

Parts of Speech/ Word Categories

Nouns

Noun definition | meaning

A noun is a naming word. It can be the name of a thing, place, person, animal or feeling.

Examples of noun

Naming people

it could be a name of any person, for example: *john, fatima, singh, michael, tom* and so on.

Naming places

it could be a name of any place, for example: *america, china, church, taj mahal, paris* and so on.

Naming things

naming things are like *car, hat, bottle, table, chair, ball* and so on.

Naming animals

dog, rabbit, elephant, chicken, horse.

Naming feeling/qualities/ideas

joy, fear, beauty, strength, anger.

Example sentences

1. I live in australia.
2. Jenny is my sister.
3. I love to play with my dog.
4. The name of this monkey is boo.
5. Pacific ocean is very vast.

Types of nouns

- Proper noun Common noun Collective noun Possessive noun Number noun
- Compound noun Countable noun Uncountable noun
- Masculine noun Feminine noun

Proper noun

Names of people or places such as your name, your friend's name, your parents' name or the name of your town and country are special naming words. These words are called proper nouns. Special naming words or proper nouns always always begin with a capital letter.

Example sentences of proper noun



1. My name is mark.
2. Her name is sofie.
3. Come tom, let us go for a walk.
4. Hello jack! Will you play with me?
5. My cousin lives in norway.
6. These bears are from china.
7. Albert einstein was born in germany.
8. I visited the taj mahal in india.
9. Fio and laa are close friends.

Understanding proper nouns

The days of the week and the months of the year are proper nouns.

Example sentences

1. Every sunday mike visits the church.
2. Christmas comes in the month of december.
3. My sister was born in march month.
4. Sam goes for swimming classes every friday.

The names of festivals and some special days are proper nouns.

Example sentences

1. Christmas is my favourite festival.
2. My mother likes mother's day.
3. We will celebrate new year's eve.

The names of buildings, mountains, rivers and seas are also proper nouns.

Example sentences

1. I have seen the great wall of china.
2. Last year we visited the niagara falls.
3. Many people have climber the mount everest.
4. River Nile is very long.

Common noun

Common nouns are naming words that are common to people, places, things and animals etc. Common nouns do not define any particular person, place or thing. They are general names. So, they are not capitalized unless they begin a sentence. For example *boy, girl, doctor, town, city, dog, car* and so on.

Example sentences of common noun

1. Teachers teach in school.



2. Birds live on trees.
 3. I love to read storybooks.
 4. Sally's mother is a doctor.
 5. These chocolates and cakes are so delicious.
- Identify and learn about proper nouns and common nouns in the list of sentences below.

1. Sony produces cameras too.
 2. Alicia and cathy were playing with a doll.
 3. Sandy is joining school today.
 4. Hens have laid eggs at todd's farm.
 5. The postman mr. Robert was carrying postcards.
- In above examples the words in purple colour are proper noun whereas words in green colour are common nouns.

Collective noun

Collective nouns are used to name a group of persons, places, animals or things. A collective noun represents a complete whole. For examples: a *library* of books, a *team* of players and a *family* of four. Some collective nouns are used to name a group of animals and birds.

1. A flock of sheep.
 2. A herd of cattle.
 3. A stud of horses.
 4. A gaggle of geese.
 5. A litter of cubs.
 6. A flock of birds.
 7. A shoal of fish.
 8. A pack of wolves.
 9. A swarm of bees.
- Some collective nouns define a group of people.

1. A crew of sailors.
2. An army of soldiers.
3. A band of musicians.
4. A class of pupils.
5. A troupe of actors.
6. A panel of judges.
7. A gang of robbers.

There are some collective nouns that stand for a group of things.



1. A bunch of keys.
2. A pile of clothes.
3. A collection of books.
4. A string of pearls.
5. A set of stamps.
6. A galaxy of stars.
7. A pack of cards.
8. An atlas of maps.
9. A bouquet of flowers.
10. A bunch of grapes.

Example sentences of collective noun

1. My maternal aunt bought me a pair of tennis shoes.
2. At the playground, you get to observe a colony of ants.
3. A pile of clothes was kept on the bed.
4. I need to finish an agenda of tasks before i leave.
5. There is a network of computers in joseph's office.

Possessive noun

A possessive noun is a word that names who or what has or owns something. We add an apostrophe and s ('s) to form the possessive of most singular nouns.

Example sentences of possessive noun

1. This is bob's skateboard. (means – the skateboard belongs to bob)
2. This is ian's coat. (means – the coat belongs to ian)
3. Papa bought a new frame for grandpa's spectacles.
4. Ted's dream for a bicycle came true on his birthday.
5. Julia's homework was not checked.

Sometimes we need to show possession for plural nouns or where the owners are more than one. In such cases we add an apostrophe at the end.

1. A girls' school is located near my house.
2. We should not harm the birds' nests.

Number noun

Number nouns denote one or many. There are two kinds of number nouns:



1. **Singular number noun** – it stands for one person, animal, thing or place.
2. **Plural number noun** – it stands for more than one person, animal, thing or place.

For example: *one toy, three balls, two dogs, five cars, nine planets* and so on.

Generally, by adding a 's' at the end, we can change a singular noun to a plural noun. There are different rules we follow to change a singular noun to a plural noun.

Rule 1

When a singular noun ends with a 'y' after a consonant, we remove the 'y' and add 'ies'.

For example:

- City – cities
- Lady – ladies
- Story – stories

Consonants are all other letters except vowels (a, e, i, o, u).

Rule 2

If there is vowel before 'y' just add s to form its plural.

