

Part-of-Speech Tutorial

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Welcome

Welcome to the Part-of-Speech Tags Tutorial!

This site is composed to aid internet users involved in our research project to decide the correct Part-of-Speech (POS) tags for words.

Our POS Tags are based on Penn Treebank. The definition of all POS tags are available on the main page (this page).

Some of the binary classification rules (relationships and differences of two tags) are indexed in the side bar. The rules are sorted according to the tags (in ascending alphabet order).

In each rule, the definitions of two tags are linked back to main page. Moreover, the relationships and differences are further interpreted if necessary.

During the development of our project, the major observed ambiguities will also be reported.

Notice:

Most materials presented on this site are cited and compiled from internet resources. I will try to list all citations properly. The materials listed on this site are only for research project. None of the information is or will be used for any commercial purpose. If any listed material, in any form, violates the copyright law, please contact me immediately and I will remove the relevant content.

Part-of-Speech Tags

CC

Coordinating Conjunctions

Coordinating conjunctions connect words, phrases, and clauses. **And, but, for, nor, or, so, and yet**—these are the seven coordinating conjunctions.

Source: <http://www.chompchomp.com/terms/coordinatingconjunction.htm>

CD

Cardinal Numbers

Unless used as list markers (LS), all cardinal numbers except for **ONE** are tagged CD, whether spelled out, in numeral form, or in some combination of the two.

Notice the difference between cardinal numbers with ordinal numbers, which are tagged as adjectives.

DT

Determiners

A determiner is a noun-modifier that expresses the reference of a noun or noun phrase in the context, rather than attributes expressed by adjectives. This function is usually performed by articles, demonstratives, possessive determiners, or quantifiers.

In our POS tag set (Treebank set), articles and demonstratives are tagged as DT. Possessive determiners are usually tagged as Possessive Pronouns (PRP).

EX

Existence There

See ref **EX_RB**

FW

Foreign Words

The definitions of foreign words are vague systems from systems. In our project, if a potential foreign word has an entry in the OED(Oxford English Dictionary), it

is not tagged as FW.

Foreign names and certain common Latin liturgical texts are treated as proper nouns.

Foreign language titles are generally tagged FW.

In foreign language sequences, everything (words, symbols, numbers, etc.) except punctuation is labelled FW.

IN

Prepositions and Subordinating Conjunctions

A preposition links nouns, pronouns and phrases to other words in a sentence. The word or phrase that the preposition introduces is called the object of the preposition. A preposition usually indicates the temporal, spatial or logical relationship of its object to the rest of the sentence. Here is an incomplete list of prepositions:

above	onto
across	on top of
after	out of
against	outside
along	over
among	past
around	since
at	through
before	to
behind	toward
below	under
beneath	undemeath
beside	until
between	up
by	upon
down	with
during	within
except	without
for	
from	
in	
in front of	
inside	
instead of	
into	
like	
near	
of	
off	

Subordinating Conjunctions

Some sentences are *complex*. Such sentences have *two* clauses, one main [or *independent*] and one subordinate [or *dependent*]. These are the patterns for a complex sentence:

MAIN CLAUSE	+	Ø	+	SUBORDINATE CLAUSE	.
SUBORDINATE CLAUSE	+	,	+	MAIN CLAUSE	.

The essential ingredient in a complex sentence is the subordinate conjunction:

after, once, until, although, provided that, when, as, rather than, whenever, because, since, where, before, so that, whereas, even if, than, wherever, even though, that, whether, if, though, while, in order that, unless, why

The subordinate conjunction has two jobs.

1. It provides a necessary transition between the two ideas in the sentence. This transition will indicate a time, place, or cause and effect relationship;
2. To reduce the importance of one clause so that a reader understands which of the two ideas is more important. The more important idea belongs in the main clause, the less important in the clause introduced by a subordinate conjunction.

JJ

Adjectives

Adjectives describe nouns by answering one of these three questions:

- What kind is it?
- How many are there?
- Which one is it?

An adjective can be a single word, a phrase, or a clause.

JJR

Comparative Adjectives

Source: <http://www.efl.net.com/tutorials/adjcompsup.php>

Form the comparative and superlative forms of a one-syllable adjective by adding **-er** for the comparative form and **-est** for the superlative.

