

Parts of Speech

What are they?

Contents

nouns

pronouns

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Nouns

Used to name people, animals, things, places or ideas.

Common nouns

Proper nouns

Abstract nouns

Collective nouns



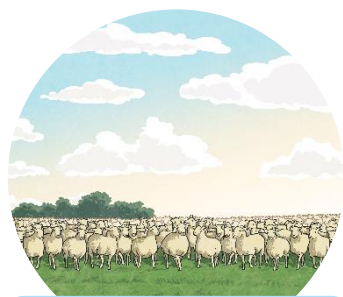
ballet dancer



Lionel Messi



butterfly



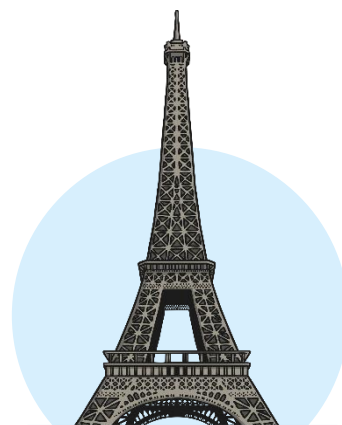
flock of sheep



apple



teamwork



Eiffel Tower

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Common Nouns

The names given to ordinary things, such as a butterfly, apple or ballet dancer.



a butterfly



an apple



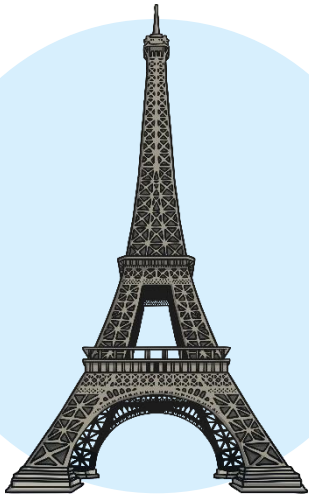
the ballet dancer

Identified by *the*, *a*, *an* preceding them
e.g. **the** ballet dancer, **a** butterfly, **an** apple.

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nouns](#)

Proper Nouns

The names of specific people, places or things.
Proper nouns always begin with a capital letter.



Eiffel Tower



Lionel Messi



Spain

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nouns](#)

Abstract Nouns

Something we cannot see, touch or measure rather than an object. It can be an idea, concept, feeling, emotion or personality trait, such as courage, kindness, embarrassment, teamwork or danger.

danger



embarrassment



teamwork



Can you think of any other examples of abstract nouns?

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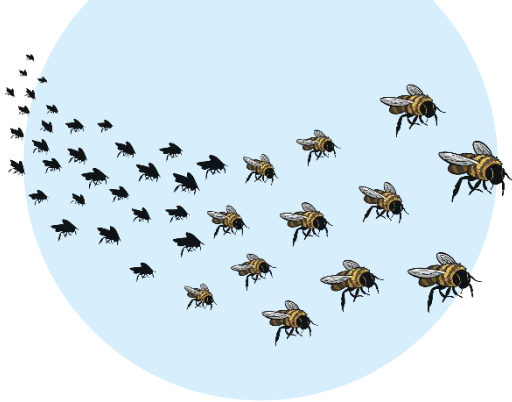
Collective Nouns

The name of a collection or group of things.

It is a descriptive way of saying 'lots of...'

e.g. a **flock** of sheep, a **bunch** of grapes or a **swarm** of bees.

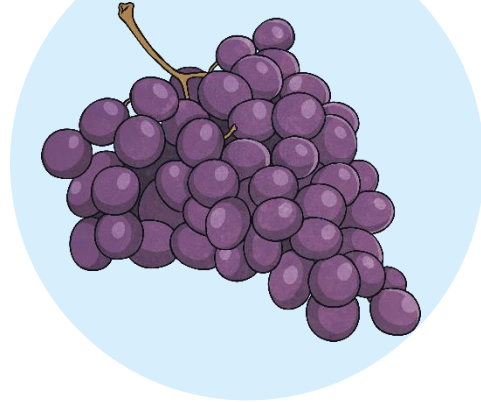
swarm of bees



flock of sheep



bunch of grapes



Can you think of any other examples of collective nouns?