For example:

- Boy – boys
- Day – days
- Trolley – trolleys
- Toy – toys

Rule 3

When a singular noun ends with 'o' after a vowel, add 's' to make it a plural noun.

For example:

- Bamboo – bamboos
- Radio – radios
- Video – videos

Rule 4

When a singular noun ends with 'o' after a consonant, we add 'es' to make it a plural noun.



For example:

- Tomato – tomatoes
- Volcano – volcanoes
- Hero – heroes

It is also possible that for few nouns ending with ‘o’ preceded by a consonant, we add the letter ‘s’ to form their plurals.

For example:

- Piano – pianos
- Photo – photos

Rule 5

If a singular noun ends with a sound like ‘s’ such as ‘ss’, ‘sh’, ‘ch’, ‘x’, ‘z’, ‘tch’, we add ‘es’ to make it plural.

For example:

- Box – boxes
- Watch – watches
- Dress – dresses
- Quiz – quizzes

Rule 6

If a singular noun ends with ‘f’ or ‘fe’, change the ‘f’ into ‘v’ and add ‘es’ to make it plural.

For example:

- Life – lives
- Calf – calves
- Loaf – loaves
- Knife – knives

Irregular plural

Plurals of some nouns remains the same.

For example:

- Fish – fish
- Deer – deer
- Cattle – cattle
- Sheep – sheep
- Bison – bison

Plural of some nouns are totally different from their singular form.



For example:

- Mouse – mice
- Ox – oxen
- Cactus – cacti
- Child – children
- Man – men

Some nouns are always plural like pants, jeans, shorts, tongs, scissors, hair and sunglasses.

Compound noun

Compound nouns are formed by joining two nouns together. There are three different ways to form compound nouns:

1. The closed form, like notebook, firefly and keyboard.
2. The hyphenated form, like x-ray, co-pilot and mother-in-law.
3. The open form, like post office, history book, mineral water.

Example sentences of compound noun

1. Ian looked at his timetable.
2. It was going to be lunchtime.
3. The basketball match was scheduled in the afternoon.
4. Just after the breakfast, matt rushed to his tracksuit.
5. X-rays were discovered by wilhelm conrad roentgen.

Countable noun

Nouns that can be counted are called countable nouns. Most of the nouns come in the category of countable nouns rather than uncountable nouns because they refer to things, people or animals that can be counted.

Example sentences of countable noun

1. I saw two owls sitting on the tree.
2. There are four milk bottles in the fridge.
3. My father has two cars.
4. I need an umbrella to get out in the rain.
5. To make this cake we need an egg.

Note: we use 'the' for some singular nouns which are unique (one of their kind). For example: *the earth, the sun, the moon* etc.



Uncountable noun

Nouns that cannot be counted are called uncountable nouns.

Uncountable nouns also known as '**mass noun**.'

We cannot count certain things in numbers such as milk, rain, sugar, water, jam. We have to use words like – a glass of milk, a jar of sugar, a jug of water or a bottle of jam. We can use terms like – a little, plenty or a bowl of with uncountable nouns. Though these nouns can be measured, they cannot be counted. Such nouns do not have a singular or plural form.

The noun: gender

Noun words can be divided into masculine and feminine.

Masculine nouns

Masculine nouns represent males: boys, men and male animals. For example: *prince, man, king, boy, cock, lion etc.*

Feminine nouns

Feminine nouns represent females: girls, women and female animals. For example: *princess, woman, queen, girl, hen, lioness, etc.*

But there are some nouns that represent both males and females. For example: *children, artists, principals, teachers, singers, lawyers, etc.* (theidioms.com)

Verbs

Verbs definition

A verb is a doing word that shows an action, an event or a state. A sentence may either have a main verb, a helping verb or both. In other words, a verb is a word that informs about an action, an existence of something or an occurrence. The verb is the main word in a sentence. No sentence can be completed without a verb.

The word 'verb' derived from the latin word '*verbum*'.

Types of verbs

1. main verbs (or action verbs)
2. helping verbs
3. linking verbs
4. – transitive verbs
5. – intransitive verbs

Main verbs or action verbs



Main verbs or action verbs are used to express action; something that an animal, a person or a thing does. In each of the following sentences, we only have a main verb.

- The sun *shines*.
- The horse *neighs*.
- The monkey *jumps*.

Helping verbs

As the name suggests, helping verbs help or support the main verb.

- We are learning about helping verbs. (are: helping verb; learning: main verb)
- We are in the green house club. (are: helping verb)
- You should complete the work by tomorrow. (should: helping verb; complete: main verb)

State of being verbs (linking verbs)

State of being verbs state that something 'is'. State of being verbs also known as **linking verbs**. Linking verbs explain a link between the subject of the sentence and a noun or adjective being linked to it.

List of example sentences

- The flowers are bright.
- Diamond is the hardest substance.
- I feel scared.

Understanding verbs

The words: am, is, are, was, and were, belong to the verb "to be". We use 'am' or 'was' with the pronoun 'i'. We use 'is' or 'was' when the subject of the sentence is singular. We use 'are' or 'were' when the subject of the sentence is plural.

List of example sentences

1. I was late for school yesterday.
2. I am twelve years old.
3. She is a wonderful singer.
4. These questions are difficult.
5. He was planning to meet the doctor.
6. The hollywood actors are famous.
7. They were winners last year.
8. It is a great feeling to win the trophy.

We use 'is' with singular nouns and pronouns 'he, she, it'.