One-Syllable Adjective	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
tall	taller	tallest
old	older	oldest
long	longer	longest

If the one-syllable adjective ends with an e, just add **-r** for the comparative form and **-st** for the superlative form.

One-Syllable Adjective ending with final e	Comparative Form	Superlative Form

large	larger	largest
wise	wiser	wisest

If the one-syllable adjective ends with a single consonant with a vowel before it, **double the consonant** and add **-er** for the comparative form; and **double the consonant** and add **-est** for the superlative form.

One-Syllable Adjective ending with a single consonant and a single vowel before it	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
big	bigger	biggest
thin	thinner	thinnest
fat	fatter	fattest

With most two-syllable adjectives, you form the comparative with **more** and the superlative with **most**. Notice that **more** and **most** themselves **are still tagged as comparative / superlative adverbs, even they are combined with comparative / superlative adjectives**.

Two-Syllable Adjective	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
peaceful	more peaceful	most peaceful
pleasant	more pleasant	most pleasant
careful	more careful	most careful
thoughtful	more thoughtful	most thoughtful

If the two-syllable adjectives ends with **-y**, change the **y** to **i** and add **-er** for the comparative form. For the superlative form change the **y** to **i** and add **-est**.

Two-Syllable Adjective ending with y	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
happy	happier	happiest
angry	angrier	angriest
busy	busier	busiest

Two-syllable adjectives ending in **-er**, **-le**, or **-ow** take **-er** and **-est** to form the comparative and superlative forms.

Two-Syllable Adjective ending with -er -le -ow -er -est	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
narrow	narrower	narrowest
gentle	gentler	gentlest

For adjectives with three syllables or more, you form the comparative with **more** and the superlative with **most**. Notice that **more** and **most** themselves **are still tagged as comparative / superlative**

adverbs, even they are combined with comparative / superlative adjectives.

Adjective with three or more Syllables	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
generous	more generous	most generous
important	more important	most important
intelligent	more intelligent	most intelligent

Exceptions!

Exception 1: Irregular adjectives

Irregular Adjective	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
far	farther	farthest
little	less	least
many	more	most

Notice that **more** and **most** are tagged as **comparative / superlative adjectives** when they function as adjectives themselves (not modifying adjectives or adverbs).

Exception 2: Two-syllable adjectives that follow two rules

Two-Syllable Adjective	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
clever	cleverer	cleverest
clever	more clever	most clever
gentle	gentler	gentlest
gentle	more gentle	most gentle
friendly	friendlier	friendliest
friendly	more friendly	most friendly
quiet	quieter	quietest
quiet	more quiet	most quiet
simple	simpler	simplest
simple	more simple	most simple

JJS

Superlative Adjectives

See JJR

LS

List Item Markers

-

Sometimes numbers and alphabets can also be list item markers, for example:

1. , 2., a, a.,

MD

Modal Verbs

The modal verbs in English are as follows, paired as present and preterite forms.

shall and should

will and would

may and might

can and could

note (Archaic) and must

NN

Common Nouns (Singular or Mass)

NNS

Common Nouns (Plural)

NNS is the tag of plural forms of common nouns. We can divide countable nouns into two large groups: regular and irregular.

Regular countable nouns make their plurals

1. by adding -s or -es to the singular form;
2. by changing final y to i and adding -es if the singular ends in a consonant + y. Note: Nouns ending in a vowel + y do not change y to i and then add -es.

Irregular countable nouns make their plurals in special ways:

1. Some nouns ending in **f** change the **f** to **v** and then add **-es**.
2. Some nouns have **the same** singular and plural forms.
3. Some nouns use plural forms from **other languages**--not from English.

Source: <http://www.eslcafe.com/grammar/nouns01.html>

NNP

Proper Nouns (Singular)

Nouns name people, places, and things. Every noun can further be classified as common or proper.

A proper noun has two distinctive features:

- it will name a specific [usually a one-of-a-kind] item, and
- it will begin with a capital letter no matter where it occurs in a sentence.

Examples:

Britney, Paris, Rover, Nike

Sometimes, proper nouns contain two or more important words.

Examples:

Britney Spears, Central Park Zoo, Pacific Ocean

If this is the case, both important words are capitalized, and the whole thing is still considered to be one proper noun even though it's made up of more than one word.

