



THE 8 PARTS OF SPEECH

GRAMMAR LESSON & QUIZ



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Every word you say has a role in a sentence. Every word is a part of speech. Today we are going to take a closer look at these 8 parts of speech that make up nearly everything we say in English.

1 Nouns

These are the bread and butter of our speech. It's funny because 'bread' and 'butter' are both nouns!

A noun is a word that names something, such as a **person**, **place**, **thing**, or **idea**.

In a sentence, nouns can play the role of:

- subject
- indirect object
- direct object
- subject complement
- object complement
- appositive
- adjective

Nouns can name **people**:

- A girl
- Taylor Swift
- My dad

Nouns can name a **place**:

- A mountain
- Spain
- The kitchen



Nouns can also name things, concepts, activities, ideas, or processes:

- Love
- Rugby
- Shorts
- Knowledge

Remember that I have a video on the 100 most important nouns, that you can watch by clicking on the link in the description box of the video for this PDF!

2 Pronouns

A pronoun is a word that is used instead of a noun or noun phrase. You use them when the reader or listener knows which specific noun you're referring to. If I tell a story about my fiancé William, it will get so boring and repetitive if I keep saying William over and over again! Look at this example **WITHOUT** pronouns:

- **William** is my fiancé. **William** is extremely tall. **William** told me that **William** wants to marry me.

Now look at this example **WITH** pronouns:

- **William** is my fiancé. **He's** extremely tall. **He** told me that he wants to marry me.

There are quite a few different types of pronouns, and some pronouns are found in more than one category. Here are some of the most common:

Personal pronouns

- | | | |
|-------|-------|--------|
| • I | • her | • we |
| • me | • he | • why |
| • you | • him | • them |
| • she | • us | |



Demonstrative pronouns

- that
- this
- these
- those

We also have **indefinite pronouns**, used when you need to refer to a person or thing that doesn't need to be specifically identified. For example:

- one
- other
- everybody
- anybody
- nobody
- **Everybody** loves my homemade brownies!
- Some love marmite, **others** hate it!

Interrogative pronouns

- who
- what
- which
- whose

Progressive pronouns

- my
- your
- their
- whose

Reflexive and intensive pronouns

- myself
- yourself
- themselves

Relative pronouns

- whom
- what
- which



3 Adjectives

Adjectives are the words that describe nouns. An adjective can go right before the noun it's describing (I have an **orange** cat), but it doesn't have to (my cat is **orange**).

One of the most important things to learn about adjectives is the adjective order. Most native speakers will naturally say a list of adjectives in a particular order. I have a video all about this in the description box of the video for this PDF!

Adjective order:

- **Opinion**
 - ugly, beautiful
- **Size**
 - big, small
- **Physical quality**
 - neat, rough
- **Shape**
 - round, square
- **Age**
 - old, new
- **Colour**
 - pink, orange
- **Origin**
 - Egyptian, Japanese
- **Material**
 - plastic, leather
- **Type**
 - unisex, three-legged
- **Purpose**
 - cooking, sewing



4 Verbs

Listen to me! **Write** what you **hear**! **Learn** to **speak**!

These were all amazing examples of verbs. Verbs are words that describe actions.

Dynamic or action verbs refer to literal actions such as **walking, running, talking**.

Stative verbs refer to feelings and states like to **love**, to **be**, to **think**.

Auxiliary verbs are used in English to change another verb's tense, mood, or voice. This is why they are often referred to as '**helping verbs**'. The main auxiliary verbs are:

- be
- have
- do

We also have **modal auxiliary verbs**, which are added to another verb to show: **capability, possibility**, or **necessity**.

Some common examples are:

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| • may | • should |
| • might | • shall |
| • must | • would |
| • can | • will |
| • could | • ought |

I should also mention **phrasal verbs**! These are phrases that act as a single verb, usually consisting of a verb and a preposition.

I have lots and lots of videos about phrasal verbs! Again, you can find these in the description box of the video for this PDF!



5 Adverbs

An **adverb** is a word that **describes** an adjective, a verb, or another adverb, or even a sentence.

- I **gently** lifted him out of bed. (verb)
- He is **more** interesting than you. (adjective)
- That is an **unusually** tall tree. (adjective)
- **Unfortunately**, we had already left. (sentence)

6 Prepositions

A preposition is a word that tells you when or where something is in relation to something else.

- I put my bag **on** the table.
- I sat **beside** the wall.
- My birthday is **on** Monday.

Remember you **can** end a sentence with a preposition!
Although be careful in formal writing or speech.

7 Conjunctions

A **conjunction** is a word that is used to **connect clauses**, **sentences**, or **words** together.

Coordinating conjunctions allow us to join words, phrases, and clauses of equal rank. When remembering coordinating conjunctions, think of **FANBOYS**!

For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So

- I had a terrible headache. I still went to school.
- I had a terrible headache **but** I still went to school.



Correlative conjunctions are **pairs** that work together for example:

- **either** and **or**
- **neither** and **nor**

Take a look at this example:

- I want **either** the beef **or** the turkey roast.

Subordinating conjunctions join **dependent** and **independent** clauses together. Common subordinating conjunctions are:

- because
- as
- while/whilst
- since
- although
- whereas
- though

An example:

- I ate dinner **because** I was hungry.
- I drove **while** talking on the phone.

8 Articles

Finally, we have the articles! The **definite article** is the word '**the**'. It limits the meaning of a noun to one particular thing. For example:

- Give me **the** ticket.

The **indefinite article** is either '**a**' or '**an**'. It is '**a**' when it **precedes a word that begins with a consonant**, and '**an**' when it **precedes a word that starts with a vowel**! The indefinite article indicates that a noun refers to a general idea rather than a particular thing!

- Can you pass me **an** apple?
- Should I bring **a** bottle of wine?



Activity

Identify the words in bold!

1. I wore a **lovely** dress to the party.
a) preposition
b) adjective
c) noun
2. Who was **he** talking about yesterday?
a) conjunction
b) preposition
c) pronoun
3. She left her contact card **underneath** the napkin.
a) adjective
b) preposition
c) pronoun
4. If we walk **quickly** we will get there just after 9am.
a) adverb
b) conjunction
c) verb
5. I'm certain that I've **met** your parents before!
a) verb
b) adverb
c) article
6. She placed **a** tissue in her pocket in case she cried.
a) article
b) conjunction
c) preposition
7. I rang their mobile and her home phone **but** nobody answered.
a) adjective
b) conjunction
c) preposition
8. I think you should tell her the news **after** you see her.
a) pronoun
b) preposition
c) verb

1b, 2c, 3b, 4a, 5a, 6a, 7b, 8b

The End