List of example sentences

1. My school is near my house.
2. This restaurant is closing down.
3. She is writing a postcard.
4. Dog is a faithful animal.
5. Ottawa is the capital of Canada.
6. He is acting strange today.

We use 'are' with plural nouns and pronouns 'we, you, they'.

List of example sentences

1. The balloons are colourful.
2. They are best friends.
3. The kites are flying high in the sky.
4. They are planning to go by train.
5. We are going to win the match.
6. You are writing so untidily!

We use 'are' when we join two or more nouns.

List of examples

1. John and Sam are brothers.
2. Joseph and we are neighbours.
3. Anne and Sue are enjoying the play.
4. Sharon and Jenny are competing for the gold medal.
5. Mrs. and Mr. Lee are planning to visit New Zealand.

Subject-verb agreement

It is very important to take care of the subject and verb agreement while framing a sentence. It is very important that a verb must be compatible and agree with its subject to make a correct and valid sentence.

Let us understand with the help of an example.

If we write:

- Phil is playing with a ball. (correct)!
- Phil are playing with a ball. (incorrect) x

In the first sentence, the subject (phil) is singular, so we need a singular verb (*is playing*). The sentence is correct. In the second sentence, the subject (phil) is singular, but the verb is plural (*are playing*). The sentence is incorrect.

Rules of subject-verb agreement



Rule 1 – subject-verb agreement with a singular noun

if the subject is a singular noun or a pronoun (he, i, she, it), we must ensure that we use a singular verb to write a correct sentence.

List of example sentences

1. She is playing the guitar.
2. The postman is asking for your signature.
3. The movie has caught everyone's attention.
4. Does he know the minister well?
5. She is cheering the team.
6. He enjoys music.
7. My mom drives carefully.
8. The moon revolves round the earth.
9. Is it raining?

Rule 2 – subject-verb agreement with plural noun

if the subject is plural (we, they, those, you), we need a plural verb to write a correct sentence.

List of example sentences

1. The boys were dancing in the corridor.
2. The children are playing in the garden.
3. The students were writing their exam.
4. Two of our girls have won the quiz.
5. We have finished our homework.
6. Both the boys have worked hard.
7. Philip and luke are swimming.
8. The teachers are correcting the answer sheets.
9. Farmers work in the fields.

Rule 3 – subject-verb agreement with collective nouns

the collective nouns are considered as singular. We use singular verbs with them.

List of example sentences

1. The crowd was very noisy.
2. Our team has to win the match.
3. The audience is having a gala time.
4. The band is playing the school song.
5. The choir is singing beautifully.
6. My family is from poland.
7. Our cricket team is the best in the whole town.
8. A bouquet of flowers was presented to the chief guest.

Rule 4 – subject-verb agreement with 'either/or' or 'neither/nor'



the verb must agree with the noun or the pronoun that is closer to 'either/or' or 'neither/nor'.

List of example sentences

1. Neither he nor i am guilty.
2. Neither bob nor his friends want the party.
3. Either you or your sister is telling a lie.
4. Either nancy or mary is typing the letter.
5. Neither julia nor her parents know the way to the passport office.

Rule 5 – subject-verb agreement with indefinite pronouns

indefinite pronouns like 'nobody', 'everybody', 'someone', 'somebody', 'one' are always singular.

List of example sentences

1. Everybody is liking the new car.
2. Someone is calling for you.
3. Nobody is allowed to enter that room.
4. Everybody likes mrs. Ola, the new history teacher.
5. One of the passengers was asking for tomato soup.
6. Somebody is knocking at the door.

Rule 6

we use singular verbs for uncountable nouns.

List of example sentences

1. There is sufficient food in the refrigerator.
2. Cold weather is a problem in this part of the country.
3. Sugar is yet to get over in the container.
4. Salt is obtained from sea water.
5. Milk with cornflakes is one of my favourite breakfast options.

Rule 7

a plural noun takes a singular verb when it is a name such as paris, china, arabian nights, and so on.

1. China is the most densely populated country.
 2. Norway is a very cold country.
 3. 'the power of positive talk' is a good book.
-

Types of action verbs

There are two types of action verbs:

1. transitive verbs
2. intransitive verbs

Transitive verbs



A *transitive verb* expresses an action directed towards a person, place or thing. The action expressed by a transitive verb passes from the doer or the subject to the receiver of the action. Words that receive the action of a transitive verb are called *objects*.

For example:

1. The teacher made the question paper.
2. Peter cut the cake.

In the above two sentences, we can see that the words in green colour 'the question paper' and 'the cake' complete the sense of the sentence or work as objects. The two sentences would not make complete sense without the objects.

1. The teacher made What? (the question paper)
2. Peter cut What? (the cake)

In the above sentences, the verbs '*made*' and '*cut*' are transitive verbs. A transitive verb needs a direct object to complete its meaning.

Example sentences of transitive verb

1. Birds have feathers.
2. The teacher praised the pupil.
3. She is eating a pear.
4. I like english.
5. They are playing football.
6. The potter has made a beautiful pot.
7. Dennis bought a bicycle.
8. She is writing an essay.

Intransitive verbs

A verb which does not need an object to make complete sense is called an *intransitive verb*. An intransitive verb expresses action (or tells something about the subject) without the action passing to a receiver or object. It can stand alone in the predicate because its meaning is complete.

Example sentences of intransitive verb

1. Mr. Becker jogs every day.
2. The wicked hunter was hiding.
3. Anne looks very beautiful.
4. Mr. John speaks loudly.
5. The ship sank rapidly.
6. The department store opens at six o'clock.
7. Mr. Ben is driving carefully.
8. The wind blew strongly.



