

Nick Riches

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

02 - Word Classes

Nick Riches

Newcastle University

October 7, 2019

Words

Word classes

Let's meet the word classes!

5 minute exercise

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
 2. Form test
 3. Position test
- So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

Definition

‘minimal standalone symbolic unit’

MiSS

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The ‘standard’ definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

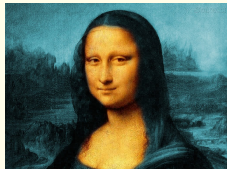
Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

1. Symbols

Symbols versus Icons



Symbols are characterised by an **arbitrary** relationship between form and meaning.

Words

Definition

1. Symbols

2. Standalone

3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning

2. Form test

3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

1. Symbols

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises



1. Symbols

Words

Definition

1. Symbols

2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
 2. Form test
 3. Position test
- So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises



2. Standalone

A: What was he doing? B: **Working**

A: How would you describe the experience? B: **Unbelievable**

A: How are you feeling? B: **Unhappy**

Shark!!!!!!! Swim!!!!!!!

Words

Definition

1. Symbols

2. **Standalone**

3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning

2. Form test

3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

3. Minimal (cannot be split)

1. **Inactive** → *One sip of coffee and Charles changes from **in-** to **hyper-active**.
2. **Underconfident** → ?After eight pints, Angela changes from **under-** to **overconfident**.
3. Walk out → She **walked through** the door and **out** of my life.
4. Blackbird (species) → *She saw a **black** and a **white bird** in the tree

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. **Minimal (cannot be split)**

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
 2. Form test
 3. Position test
- So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

3. Minimal (cannot be split)



Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

Words

Word classes

Let's meet the word classes!

5 minute exercise

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
 2. Form test
 3. Position test
- So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

The 'standard' definition

A verb is a DOING word

An adjective is a DESCRIBING word

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

The 'standard' definition

1. The raging river tore through the valley
2. That film really sucks

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

1. Meaning

(1) Meaning test

e.g. A verb is a 'doing' word

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning

2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

2. Form test

e.g. we can make a verb progressive by adding -ing

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
 2. **Form test**
 3. Position test
- So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

3. Position test

Where a word comes in a sentence (sometimes called 'distribution')

e.g. verbs come after subjects and before objects, e.g.

she **ate** the fish

she **likes** cheese.

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. **Position test**

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

3. Position test

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. **Position test**

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

So which test?

1. The raging river tore through the valley
2. That film really sucks

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

Words

Word classes

Let's meet the word classes!

5 minute exercise

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
 2. Form test
 3. Position test
- So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

Ways to categorise word classes

1. Open versus closed class (Content versus function)
2. Where in the sentence are particular word classes found?

[link to table](#)

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

Open versus closed-class words

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

Open Class

Closed Class



Open versus closed-class words



From *Robot* to *Mobot*

Recent nouns
(plus the exclamative *doh!*)



Robot
Karel Capek, 1920

Thought police - 1946

Loser - 1960

Spam, 1970 – Monty Python*

Email, 1982

Cyberspace, 1984

Doh!, 1985**

Internet, 1990 - 1995

Chav***, 1998

2,000

Brangelina, 2005

Mobot, 2012

* This sketch is regarded as the origin of the use of *spam* to describe unsolicited email

** This term was popularised by *the Simpsons*

*** This is actually derived from a Latin word for child. However, the current meaning dates from the late 1980s

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

Where are they found?

Word classes which come inside the 'Noun Phrase'

$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{DET.} \\ \textit{the} \\ \textit{these} \\ \textit{some} \end{array} \right\}$ $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{ADV.} \\ \textit{really} \\ \textit{very} \\ \textit{totally} \end{array} \right\}$ $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{ADJ.} \\ \textit{lovely} \\ \textit{mean} \\ \textit{furry} \end{array} \right\}$ cats NOUN like fish

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

Where are they found?

Pronouns:

Stand in for entire Noun Phrase

I liked { *the marshmallow coated chocolate fudge cake* }
it

02 - Word Classes

Nick Riches

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

Where are they found?



02 - Word Classes

Nick Riches

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

Where are they found?

Word classes which come inside 'the Verb Complex'

The cats $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{AUX.} \\ \text{are} \end{array} \right\} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{ADV.} \\ \text{always} \\ \text{greedily} \\ \text{really} \end{array} \right\} \text{licking VERB the bowl.}$

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

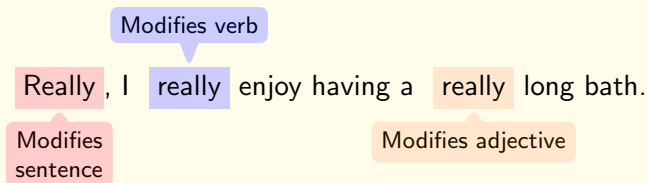
Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

Where are they found?

The three types of adverb.



Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

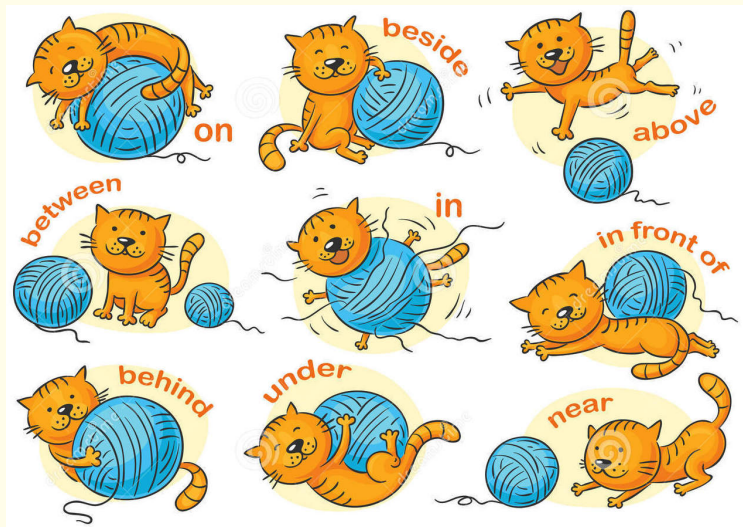
Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

Where are they found?

Prepositions:



Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

Where are they found?

Examples of prepositions

He's been living $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{with} [his\ pet\ dog] \\ \text{in} [a\ log\ cabin] \\ \text{in} [the\ wilds\ of\ Alaska] \\ \text{for} [many\ years] \end{array} \right\}$

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

Children with language impairments

- ▶ Tend to miss out function words
- ▶ Have difficulties understanding prepositions (when used to express location), e.g. on, in
- ▶ Have reduced verb diversity, e.g. 'She did the food'

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

Words

Word classes

Let's meet the word classes!

5 minute exercise

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
 2. Form test
 3. Position test
- So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

Nick Riches

Words

Definition

1. Symbols
2. Standalone
3. Minimal (cannot be split)

Word classes

The 'standard' definition

1. Meaning
2. Form test
3. Position test

So which test?

Let's meet the word classes!

Ways to categorise word classes

Open versus closed-class words

Where are they found?

Word classes and language impairment

5 minute exercise

5 minute exercises

What's unusual about the following sentence: 'That film was absolutely brilliant!?'

A student says 'I am going to a lection'. What does 'lection' mean, and how has this error arisen?