NNPS**Proper Nouns (Plural)**

Source: <http://www.dailywritingtips.com/plurals-of-proper-names/>

Names of Nations and Nationalities**Examples:**

the two Germans

Afghanis

Cherokees

Personal Names:**Examples:**

three Billys in the same classroom

Jones and Chavez ==> Joneses and Chavezes (names ending in -es or -ez get extra -es)

Italicized Names:

An italicized proper noun, like the title of a periodical, book, or movie, should have a nonitalicized s appended.

Examples:

three consecutive *Washington Posts*
a stack of *Catcher in the Ryes*

all three *Mission Impossible*s

PDT

Predeterminers

Determiners are divided into three main groups:

1. central determiners (the articles and other words such as “my,” “this,” and “some” that also function as pronouns);
2. predeterminers (for example “all,” “both,” “twice,” “such,”);
3. post determiners (for example “many,” “few,” “several”, the Numerals).

Predeterminers occur prior to other determiners (as you would probably guess from their name). This class of words includes multipliers (double, twice, four/five times); fractional expressions (one-third, three-quarters, etc.); the words both, half, and all; and intensifiers such as quite, rather, and such.

The multipliers precede plural count and mass nouns and occur with singular count nouns denoting number or amount:

Examples:

*My wife is making **double** my / **twice** my salary.*

In fractional expressions, we have a similar construction, but here it can be replaced with “of” construction.

Examples:

*Charlie finished in **one-fourth** [of] the time his brother took.*

***Two-fifths** of the respondents reported that **half** the medication was sufficient.*

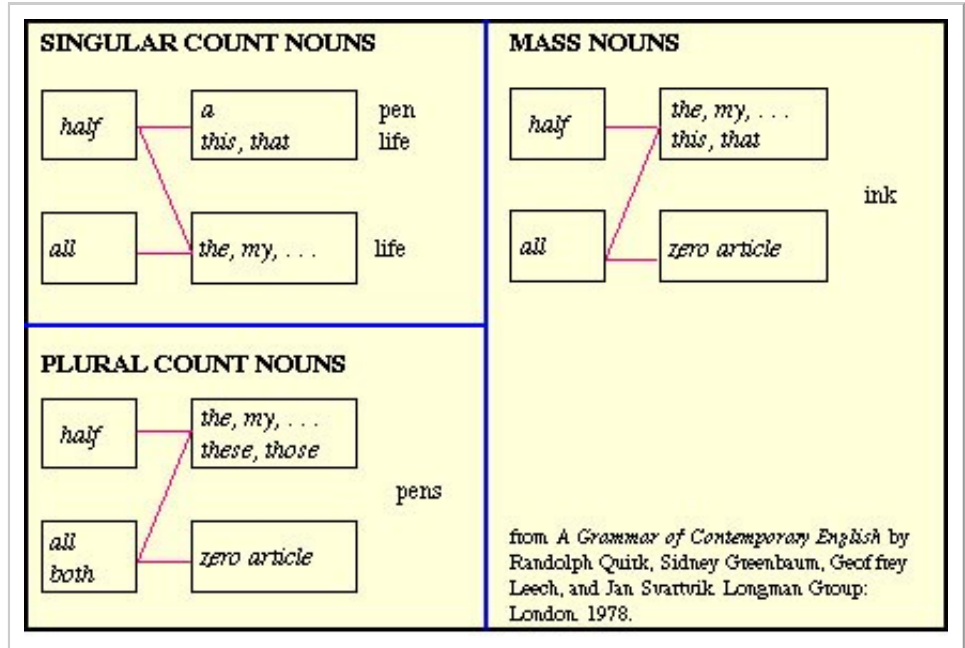
The intensifiers occur in this construction primarily in casual speech and writing and are more common in British English than they are in American English.

*This room is **rather** a mess, isn't it?*

*The ticket-holders made **quite** a fuss when they couldn't get in.*

*Our vacation was **such** a grand experience.*

Half, **both**, and **all** can occur with singular and plural count nouns; **half** and **all** can occur with mass nouns. There are also “of constructions” with these words (“all [of] the grain,” “half [of] his salary”); the “of construction” is required with personal pronouns (“both of them,” “all of it”). The following chart (from Quirk and Greenbaum) nicely describes the uses of these three predeterminers:



POS

Possessive Endings 's

Notice the difference with the abbreviations of **be**, such as he is = he's, it is = it's.