Interesting grammar facts about verbs

To determine if a verb is transitive, ask yourself 'who?' or 'what?' after the verb. If you can find an answer in the sentence, the verb is transitive.

Some verbs are always intransitive, such as: to snore or *to fall*. It is incorrect to say: she snores her nose.

For example: she snores a lot. In this example 'a lot' is not an object but an adverb. It doesn't represent what the person snores but rather how or how much she snores.

Some verbs are always transitive, such as to recognise or to merit. It is somewhat incorrect to say: "ah, yes, i recognise" or she certainly does merit.

Double object

Some transitive verbs have two objects. Those things that you do for someone or you give to someone are called *direct objects*. The person who receives the thing is called the *indirect object*.

Examples of double object

1. The manager gave her the money.
2. Mother is reading michael a story.
3. Nancy baked a cake for me.
4. Can you fetch me a cup and a plate?

In above examples:

- **Verbs:** 'gave, reading, baked and fetch'.
- **Indirect object:** 'her, michael, me, me'.
- **Direct object:** 'money, story, cake, cup and a plate' (theidioms.com)

Adverbs

In this lesson we will learn adverbs. So, what is an adverb?

Definition | meaning

An adverb is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective or another adverb.

Examples



- The nightingale sang (verb) sweetly (adverb).
- The soldier marched (verb) smartly (adverb).
- He owns very (adverb) expensive (adjective) car.
- The traffic moved quite (adverb) slowly (adverb) down the road.

Types of adverbs

There are seven main kinds of adverbs, their list as follows:

- adverbs of degree
- adverbs of time
- adverbs of place
- adverbs of manner
- adverbs of frequency
- interrogative adverbs
- relative adverbs

Use of adverbs

Adverbs make sentences more informative. They are used for following purposes.

To say “**how**” for example:

- The dog barked loudly.

To say “**when**” for example:

- Nina’s grandfather arrived yesterday.

To say “**where**” for example:

- The children are playing outside.

To say “**how often**” for example:

- Marina attends school regularly.

To make the meaning of an adjective, an adverb or a verb stronger or weaker for example:

- The day was extremely cold.

- Her teacher scolded him mildly.

Adverbs which modify verbs

Many adverbs end with the suffix – “ly”. Most of these are created by adding “ly” at the end of an adjective, like;

Adjective	adverb
Slow	slowly
beautiful	beautifully
careless	carelessly



However, this is not a reliable way to find out whether a word is an adverb or not, for reasons: many adverbs do not end in “ly” – (some are the same as their adjective forms), and many words which are not adverb do end in “ly” (such as kindly, friendly, elderly and lonely, which are pure adjectives).

Here are some examples of adverbs which are the same as adjectives:

Adjective	adverb
Fast	fast
late	late
early	early

Understanding adverbs

The best way to tell if a word is an adverb is to try framing a question, for which the answer is the word. If the question uses how, where or when – then the word is probably an adverb.

Let's practice

Example #1

Word in context:

sania plays tennis swiftly.

Question:

how does sania play tennis?

Adverb or not:

yes, uses “how”.

Example #2

Word in context:

they have a small car.

Question:

what kind of car do they have?

Adverb or not:

no, uses “”, so this is an adjective **not** adverb.

Example #3

Word in context:

the manager called the police immediately.

Question:

when did the manager call the police?

Adverb or not:

yes, uses “when”.

The most frequently used adverbs are too, so, really and very. In fact, these words are often overworked. To make your english speaking



and writing more interesting, replace these general adverbs with more specific ones, such as completely, especially, pretty and quite.

Adverbs of time

Definition

An *adverb of time* tells us the time when an action took place. To identify it we can ask a question starting with “when”.

For example:

- Eat your lunch **now**.
- I have never worked **before**.
- I will go to the library **tomorrow**.

In the above examples the following words are “adverbs of time”: now, before and tomorrow.

Adverb of time word list

- Late, Just, Next, soon, now, still, later, today, tonight, morning, evening, eventually, afterwards, Soon, already, recently, currently,

Adverb of time – examples

1. She came yesterday.
2. The cargo finally arrived.
3. Rosy represented her team then.
4. Afterwards he was sorry for what he had done.
5. He is planning to visit us tomorrow.
6. She will be playing the match today.
7. Peter eventually learnt to solve the sums.
8. I will be going to the mountains soon.
9. Steve has already been to the show.
10. Doctor Marina is still in the operation theater.

Adverbs of place

Definition

An *adverb of place* tells us where the action was carried out. To identify it we can ask a question starting with “where”.

For example:

- There was snow **everywhere**.
- Shiny did not want to go **there**.

In the above examples the following words are “adverbs of place”: everywhere, and there.

Adverb of place word list

- Here, there, home, abroad, outside, anywhere, elsewhere, somewhere,



Many adverbs of place also function as prepositions:

- Up, By, off, in, next, over. Besides, across, under, behind, around

Grammar fact

Adverbs of place are usually placed after the main verb or after the object.

Examples – after the main verb

- The cat looked away/up/down/around.
- I'm going home/out/back.

Examples – after the object

- They built a hut nearby.
- He took the child outside.

Examples – adverb of place

1. Noddy stayed here for a week.
2. We could not find John anywhere.
3. Miss James has just gone out.
4. The painter painted the picture there.
5. We are going abroad next month.
6. Mary stays upstairs.