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Pronouns

Take the place of nouns and are used to avoid repetition.

Personal
pronouns

Relative
pronouns

Interrogative
pronouns

Indefinite
pronouns

Possessive
pronouns

Reflexive
pronouns

Demonstrative
pronouns

this

that

these

mine

one

I

you

my

it

hers

whom

myself

which

she

they

Pronouns will change depending on whether they are used as a subject or an object.

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Personal Pronouns

Used instead of the name of a person or thing. Personal pronouns can directly replace the noun in a sentence.

I

you

us

it

they

he

them

she

her

we

me

him



Examples of how personal pronouns can be used:

Jim eats ice cream. ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ **He** eats ice cream.

Shall I take the cakes? ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ Shall I take **those**?

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pronouns](#)

Possessive Pronouns

Used to show who owns, or can be linked to, an item.
Possessive pronouns are sometimes used on their own or with a noun.



their/theirs

your/yours

mine

his

hers

our/ours

whose

my

its

Examples of how possessive pronouns can be used:

Ahmed's bag ⇒ **His** bag

That pencil case belongs to **me**. ⇒ That pencil case is **mine**.

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pronouns](#)

Relative Pronouns

Join one part of a sentence to another (they work like a conjunction).

Relative pronouns replace nouns or pronouns.

who

whom

whose

refers to people

that

which

what

refers to animals or inanimate objects



Examples of how relative pronouns can be used:

I am proud of my niece. **She** won a bronze medal. ⇨ I am proud of my niece **who** won a bronze medal.

Did you see the letter? **It** came today. ⇨ Did you see the letter **that** came today?

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Reflexive Pronouns

Words ending in -self or -selves and are used when the subject and object of a sentence are the same.



myself

yourself

himself

herself

itself

oneself

ourselves

yourselves

themselves

Example of how a reflexive pronoun can be used:

I hurt **myself** when I tripped over.

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Interrogative Pronouns

Interrogative pronouns allow a question to be asked about a noun.

who

whom

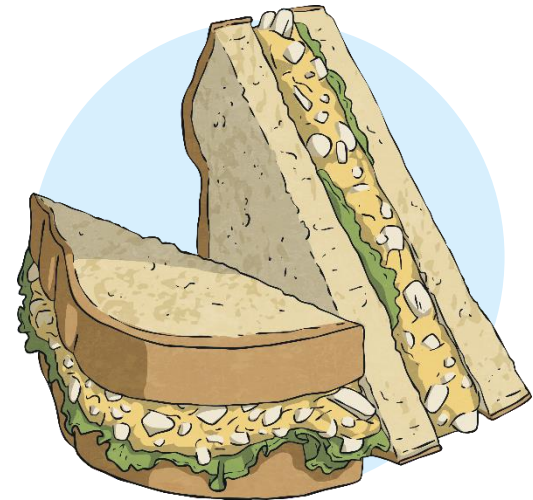
whose

refers to people

which

what

refers to things



Examples of how interrogative pronouns can be used:

Who is talking to Amina?

What have you got in your sandwich?

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pronouns](#)

Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns are words that show distance (in time or space) between a noun and the speaker. They can also show whether the noun is singular or plural.

this

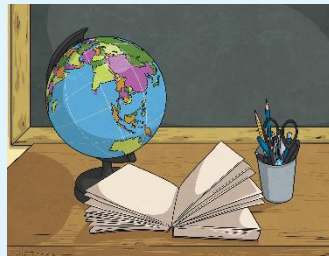
Used when something (singular) is near.



This book

that

Used when something (singular) is far away.



That book

these

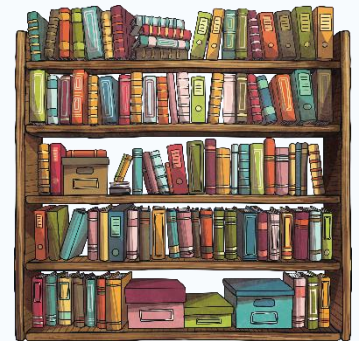
Used as plural when near.



These books

those

Used as a plural when far away.



