

SYNTAX

In linguistics, syntax is the set of rules, principles, and processes that govern the structure of sentences in a given language.

Word Classes / Parts of Speech

❖ In English, there are 8 classes of words:

Nouns name people, places, animals, objects or abstract ideas. (Penny is a doctor)

Pronouns are words that can replace nouns in a sentence. (She likes it)

Verbs show actions or states of being. (I swim a lot. / I am tired)

Adjectives describe nouns. This group includes the subgroup of Determiners. (It is big and blue)

Adverbs describe verbs, adjectives and other adverbs. (He runs very fast)

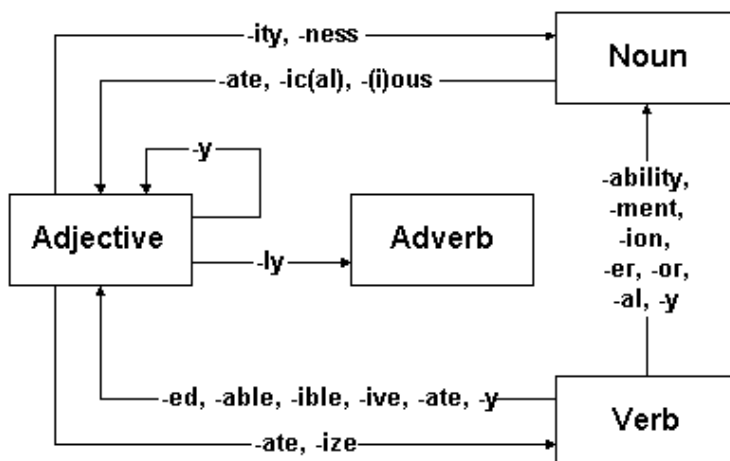
Prepositions show the relationship between one part of the sentence and another. (He went after her)

Conjunctions join two clauses in a sentence. (I went and she stayed at home)

Interjections are actually one, two or more words that convey meaning but are not considered sentences for the lack of structure. (Wow! How beautiful!)




❖ Four of these classes can be **changed into a different class** by means of adding a suffix: verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs.



❖ Four of these classes are called Open and the other four are called Closed. An **Open Class** (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs) allows new words into it, a **Closed Class** (prepositions, conjunctions, determiners, pronouns) doesn't.

❖ There's an **order** to follow when using **Adjectives**:

 THE ROYAL ORDER OF ADJECTIVES 									
Determiner	Observation	Physical Description				Origin	Material	Qualifier	Noun
		Size	Shape	Age	Color				
a	beautiful			old		Italian		touring	car
an	expensive			antique			silver		mirror
four	gorgeous		long-stemmed		red		silk		roses
her			short		black				hair
our		big		old		English			sheepdog
those			square				wooden	hat	boxes
that	dilapidated	little						hunting	cabin
several		enormous		young		American		basketball	players
some	delicious					Thai			food

❖ Here are some key aspects about **Verbs**:

- A verb is the *heart* of a sentence. Recognizing the verb is often the most important step in understanding the meaning of a sentence.
- Verbs can change their meaning when they are accompanied by verb-like words called:
 - Modals (may, could, should, etc.)
- Verbs must always agree with their subjects. (They are happy NOT ~~They is happy~~)
- There are two types of verbs:
 - Transitive verbs require at least one or two objects.
 - Intransitive verbs do not take any objects.

❖ There are several kinds of **Nouns**:

- Common: dog, chair, room, car.
- Proper: John, Paris, Eiffel Tower.
- Collective: family, team, choir
- Verbal : gerunds
- Compound: cheesecake, mother-in-law
- Abstract: justice, love, hope
- Concrete: sun, road, heat
- Countable: apple, book, person
- Uncountable: water, traffic, peace

❖ There are several kinds of **Prepositions**:

- Time: in, on, at, etc.
- Place: in, on, under, above, etc.
- Direction: to, toward, through, into
- Agent: by
- Device, Instrument or Machine: by, with, etc.

❖ There are several kinds of **Conjunctions**:

- Coordinating: and, but, or, nor, for, so, etc.
- Subordinating: although, because, if, before, how, since, until, when, where, whether, while, after, no matter how, provided that, as soon as, even if, etc.
- Correlative: Either ... or, Neither ... nor, Whether ... or , Both ... and, Not only ... but also.