Adverbs of manner

Definition

Most *adverbs of manner* are closely related to the corresponding adjectives. Although some words can be used as either adjectives or adverbs, in most cases, adverbs of manner are formed by adding “ly” to the corresponding adjectives. To identify them we can ask a question starting with “how” or “in what manner”.

Spelling rules for adding “ly”

In most cases, ‘ly’ is simply added to the positive form of the adjective.

Examples

Adjective	adverb of manner
Bad	badly
complete	completely
normal	normally
surprising	surprisingly

Adjectives ending in ‘ic’

When the adjective ends in “ic”, the syllable ‘al’ is usually added before the “ly” ending.



Examples

Adjective

Dramatic
scientific
specific

adverb of manner

dramatically
scientifically
specifically

Adjectives ending in 'le'

When the adjective ends in "le" preceded by a consonant, the final "e" is usually changed to "y", to form the "ly" ending.

Examples

Adjective

Favorable
humble
simple

adverb of manner

favorably
humbly
simply

When the adjective ends in "le" or "de" preceded by a vowel, in most cases, "ly" is simply added to the positive form of the adjective.

Examples

Adjective

Agile
sole
wide

adverb of manner

agilely
solely
widely

Exception!

In the case of the adjective whole, the final "e" is removed before the suffix "ly" is added.

Adjective

Whole

adverb of manner

wholly

Adjectives ending in "ll"

When the adjective ends in "ll", only "y" is added.

Examples

Adjective

Dull
full
shrill

adverb of manner

dully
fully
shrilly

Adjectives ending in "ue"

When the adjective ends in "ue", the final "e" is usually omitted before



the suffix “ly” is added.

Examples

Adjective

Due

true

adverb of manner

duly

truly

Adjectives ending in “y”

When the adjective ends in “y” preceded by a consonant, the “y” is usually changed to “i” before the suffix “ly” is added.

Examples

Adjective

Busy

easy

happy

adverb of manner

busily

easily

happily

Exception!

In the case of the adjectives *shy* and *sly*, the suffix “ly” is simply added to the positive form of the adjective.

Adjective

Shy

sly

adverb of manner

shyly

slyly

When the adjective ends in “y” preceded by a vowel, in most cases, the suffix “y” is simply added to the positive form of the adjective.

Examples

Adjective

Coy

grey

adverb of manner

coyly

greyly

Examples – adverb of manner

1. Mandy sings sweetly.
2. The little boy behaved naughtily.
3. Mr. John can quickly solve crossword puzzles.
4. The dark horse ran swiftly.
5. The boy played the guitar loudly.

Adverbs of degree

Definition

An adverb of degree tells us to what degree, extent or intensity something happens. To identify it we can ask a question starting with



“how much”.

Examples

- The poor man was terribly hungry.
- A cheetah runs extremely fast.

In the above examples the following words are “adverbs of degree”: terribly and extremely.

Adverb of degree word list

- Too, very, quite, almost, really, greatly, totally, enough, extremely, perfectly, partially, immensely, Adequately

Examples – adverb of degree

1. The dinner was absolutely delicious.
2. Mark knows me quite well.
3. The lamp was too hot to touch.
4. She hardly goes to religious places.
5. Cheryl is highly skilled operator.

Adverbs of frequency

Definition

An adverb of frequency tells us how often an action is carried out. To identify it we can ask a question starting with “how often”.

Remember:

these adverbs are usually placed after or before the simple tenses.

Adverb of frequency word list

- Daily, Often, rarely, weekly, monthly, annually, always, seldom, normally, regularly, generally, frequently, sometimes, occasionally, ever, almost, never

Examples – adverb of frequency

1. We sometimes meet them.
2. He is always present.
3. I am generally at home in the mornings.
4. They should often visit them.
5. I exercise regularly.
6. The flight is seldom late.
7. I usually like to have porridge for breakfast.
8. Peter could never win a prize.
9. Cyrus appears on the channel frequently.
10. The train is normally on time.

In the above examples the following words are “adverbs of frequency”: sometimes, always, generally, often,



and regularly, seldom, usually, never, frequently and normally.

Relative adverbs

A relative adverb modifies a noun or a whole sentence. “when”, “where”, “why” and “how” are relative adverbs.

Practice with examples

1. I remember the day when we first met.
2. Tell me why you looking so scared.
3. The street where i live is congested.
4. I don't know how they arrived.
5. I know the date when my great grandfather was born.
6. That is the ground where the cricket match is going to be held.
7. The reason why he left the school is not known.
8. I shall tell you about the shop where you will find a lot of books.

In the above examples the following words are ” relative adverbs”: when, why, where, how, when, where, why and where.

Interrogative adverbs

An interrogative adverb is simply used to ask questions.

Examples

1. When is the school reopening?
2. Why don't we go for a walk?
3. Where have you been?
4. How can i help you?
5. How much does the bag weigh?
6. How many pencils do you have?

In the above examples the highlighted words with purple colour are “interrogative adverbs”.

More about adverbs

Adverbs which modify adjectives or other adverbs usually come just before the words they modify.

For example

1. The tower is extremely tall.
Extremely: adverb
tall: adjective
2. The robinsons' had a badly damaged house after the storm.
Badly: adverb
damaged: adjective
3. Chelsa proudly displayed her carefully embroidered sheet.
Carefully: adverb



embroidered: adjective

4. The furniture that they sell is fairly sturdy.

Fairly: adverb

sturdy: adjective

Exceptions!

Some adverbs of manner, place, time and frequency have the same forms as the corresponding adjectives.