Those books

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Indefinite Pronouns

Indefinite pronouns are used when the noun is not specific.



nothing

nobody

none

no one

anything

anybody

anyone

something

somebody

someone

Examples of how indefinite pronouns can be used:

Does **anybody** know the answer?

Something has gone wrong.

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pronouns](#)

Verbs

Doing or action words, including 'to be' and 'to have'.

	Past tense		Present tense		Future tense	
simple	I played tennis.	They played tennis.	I play tennis.	They play tennis.	I will play tennis.	They will play tennis.
progressive	I was playing tennis.	They were playing tennis.	I am playing tennis.	They are playing tennis.	I will be playing tennis.	They will be playing tennis.
perfect	I had played tennis.	They had played tennis.	I have played tennis.	They have played tennis.	I will have played tennis.	They will have played tennis.
perfect progressive	I had been playing tennis.	They had been playing tennis.	I have been playing tennis.	They have been playing tennis.	I will have been playing tennis.	They will have been playing tennis.

Verbs carry
tense

Verbs can be
singular or plural

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Verbs

Doing or action words, including 'to be' and 'to have'.

might/might not

may/may not

could/could not

will/will not

should/should not

would/would not

ought/ought not

shall/shall not

must/must not

can/cannot

Modal verbs

Modal verbs have many uses. In most cases, they work with another verb to describe the possibility of something happening or to describe what degree of certainty something is known.



Examples of how modal verbs are used in this way:

The netball team **might** win the tournament.

Humpty Dumpty **could** fall off the wall.

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Verbs

Modal verbs can also express the obligation for someone to do something



Modal verbs can also express an ability to perform the action of another verb. For example, I **cannot** play the ukulele yet but I am learning or Yasmin **can** expertly dribble around defenders.

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Adjectives

Describe nouns or pronouns by giving more information.

Descriptive
adjectives

Adjectives of
quantity

Comparative
and superlative
adjectives

Proper
adjectives

handsome

shiny

August

round

pink

sparkling

several

two

loud

prettier

honest

many

prettiest

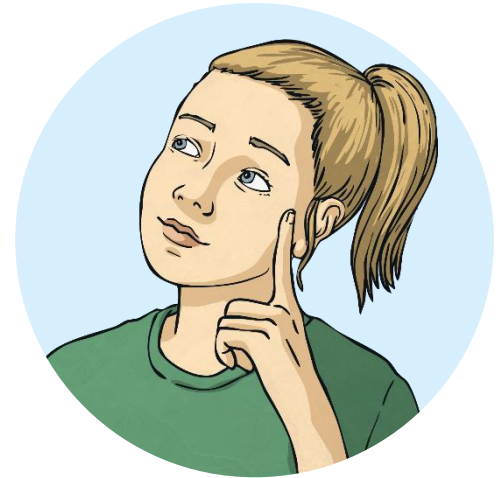
Roman

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Descriptive Adjectives

Descriptive adjectives can be used:

- Before a noun they are describing, e.g. The **honest/intelligent/creative** child.
- After the verb 'to be' when describing a noun, e.g. The child was **honest/intelligent/creative**.



honest

bright

handsome

young

long

sparkling

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adjectives](#)

Adjectives of Quantity

Adjectives of quantity describe an amount or quantity of a noun.

two

many

several

few

some

most

each

every

neither



Examples of how adjectives of quantity can be used:

There were **ten** clues to find.

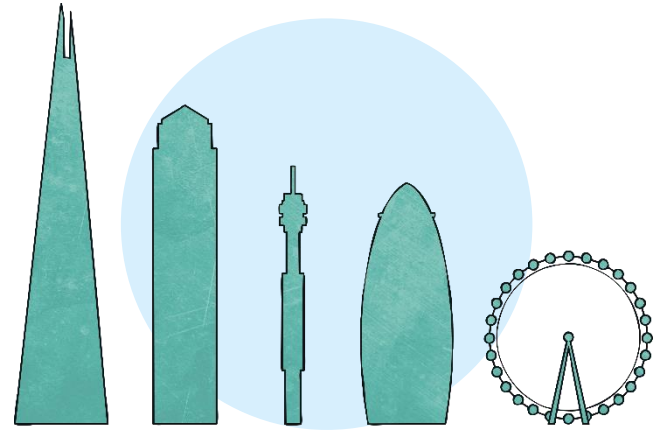
I will only take **some** of the clothes back to the shop.

