____) **him** (_____) better than he likes me.
4. A smart girl was dancing **quickly** (_____).
5. **She** (_____) eats apples in the morning daily.
6. When he was **sitting** (_____) on the grass, a snake bit him.
7. **You** (_____) caught him by his arm.
8. A **rich** (_____) lady bought a **beautiful** (_____) necklace.
9. **Hurrah!** (_____) I have passed the examination.
10. The cat is sitting **under** (_____) the chair.
11. **Alas!** (_____) I could not receive you.
12. The body of the cage is made of **iron**. (_____)
13. It is not **your** (_____) pen; it is hers.
14. There is still some milk **in** (_____) the jug.
15. Jimmy is **performing** (_____) his duties diligently.
16. The drawing made by you is **almost** (_____) perfect.
17. I shall not go **unless** (_____) you allow.
18. The road is **to** (_____) go by.
19. The flowers smell **sweet**. (_____)
20. He **frequently** (_____) goes to the beach.

ANSWERS

1. Noun
2. Conjunction
3. Verb, Pronoun
4. Adverb
5. Pronoun
6. Verb
7. Pronoun
8. Adjective, adjective
9. Interjection
10. Preposition
11. Interjection
12. Noun
13. Pronoun
14. Preposition
15. Verb
16. Adverb
17. Conjunction
18. Preposition
19. Adjective
20. Adverb

THANK YOU