Examples

Adjective

Fast

hard

little

far

low

near

early

long

daily

weekly

yearly

adverbs of manner

fast

hard

little

far

low

near

early

long

daily

weekly

yearly

Adverb-degree of comparison

Adverbs are often used to make the meaning of a verb or another adverb stronger or weaker. This is known as 'degrees of comparison'.

What are they?

The *positive degree* is the simple form of the adverb: slowly, early.

For example: the old man walked slowly.

The *comparative degree* is used to compare two actions: slower, more slowly, and earlier.

For example: the tortoise walked slower than the hare.

The *superlative degree* is used to compare three or more actions: slowest, earliest.

For example: they all take their time, but Robert works the slowest of all.

In general, comparative and superlative forms of adverbs are the same as for adjectives:



Add **-er** or **-est** to adverbs:

Adverb	Comparative	Superlative
Hard	Harder	The hardest
Cheap	Cheaper	The cheapest
Fast	Faster	The fastest

Examples

- Simi works harder than her brother.
- Everyone in the race ran fast, but catherine ran the fastest of all.

For adverbs ending in **-ly**, we use *more* for the comparative and *most* for the superlative degree:

Adverb	Comparative	Superlative
Quietly	More quietly	Most quietly
Carefully	More carefully	Most carefully
Seriously	More seriously	Most seriously

Examples

- The guide spoke more clearly to help us understand.
- Could you sit more quietly please?

Some adverbs have irregular comparative forms:

Adverb	Comparative	Superlative
Badly	Worse	Worst
Far	Farther/further	Farthest/furthest
Little	Less	Least
Well/good	Better	Best

Examples

- The naughty sheep ran further than its flock.
- Today you are reciting worse than last week!

Exceptions!

Sometimes ‘most’ can mean ‘very’:

- We were most grateful for your help.
- I am most impressed with this application.

Adverbs may function as intensifiers, conveying a greater or lesser emphasis to something. Intensifiers have three different functions. They can emphasize, amplify or tone down.

Examples

1. I really don't believe you.
2. He literally wasted his father's money.
3. She simply hates non vegetarian food.



4. They're surely going to be on time.
5. He spoke quite firmly to him.
6. They almost forgot about the function.
7. The judge completely rejected her appeal.
8. I absolutely refuse to attend any more late night parties.
9. They heartily endorsed the new line of clothes.
10. I somewhat like this idea.
11. The ship was literally ruined by the storm.

Adverbs and adjectives

Adverbs and adjectives have some common characteristics. However, an important difference between the two is that adverbs do **not** modify nouns.

For example:

- **Adjective**
maggie is a happy child. (✓)
maggie is happy. (✓)
- **Adverb**
maggie is happily child. (x)
maggie is happily. (x)

The following words (with their comparative and superlative forms) can be both adverbs and adjectives: early, fast, hard, late.

Let us use 'early' both as an adjective and adverb:

- **Adjective**
i'll catch the early bus.
- **Adverb**
i woke up early this morning to catch the bus.

The comparative 'better' and the superlative 'best' as well as some words denoting time intervals (daily, weekly, monthly), can also be adverbs or adjectives.

To decide whether these words are functioning as adjectives or adverbs, we must find out:

1. What the word is describing (noun or verb).
2. What question the word is answering.

Examples

'early' as an adjective:

- Hercule potter caught an early train to his hometown.



‘early’ describes the noun ‘train’ and answers the question “which?”

‘early’ as an adverb:

- Sam arrived early the next day.
‘early’ describes the verb ‘arrived’ and answers the question “when?”

‘hard’ as an adjective:

- He is a very hard taskmaster.
‘hard’ describes the noun ‘taskmaster’ and answers the question “what kind?”

‘hard’ as an adverb:

- The master made the slave work hard.
‘hard’ describes the verb ‘work’ and answers the question “how?”

(theidioms.com)

Adjectives

So, what is an adjective?

Adjective definition

An adjective is a word that customizes and intensifies a noun or a pronoun. It gives additional information about what the noun or the pronoun refers to. It usually comes right before the noun or the pronoun that it modifies. We can use more than one adjective to describe a noun or a pronoun and when a noun comes before another noun, it becomes its adjective.

Example sentences list

*In this list the bold words in orange colour are **adjectives**.*

1. The **colourful** balloon floated over the treetop.
2. The **big** dog chased the car.
3. A **yellow** butterfly is sitting on the red rose.
4. The **tall** giraffe is eating green leaves.
5. A **small** rat is beside the brown cabinet.
6. The **beautiful** princess is wearing a purple gown.

Type of adjectives

- **descriptive adjectives**



- **proper adjectives**
- **adjective of quantity**
- **numeral adjectives**
- **interrogative adjectives**
- **demonstrative adjectives**
- **possessive adjectives**

Descriptive adjectives

Adjectives of quality describe a person, a place or a thing and hence are also known as descriptive adjective. they show quality, size, origin, colour, shape, taste, acts, feel, look or some other quality of nouns and pronouns.

Example sentences list

1. He is a **funny little** man.
2. The **green** grasshopper is sitting on the flower.
3. He banged his head against the **glass** door. (in this example the noun 'glass' works as an adjective here because it describes the noun 'door'.)

Proper adjectives

Adjective formed from proper nouns, like swiss chocolates and italian pasta, are called proper adjectives. However, they are generally considered as adjectives of quality.

Example sentences

1. **Swiss** chocolates are famous all over the world.
2. **American** jeans are probably the best jeans in the world.
3. **Hydrogen** gas is the lightest gas and element.

Adjective of quantity

Adjectives of quantity indicate the quantity of nouns and pronouns.