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adjectives](#)

Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

Comparatives compare the noun to something else and are usually formed by adding -er.

Superlatives say the noun is the most of a particular quality and are usually formed by adding -est.



taller

louder

prettier

funnier

runnier

tallest

loudest

prettiest

funniest

runniest

Examples of how comparative and superlative adjectives can be used:

Big Ben is **tall**. ← adjective

The London Eye is **taller** than Big Ben. ← comparative

The Shard is the **tallest**. ← comparative

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adjectives](#)

Proper Adjectives

An adjective that comes from a proper noun.

August

Jewish

Roman

Swiss

Italian



Proper adjectives always begin with a capital letter.

Examples of how proper adjectives can be used:

It was a warm **August** night.

Brenda gobbled up the **Swiss** chocolate.

Italian food is my favourite

[Return to
adjectives](#)

Adverbs

Modify verbs, adjectives or other adverbs.

They can make a sentence more interesting by telling us how, when, where, how often or how much.

How?	When?	How often?	Where?	How much?
nervously	today	always	above	completely
She got dressed quickly .	soon	annually	downstairs	The shapes were partially buried in the sand.
hungrily	He would go to the park tomorrow .	never	The Easter eggs were hidden outside .	totally
safely	never	They regularly ate fish and chips.	wherever	almost

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Prepositions

Link nouns, pronouns and phrases and are used to show the **location**, **time** or **movement** of nouns or pronouns.

Prepositions of **location**



The sand is **in** the bucket.

Prepositions of **time**



No talking **during** the performance.

Prepositions of **movement**



The pig jumped **into** the pond.

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contents](#)

Prepositions of Location

Prepositions of **location** show the **place** or **position** of a noun or pronoun.

beside

between

in front of

behind

near

far

above

below

inside

outside



Examples of how prepositions of location can be used:

The tools were **inside** the garden shed.

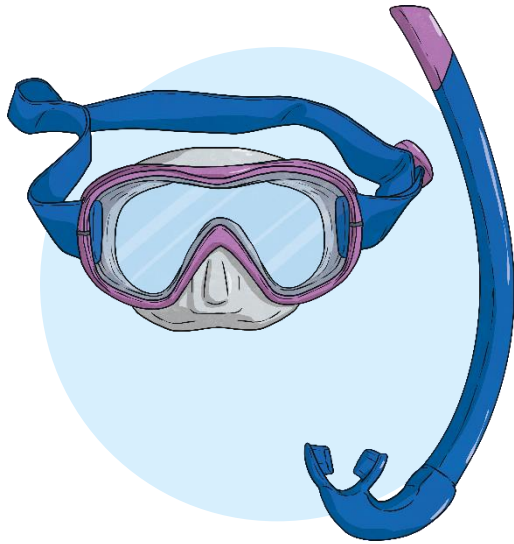
Harry sat **under** the shady tree.

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Prepositions of Time

Words that show and signal **time**.

The three most commonly used time prepositions are **at**, **on** and **in**.



at

during

on

until

in

past

since

by

before

after

Examples of how prepositions of time can be used:

At the weekend, I am going to the cinema.

I go to swimming lessons **on** Thursdays.

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prepositions](#)

Prepositions of Movement

Words that show movement or direction.

down

into

along

across

on

up

out of

through

towards

off



Examples of how prepositions of movement can be used:
I took them **to** the fair.

The penguin waddled **towards** the sea.

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prepositions](#)

Conjunctions

Connecting words that join two or more sentences or clauses into a single sentence.

Co-ordinating
conjunctions

Subordinating
conjunctions

Conjunctions of
time

Conjunctions of
cause and effect

and

because

although

as a result

since

therefore

for

but

yet

so



I like chocolate and ice cream, **but** I should not eat too much of them.

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Co-ordinating Conjunctions

Joins two or more sentences, main clauses or words of equal weight.