When we want to show that something belongs to somebody or something, we usually add 's to a singular noun and an apostrophe ' to a plural noun.

Examples:

the boy's ball
the boys' ball

With Proper Nouns

We very often use possessive 's with names:

Examples:

This is Mary's car.
Where is Ram's telephone?
Who took Anthony's pen?
I like Tara's hair.

When a name ends in s, we usually treat it like any other singular noun, and add 's:

Example:

This is Charles's chair.

But it is possible (especially with older, classical names) to just add the apostrophe '.

Example:

Who was Jesus' father?

With Irregular Plurals

Some nouns have irregular plural forms without s (man > men). To show possession, we usually add 'sto the plural form of these nouns:

singular noun	plural noun
my child's dog	my children's dog
the man's work	the men's work
the mouse's cage	the mice's cage
a person's clothes	people's clothes

Source: <http://www.englishclub.com/grammar/nouns-possessive.htm>

PRP

Personal Pronouns

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_personal_pronouns

Personal pronouns in standard Modern English					
		Singular			
		Subject	Object	Possessive	Reflexive
First		I	me	my	myself
Second		you		your	yourself
Third	Masculine	he	him	his	himself
	Feminine	she	her		herself
	Neuter	it		its	itself

PRP\$

Possessive Pronouns

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_personal_pronouns

possessive pronoun
mine
ours
yours
<i>thine</i>
yours
yours
y'all's
his
hers
its
—
<i>theirs</i>
theirs

RB

Adverbs

Adverbs are words that modify a verb (answer question how), an adjective (answer question how), another adverb (answer question how)

Kind of adverbs

- Adverbs of Manner For example, slowly, quietly
- Adverbs of Place For example, there, far
- Adverbs of Frequency For example, everyday, often
- Adverbs of Time For example, now, first, early

Positions of adverbs

One of the hallmarks of adverbs is their ability to move around in a sentence. Adverbs of manner are particularly flexible in this regard.

Examples:

***Solemnly** the minister addressed her congregation.*
*The minister **solemnly** addressed her congregation.*
*The minister addressed her congregation **solemnly**.*

The following adverbs of frequency appear in various points in these sentences:

Examples:

Before the main verb: *I **never** get up before nine o'clock.*
 Between the auxiliary verb and the main verb: *I have **rarely** written to my brother without a good reason.*
 Before the verb used to: *I always **used** to see him at his summer home.*

Indefinite adverbs of time can appear either before the verb or between the auxiliary and the main verb:

Examples:

*He **finally** showed up for batting practice*
*She has **recently** retired*

RBR

Comparative Adverbs

Source: <http://www.eflnet.com/tutorials/advcompsup.php>

LY Adverbs

With LY adverbs (adverbs formed from adjectives by adding **-ly** to the end) we form the comparative and superlative forms with more and most.

Adjective	Adverb	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
quiet	quietly	more quietly	most quietly
careful	carefully	more carefully	most carefully
happy	happily	more happily	most happily

Notice: In comparative / superlative adverbs, **more** and **most** are also tagged as RBR/RBS .

Other Adverbs

For adverbs which retain the same form as the adjective form, we add **-er** to form the comparative and **-est** to form the superlative.

Adjective	Adverb	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
hard	hard	harder	hardest
fast	fast	faster	fastest
early	early	earlier	earliest

Irregular Adverbs

Adjective	Adverb	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
good	well	better	best
bad	badly	worse	worst
far	far	farther/further	farthest/furthest

RBS

Superlative Adverbs

See RBR

RP

Particles

Particles are short words that with just one or two exceptions are all prepositions unaccompanied by any complement of their own. Some of the most common prepositions belonging to the particle category:

along, away, back, by, down, forward, in, off, on, out, over, round, under, up

SYM

Symbols

TO

to

UH

Interjection

An interjection is a word added to a sentence to convey emotion. It is not grammatically related to any other part of the sentence.