Example sentences list

1. Just a **little** juice is left in the jug.
2. Did you have **enough** food?
3. Sayda does not need **much** money.
4. Bring **all** the notebooks from the classroom.
5. Jenny takes **great** care of her pets.
6. **Many** cars are parked in the basement.

Numeral adjectives



Adjectives of number show how many things or persons are meant. They also tell us the order in which the person or thing stands. These types of adjectives are also known as numeral adjective.

Example sentences list

1. Peter secured **first** position in his class.
2. Kim bought **six** apples.
3. We ordered for **two** cups of coffee.
4. The **sixth** girl standing from the left won a gold medal for the school.
5. Please purchase **one dozen** eggs for me.
6. Bring me **two** books from the shelf.
7. A week has **seven** days.
8. December is the **twelfth** month of the year.

Interrogative adjectives

Interrogative adjectives are words used along with nouns to ask questions.

Example sentences list

1. **Which** road shall we take?
2. **What** time would the match begin?
3. **Whose** car is this?

Difference between interrogative adjectives and interrogative pronouns

We use the words what, which, whose as both interrogative adjectives and interrogative pronouns. However, in case of interrogative adjectives, nouns or pronouns follow them. In other words, an interrogative adjective modifies a noun or noun phrase rather than standing on its own.

- Example of interrogative adjective: **whose pen is this?**
- Example of interrogative pronoun: **whose is this pen?**

Demonstrative adjectives

The word demonstrative suggests 'pointing out'. The adjectives that point out nouns are called demonstrative adjectives. These show whether the noun they refer to is singular or plural and whether it is located near or far.

Demonstrative adjectives answer the question, 'which?'

Example sentences list



1. **This** pen is very expensive.
2. Look at **that** bill board.
3. **These** mangoes are ripe.
4. **These** apartments have been built recently.

Difference between demonstrative adjectives and demonstrative pronouns

A demonstrative adjective is always followed by a noun.

For example:

- **Those children** are playing tennis.
- **That lake** is very beautiful.

A demonstrative pronoun is used to refer back to a noun that is not mentioned specifically.

For example:

- Would you deliver **this** parcel?
- Does the tie you bought go with **that**?

Possessive adjectives

The adjectives that show possession or belonging are called possessive adjectives. My, your, his, her its, our and their are possessive adjectives used with nouns to show ownership.

Example sentences list

1. This bicycle was gifted by **my** grandfather.
2. The dog is licking **its** paws.

Difference between possessive adjectives and possessive pronouns

A possessive pronoun is used instead of a noun.

For example: susan's basket is small. **Mine** is big.

A possessive adjective is used to describe a noun. It comes before the noun.

For example: **my** basket is bigger than **her** basket.

(theidioms.com)

Pronouns

Pronouns definition

What is a pronoun?

A pronoun is a word which is used in place of a proper noun or a



common noun. Generally, a pronoun takes the place of a particular noun. The pronoun refers to its antecedent. A pronoun helps us avoid unnecessary repetition in our writing and speech.

In other words, words that can be used instead of a noun are called pronouns. The word “pronoun” means “for a noun”.

Let's understand pronouns with the help of a these example sentences:

- Look at mike. Mike is a good boy.
- Mike loves to study. Mike is good at skating.

Instead of mike we can use ‘he’.

Now read these sentences again:

- Look at mike. He is a good boy.
- He loves to study. He is good at skating.

The word ‘he’ takes the place of mike and is called pronoun.

Types of pronouns

- personal pronouns
- reflexive pronouns
- emphatic pronouns
- relative pronouns
- interrogative pronouns
- indefinite pronouns
- demonstrative pronouns
- possessive pronouns

Enjoy reading this humorous folk tale. The pronouns have been highlighted with purple colour.

No worries

The people of a beautiful town called rye determined one day that there was no point in all of them worrying about their various problems.

“let us employ a worry man. He will have the liability to worry for all of us,” said the mayor.

Everyone hailed it as a good initiative. They selected a sweeper for the job. According to them, he seemed to have a lot of time on his hands to worry all through the day. They decided to go and meet him.

“how much will i be paid?” He wanted to know when they explained the nature of the work to him.



“hmmm... one penny a week,” said the mayor.

“it won’t work,” said the sweeper.

“why not?” Asked the mayor.

“because if you give me one pound a week,” he explained, “i,ll have nothing to worry about!”

(adapted from a witty folk tale)

Personal pronouns

Personal pronouns are used to replace nouns or noun phrases.

Personal pronouns stand for three persons:

1. First person
2. Second person
3. Third person

Personal pronoun of the first person stands for the person(s) speaking.

(i, we, me, us)

Example sentences

1. This car belongs to us.
2. I won the award.
3. The matter is between chris and me.
4. We shall stand by the truth.

Personal pronoun of the second person stands for the person(s) spoken to.

(you, thou, thee)

Example sentences

1. Why are you crying?
2. It is to thee that i owe a debt of gratitude.
3. Only you are allowed to attend the party.
4. Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Personal pronoun of the third person stands for the person(s) spoken of.

(he, she, it, they, them, him, her)

Example sentences

1. I heard him telling them about the movie.
2. He agreed to look after the baby.
3. The headmistress likes her a lot.
4. She asked me to review it by this evening.
5. They went to the museum.



6. It is an endangered species now.
7. They were planning to hide it under the bed.

Personal pronouns for people: i, you, he, she, we, they, me, you, him, her, us, them

personal pronouns for things and animals: it, they, them

Reflexive pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are pronouns where the subject and the object are the same person(s), i.e. when the action of the verb refers back to the doer. Reflexive pronouns are formed by using 'self' in the singular and 'selves' in the plural.