Both parts of the sentence have equal importance.



for

yet

and

so

nor

or

but

Examples of how co-ordinating conjunctions can be used:

I like strawberries **but** I prefer apples.

She completed the course **and** received a certificate.

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conjunctions](#)

Subordinating Conjunctions

Join a subordinate clause to a main clause. Subordinate clauses need a main clause for it to make sense.

if

as

since

although

until

while

after

before

when

because



Examples of how subordinating conjunctions can be used:

After I eat lunch, I will play football.

They went out for a walk, **although** a storm was threatening.

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conjunctions](#)

Conjunctions of Time

Linking words to tell you when something happens.

after

as

before

since

during

until

when

while



Examples of how conjunctions of time can be used:

Simone could play the ukelele **before** she was six.

Ruth listened to music **while** she cleaned her bedroom.

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conjunctions](#)

Conjunctions of Cause and Effect

Conjunctions that give a reason why something happened.



for this reason

because

since

therefore

hence

thus

so

as a result

Examples of how conjunctions of cause and effect can be used:

That boy is wearing gloves **because** it is snowing today.

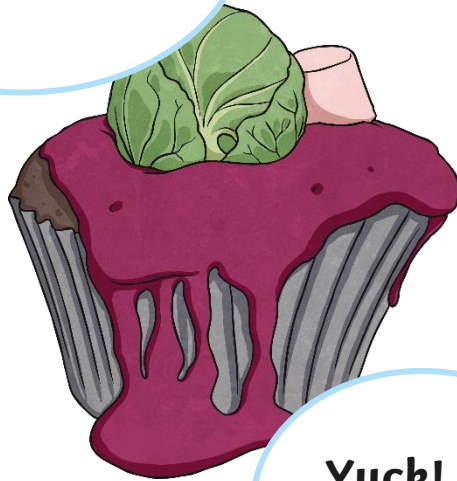
I am feeling unwell today, **therefore** I will spend the day resting in bed.

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conjunctions](#)

Interjections

Express emotions, feelings or a reaction.

Anyone for a
brussle
sprout cake?



Yuck! No
thanks!

Eww!

Aah

Oh no!

Eh!

Gosh!

Wow!

Hey!

Oi!

Yuck!

Ouch!

Eek!

Boo!

Interjections are often followed by an exclamation mark.

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Determiners

Go before a noun to clarify which particular example of the noun you are referring to.

a

one

their

twenty

which

what

hers

his

my

those

the

many

whose

all

several

some



Can you give me **those** bananas?
The boy sat on **a** chair

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Articles

Usually precede nouns or adjectives.

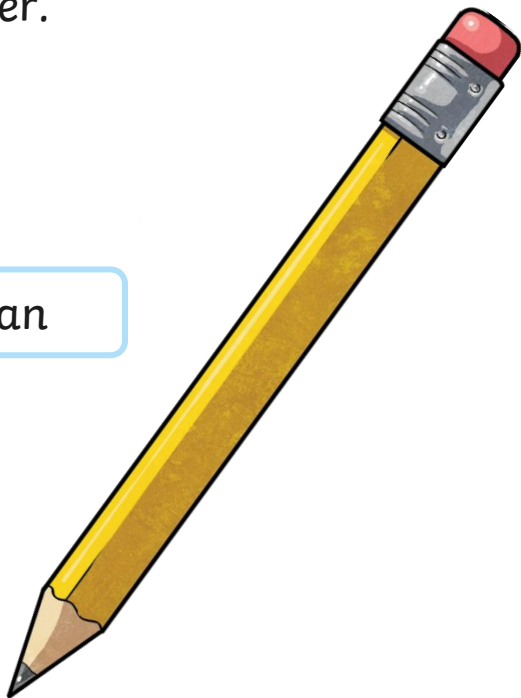
Definite article ⇒ **the**

Refers to something specific or definite, e.g. **the** shoe, **the** short ladder.

a

an

the



Indefinite article ⇒ **a/an**

Refers to something non-specific or indefinite, e.g. **a** pencil or **an** onion

a is used for words beginning with consonant sounds, e.g. **a** harbour

an is used for words with open vowel sounds,
e.g. an hour or an apple

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