

LECTURE TWO

By

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- **parts of speech**
- **Question words in English**



parts of speech

The parts of speech explain how a word is used in a sentence.

There are eight main parts of speech (also known as word classes): nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections.

Most parts of speech can be divided into sub-classes. Prepositions can be divided into prepositions of time, prepositions of place etc. Nouns can be divided into proper nouns, common nouns, concrete nouns etc.

It is important to know that a word can sometimes be in more than one part of speech. For example with the word increase.

Increase can be a verb e.g. Prices increased

and increase can also be a noun e.g. There was an increase in the number of followers.

A list of parts of speech in English grammar include the following:

1. Verb

A verb is used to show an action or a state of being

go, write, exist, be

2. Noun

A noun is a word used to refer to people, animals, objects, substances, states, events, ideas and feelings. A noun functions as a subject or object of a verb and can be modified by an adjective.

John, lion, table, freedom, love ...

3. Adjective

Adjectives are used to describe or specify a noun or pronoun

good, beautiful, nice, my ...

4. Adverb

An adverb is used to modify a verb, adjective and other adverbs.
completely, never, there ...

5. Pronoun

A pronoun is used in the place of a noun or phrase.
I, you, he, she, it ...

6. Preposition

Prepositions are used before nouns to form a phrase that shows where, when, how and why
in, above, to, for, at ...

7. Conjunction

Conjunctions join clauses or sentences or words
and, but, when ...

8. Interjection

Interjections are used to show surprise or emotion.
oh!, Good Lord

A **preposition** is a word or group of words used before a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase to show direction, time, place, location, spatial relationships, or to introduce an object. Some examples of prepositions are words like "in," "at," "on," "of," and "to." Prepositions in English are highly idiomatic.

Prepositions of Direction

To refer to a direction, use the prepositions "to," "in," "into," "on," and "onto."

She drove to the store.

Don't ring the doorbell. Come right in(to) the house.

Drive on(to) the grass and park the car there.

Prepositions of Time

To refer to one point in time, use the prepositions "in," "at," and "on."

Use "in" with parts of the day (not specific times), months, years, and seasons.

He reads in the evening.

The weather is cold in December.

She was born in 1996.

We rake leaves in the fall.

Use "at" with the time of day. Also use "at" with noon, night, and midnight.

I go to work at 8:00.

He eats lunch at noon.

She often goes for a walk at night.

They go to bed at midnight.

Use "on" with days.

I work on Saturdays.

He does laundry on Wednesdays.

Prepositions of Location

To refer to a location, use the prepositions "in" (an area or volume), "at" (a point), and "on" (a surface).

They live in the country. (an area)

She will find him at the library. (a point)

There is a lot of dirt on the window. (a surface)

Prepositions of Spatial Relationships

To refer to a spatial relationship, use the prepositions "above," "across," "against," "ahead of," "along," "among,"

"around," "behind," "below,"

"beneath," "beside," "between," "from," "in front of," "inside," "near," "off," "out of," "through," "toward,"

"under," and "within."

The post office is across the street from the grocery store.

We will stop at many attractions along the way.

The kids are hiding behind the tree.

His shirt is off.

Walk toward the garage and then turn left.

Place a check mark within the box.

To refer to an object higher than a point, use the prepositions "over" and "above." To refer to an object lower than a point, use the prepositions "below," "beneath," "under," and "underneath."

The bird flew over the house.

The plates were on the shelf above the cups.

Basements are dug below ground.

There is hard wood beneath the carpet.

The squirrel hid the nuts under a pile of leaves.

The cat is hiding underneath the box.

To refer to an object close to a point, use the prepositions "by," "near," "next to," "between," "among," and "opposite."

The gas station is by the grocery store.

The park is near her house.

Park your bike next to the garage.

There is a deer between the two trees.

There is a purple flower among the weeds.

The garage is opposite the house.

Several white lines of varying lengths and orientations are positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, creating a modern, abstract design element.

To refer to extended time, use the prepositions "since," "for," "by," "during," "from...to," "from...until," "with," and "within."

I have lived in Minneapolis since 2005. (I moved there in 2005 and still live there.)

He will be in Toronto for 3 weeks. (He will spend 3 weeks in Toronto.)

She will finish her homework by 6:00. (She will finish her homework sometime between now and 6:00.)

He works part time during the summer. (For the period of time throughout the summer.)

I will collect data from January to June. (Starting in January and ending in June.)

They are in school from August until May. (Starting in August and ending in May.)

She will graduate within 2 years. (Not longer than 2 years.)

Prepositions of Place

To refer to a place, use the prepositions "in" (the point itself), "at" (the general vicinity), "on" (the surface), and "inside" (something contained).

They will meet in the lunchroom.

She was waiting at the corner.

He left his phone on the bed.

Place the pen inside the drawer

Question words in English

The main question words are:

What (for a thing, when there are many things)

Which (for a thing, when there aren't many things)

Who (for a person)

Where (for a place)

Why (for a reason)

When (for a time)

How (for a method)

Whose (to ask about possession)

Examples

What is your name?

Which gym do you go to?

Who is your boss?

Where do you hang out at the weekends?

Why do you hate your job?

When is your birthday?

How do you learn English words?

Whose book is this?