Reflexive pronouns list

- Myself ,Yourself ,Himself ,Herself ,Itself,Yourselfs
- Themselves
- Ourselves

Example sentences

1. John reminded himself that he had to try harder.
2. You are old enough to dress yourself.
3. Suddenly, i found myself in a dark corner.
4. The dog covered itself with dirt.
5. She contradicted herself, unknowingly.
6. They were discussing amongst themselves.
7. The only people there were ourselves.

Emphatic pronouns

Emphatic pronouns are pronouns used for highlighting, stressing or emphasizing the noun or pronoun that comes before it. An emphatic pronoun can be omitted without changing the sense of a sentence.

Emphatic pronouns list

- Myself
- Himself
- Herself
- Itself
- Yourself
- Themselves
- Ourselves

Example sentences

1. Joseph himself went to check the gate.
2. He himself is responsible for those low grades.



3. Jane herself looks into the nitty-gritty of running the house.
4. They themselves admitted to their mistakes.
5. The book itself tells you all about pronouns.
6. I myself am a slow walker.
7. The children themselves made the plan.
8. The village itself is very small.
9. We ourselves will be completing the assignment.
10. Ruskin bond himself is a great author.

Relative pronouns

Relative pronouns are used to join sentences or clauses, and they refer back to the nouns going before them.

Relative pronouns list

- Who
- Whom
- Which
- Whose
- That

Example sentences

1. This is the lady who helped me.
2. This is the book that my mother wrote.
3. There is the man whose horse won the race.
4. This is the house which belongs to my great-grandfather.
5. This is the person whom we met at the party.
6. This is the letter box that i was talking about.
7. A chair is a piece of furniture which we use for sitting.
8. I found the ring that i thought i had lost.
9. Jack is the boy whose sister is a famous tennis player.
10. This is the boy who scored the highest marks.

In relative pronouns we use the following pronoun words:

- For people: *who, whom*
- For animals and thing: *which*
- And to show possession: *whose, that*

Interrogative pronouns

Interrogative pronouns ask questions. Compound interrogative pronouns (those ending in 'ever') are used to express surprise, confusion, irritation, etc.



Interrogative pronoun list

- What
- Which
- Who
- Whom
- Whatever
- Whichever
- Whoever
- Whomever

Example sentences

1. Who is there at the door?
2. Which is your book?
3. Whatever are you doing?
4. Who is making noise?
5. Whom were you speaking to?
6. Whichever came first?
7. Whose is this dress?
8. What do you mean?
9. Whoever came to the shop?
10. Whomever should tom invite?

Indefinite pronouns

An indefinite pronoun refers to an indefinite or general person or thing. These pronouns refer to people in a vague and general meaning.

Indefinite pronouns list

- All
- Any
- Each
- Everyone
- Few
- Many
- Neither
- None
- Nothing
- Several
- Some
- Somebody
- Everything
- Nobody



- Anyone
- Someone
- Something

Example sentences

1. Nobody attended the meeting.
2. Something is wrong there.
3. Everyone was smiling.
4. He never does favour to others.
5. Everything was told prior to the meeting.
6. Many of them were injured.

An indefinite pronoun can stand for singular, plural or at times for both. The following lists some indefinite pronouns terms that are commonly used.

Singular

- Anyone
- Anything
- Anybody
- Each
- Everybody
- Everything
- Either
- Everyone
- Little
- Much
- Nobody
- Nothing
- Neither
- No one
- One
- Someone
- Somebody
- Something

Plural

- Both
- Few
- Many
- Others
- Several



Singular or plural

- All
- Most
- None

Example sentences

1. Every season one of the racers attempts to break schumacher's record. (singular)
2. Both have paid homage to their great ancestors. (plural)
3. All of the players we count on are out of form. (plural)
4. Almost all the money in my bank account has been spent. (singular)

Demonstrative pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns point out people or objects. There are four demonstrative pronouns.

Demonstrative pronouns list

- This
- That
- These
- Those

Example sentences

1. Those are my neighbour's dogs.
2. This is my bicycle.
3. These are cakes and those are burgers.
4. That is my bag.
5. In those days, we were young and innocent.
6. This is a present from my uncle.
7. Those keen to attend the magic show may come along.
8. That is the sound of a factory siren.
9. Are those your classmates?
10. That is not the best thing to do.

When these words appear before nouns, they become demonstrative adjectives. For example:

1. This car is better than that.
2. These animals are wilder than those.

In above sentences, 'this' and 'these' are demonstrative adjectives, and 'that' and 'those' are demonstrative pronouns.



Possessive pronouns

A possessive pronoun points towards the owner of something.

Possessive pronouns list

- Here
- His
- Mine
- Ours
- Theirs
- Yours

Example sentences

1. The blue hat is mine. Yours is on the upper shelf.
2. My aunt is a graphic designer. This computer is hers.

Often the words used as possessive pronouns are slight modifications of the words used as possessive adjectives. So, we may get confused at times.

Remember, that there is a major distinction between them. While possessive pronouns are used in place of nouns, possessive adjectives modify or describe nouns.

For example:

- This dress is mine.
- This is my dress .
- That school is hers.
- This is her school.
- This house is theirs.
- This is their house.

In these sentences 'mine', 'hers' and 'theirs' are possessive pronouns, and 'my', 'her' and 'their' are possessive adjectives.

(theidioms.com)