A list of interjections (source: <http://www.english-grammar-revolution.com/list-of-interjections.html>)

A: aha, ahem, ahh, ahoy, alas, arg, aw

B: bam, bingo, blah, boo, bravo, brrr

C: cheers, congratulations

D: dang, drat, darn, duh

E: eek, eh, encore, eureka

F: fiddlesticks

G: gadzooks, gee, gee whiz, golly, goodbye, goodness, good grief, gosh

H: ha-ha, hallelujah, hello, hey, hmm, holy buckets, holy cow, holy smokes, hot dog, huh?, humph, hurray

O: oh, oh dear, oh my, oh well, oops, ouch, ow

P: phew, phooey, pooh, pow

R: rats

S: shh, shoo

T: thanks, there, tut-tut

U: uh-huh, uh-oh, ugh

W: wahoo, well, whoa, whoops, wow

Y: yeah, yes, yikes, yippee, yo, yuck

VB

Verbs (base form)

English verbs have five basic forms: the base (VB and VBP), -S (VBZ), -ing (VBG), past (VBD), and past participle forms (VBN).

Most verbs have identical base forms (VB) and non-3rd personal singular present form (VBP). The difference is mainly dependent on their roles in sentences.

When verbs appear in their base forms, the usages can be categorized as follows:

1. Infinitive (usually after to, or, after a modal verb)

Examples:

*It's always easier to **learn** something than to **use** what you've learned.*

*He can't **study** at home.*

2. Imperative mood with commanding and demanding

Examples:

*Go to the edge of the cliff and **jump** off. **Build** your own wings on the way down.*

3. Subjunctive verb

(Source: <http://www.englishclub.com/grammar/verbs-subjunctive.htm>)

The subjunctive is a special, relatively rare verb form in English. The structure of the subjunctive is extremely simple. For all verbs except the past tense of be, the subjunctive is the same as the bare infinitive (infinitive without "to").

The subjunctive does not change according to person (I, you, he etc). So subjunctive usage of verbs are tagged as base form verbs (VB).

For example, we use the subjunctive when talking about events that somebody:

- wants to happen
- hopes will happen
- imagines happening

Examples (be):

*The President requests that you **be** present at the meeting.*

*It is vital that you **be** present at the meeting.*

*If you were at the meeting, the President would **be** happy.*

The subjunctive is typically used after two structures:

- the verbs: ask, command, demand, insist, propose, recommend, request, suggest + that
- the expressions: it is desirable, essential, important, necessary, vital + that

Examples:

*The manager insists that the car park **be** locked at night.*

*The board of directors recommended that he **join** the company.*

*It is essential that we **vote** as soon as possible.*

*It was necessary that every student **submit** his essay by the weekend.*

Some fixed expressions use the subjunctive. Here are some examples:

Examples:

*Long **live** the King!*

*God **bless** America!*

*Heaven **forbid**!*

***Come** what may, I will never forget you.*

Notice that in these structures the subjunctive is always the same. It does not matter whether the sentence is past or present. Look at these examples:

Examples:

Present: *The President requests that they **stop** the occupation.*

Past: *The President requested that they **stop** the occupation.*

Present: *It is essential that she **be** present.*

Past: *It was essential that she **be** present.*

VBD

Verbs (past tense)

The purpose of past tense verbs within the English language is to express activity, action, state, or being in the past. A simple past tense verb always has just one part. You need no auxiliary verb to form this tense.

Examples:

We **visited** the grocery store yesterday. Visited is a simple past tense verb that is used to describe a completed action.

Emily **said** that she went to the mall. Said is a past perfect tense verb that describes reported speech.

Source: <http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/verbs/Past-Tense-Verbs.html>

VBG

Verbs (gerund or present participle)

- Usually add **-ing**
- When the verb ends in an **e**, we drop the **e** and add **ing**
- If a one syllable (with only one vowel sound) verb ends in one consonant (for example p, t, r) that follows one vowel (for example a, o, e), we double the consonant
- Some verbs have irregular **-ing** form:

<i>lie</i>	<i>lying</i>	<i>die</i>	<i>dying</i>	<i>travel</i>
<i>Br. travelling</i>		<i>Am. traveling</i>		

VCN

Verbs (past participle)

The past participles for regular verbs are the same as their past forms (look-looked-looked and study-studied-studied), for example. For irregular verbs, the past and past participle forms are different (for example, be- was/were-been and go-went-gone).

The past participle is commonly used in several situations:

- Past participles are used as part of the present and past perfect tenses (both "regular" and continuous).

The non-continuous present perfect tense uses has or have + the past participle; the present perfect continuous tense uses has or have + been (the past participle of BE) + the - ing form of the main verb.

Examples:

*He has (He's) **taken** a vacation. / He has (He's) **been** taking a vacation.*

*I have (I've) **taken** my medicine. / I have (I've) **been** taking that medicine for three days.*

The non-continuous past perfect tense uses had + the past participle; the past perfect continuous tense uses had + been + the - ing form of the main verb.

Examples:

*She had (She'd) **lived** here for 10 years when I met her. / She had (She'd) **been** living here for 10 years when I met her.*

*He had (He'd) **waited** a long time before he left. / He had (He'd) **been** waiting a long time before he left.*

- Past participles are also used to make one of the past forms for the **modal verbs** (modal auxiliaries). These forms use a modal + have + the past participle.

Examples:

<i>could have gone</i>	<i>may have been</i>	<i>should have known</i>
<i>might have seen</i>	<i>would have written</i>	<i>must have forgotten</i>

- Another use for past participles is as participial adjectives (verb forms used as adjectives). Participial adjectives may be used both in single and in phrases.

Examples:

*We were **bored** / **excited** / **interested**.*

*We were **bored** with / **excited** about / **interested** in the movie.*

*It's **broken** / **gone** / **done**.*

*It's **broken** into two pieces / **gone** from where I usually put it / **done** by machine, not by hand.*

***Abandoned**, he didn't know what to do.*

***Abandoned** by everyone he had considered to be his friends, he didn't know what to do.*

Source: http://www.eslcafe.com/grammar/verb_forms_and_tenses10.html

VBP

Verbs (non 3rd person singular present)

The singular present tense in English expresses habits and routines, general facts and truths, and thoughts and feelings.

The non 3rd person singular present form is identical to the base form of the verb, which is defined as the infinitive without the preposition to.

VBZ

Verbs (3rd person singular present)

Forming Regular Third Person Singular Present Tense Verbs

To form the third person singular present tense form of most regular English verbs, simply affix the suffix -s to the end of the verb. For example, the following list includes the infinitive, base form, and third person singular present tense form some common English verbs:

- to argue – argue – argues
- to clean – clean – cleans
- to fight – fight – fights
- to pickle – pickle – pickles
- to wonder – wonder – wonders

For verbs that end in an -s, -z, -x, -ch, or -sh, affix the suffix -es to the end of the verb. For example:

- to box – box – boxes
- to catch – catch – catches
- to kiss – kiss – kisses
- to watch – watch – watches

- to wish – wish – wishes

For verbs spelled with a final *y* preceded by a consonant, change the *y* to an *i* and then affix the *-es* suffix. For example:

- to apply – apply – applies
- to copy – copy – copies
- to identify – identify – identifies
- to reply – reply – replies
- to try – try – tries

WDT

Wh-determiner

what (whatever) and *which*, when they occur NOT at the beginning of a sentence. At the beginning of a sentence, they have tags WP.

Exception: if *what* is followed by an article, no matter which position it is, it is tagged as WDT.

WP

Wh-pronoun

A pronoun which is spelt with an initial wh. (How is also included, though the h and w are in an unusual order!):

What, Which, who, whoever

Notice the exceptions that **what** and **which** are tagged as Wh-determiners.

WP\$

Possessive wh-pronoun

whom, whose

WRB

Wh-adverb

A special subclass of adverbs includes a set of words beginning with **wh-**.

The most common are

when, where, why, how, whence, whereby, wherein, whereupon, and how

There are some additional POS tags for punctuation marks. These labels are mostly fixed by the tokens (closed form tags).

#

Pound sign

\$

Dollar mark

“ ”

Right hand side double or single quotations

‘ ’

Right hand side double or single quotations

,

Non-full stop break punctuation marks for the sentence

(or **LRB**

Left hand side brackets

) or **RRB**

Right hand side brackets

.

Full stop marks of sentences, including . (full stop), ? (question mark), ! (exclamation point).

:

Colon : and semi-colon ;

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