

## 2. Parts of Speech

Look at the following examples:

- A square thing doesn't fit into a round hole. (Adj)
- Draw a circle round a given centre. (Preposition)
- Flies are flying round and round. (adverb)
- Men must go their daily round of duty. (Noun)
- Vasco-De-Gama was the first to round the Cape of Good Hope. (verb)

The function of the word in a sentence determines which part of speech it belongs to. In English language 95 percent of vocabulary has multiple functions.

All words in English language are classified into eight classes according to the functions they perform in sentences

They are:

- Nouns
- Pronouns
- Verbs
- Adjectives
- Adverbs
- Prepositions
- Conjunctions
- Interjections



### **NOUNS:**

A word that expresses the name of a person, place or thing.

#### **Examples:**

- James (name of a person) saw a horse (name of a thing) in the garden (name of a place).
- Milk (name of a material) is good for health (name of a state).
- My father (name of a relationship) has a lot (name of a quantity) of empathy (name of a qualitative) for the poor (name of an economic state).
- There is a flight (name of an action) at 7.30 am from Hyderabad (name of a place) to Delhi (name of a place).

**PRONOUNS:**

A pronoun is a noun equivalent. It always functions instead of a noun.

**Example:**

- Raju – ~~I~~, ~~She~~, ~~They~~, He

The above example clearly shows that a word which is to function instead of a noun has to have the same features of that corresponding noun.

**VERBS:**

A word that speaks about a person or a thing, or the existence of a person or a thing is called a verb. The definition implies that any word identified as a verb must have a subject and a tense.

**Verbs are of 2 kinds, they are:**

- **Principal or Main:** Words of actions

These types of verbs can be divided into two categories:

- **Transitive Verbs:** The verbs, The result of whose actions are received or felt by some other person or thing other than the doer (subject), are called transitive verbs. The person or thing, whoever or whichever receives the result or effect of an action is called the object of the verb. A transitive verb must be always followed by its object.

**Example:** The man (subject) killed (verb) a dog (object to verb).

Though the object is mentioned after a transitive verb, sometimes the meaning of a sentence does not become complete. Then a word or a group of words must be added in the sentence after the object to make the meaning complete.

**Example:** The members of the club elected Mr. Naren. (The meaning of the sentence is incomplete.)

The members (subject) of the club elected (verb) Mr. Naren (object) secretary (complement).

Complement – A word or a group of words, included in the sentence to make the meaning complete, is called a complement. Because the inclusion of a word or a group of words has the relation of complement to the object, the usage of “as” is redundant.

The Members of the club elected Mr. Naren Secretary. (Correct )

- **Intransitive Verbs:** The verbs, whose results of the actions are received or felt by the doer (subject) himself or itself, are called intransitive verbs.

**Example:** My brother (subject) went (verb).

Intransitive verbs do not have objects even though the subject is mentioned; the meaning of sentence sometimes stands incomplete. Then it requires a complement.

**Example:** My brother went to Delhi yesterday to write bank test ('to Delhi yesterday to write bank test' is a complement).

In a sentence, when the verb is transitive, the complement belongs to object and it is called object complement, where as the complement is a subject complement, when the verb is intransitive

- **Auxiliary or Helping:**

**Example:** Is, Am, Are, Was, Were, Have, Has, Had, Shall, Should, Will, Would, Did, Can, Could, May, Might, Must, Dare, Need, Ought, Used, Do, Does

These 24 words are called helping or auxiliary verbs because they are useful:

- To form compound tenses
- To form questions
- To form negative expressions of actions
- To express various meanings according to different contexts

## **ADJECTIVES:**

The words, that qualify nouns or pronouns, are called adjectives. The adjectives are of various kinds according to the meanings, in which they qualify the nouns.

- **Qualitative (or) Descriptive Adjectives:** The adjectives that qualify the nouns or pronouns in the meaning of quality or state.

**Example:**

- The flowers (noun) are beautiful (adjective – quality).
- Ripe (adjective – state) mangoes (noun) are sweet (adjective – quality).
- We have a big (adjective – state) playground (noun) in our school.
- **Quantitative Adjectives:** The words that qualify the nouns in the meaning of quantity are called quantitative adjectives.

**Example:**

- She drank a little (adjective – quantity) milk (noun).
- He ate all (adjective – quantity) the bread (noun).
- They took some (adjective – quantity) rice (noun) during lunch.
- We have enough (adjective – quantity) milk (noun) to serve the guests.

- **Numeral Adjectives:** The words, that qualify the nouns in the meaning of number, are called numeral adjectives.

**Example:**

- There are 50 (adjective – numeral) students (noun) in the class.
- All (Numeral) students have come to class
- Some (Numeral) students didn't attend class yesterday.
- We have enough (Numeral) chairs to accommodate the guests.
- She got first (adjective – numeral) rank in the examination.

- **Demonstrative Adjectives:** The words, that not only qualify the nouns but also point out particularly the nouns which they qualify, are called demonstrative adjectives.

**Example:**

- We live in a house. (general statement)
  - We live in this (demonstrative adjective) house. (noun is particularly specified)
- They go to college every day. (general statement)
  - They go to that (demonstrative adjective) college every day. (noun is specified)
- "These, Those, Such, Same, Any, One" are other demonstrative adjectives.

- **Distributive Adjectives:** An adjective that qualifies members of a group separately instead of collectively.

- Each, Every, Either, Neither
  - "The words each and every" always qualify singular nouns, whereas "either and neither" offer positive & negative choices respectively in between persons, things or groups.

- **Possessive Adjectives:** The seven personal pronouns, "I, We, You, he, She, It and They" formed into possessive adjectives by getting suffixed with the genitive sign ('s) once.

- I + 's = my
- We + 's = our

- U + 's = your
- He + 's = his
- She + 's = her
- It + 's = its
- They + 's = their

The above forms not only qualify the nouns but also express possessive meaning because they contain the genitive sign in themselves. So, they are called possessive or pronominal adjectives or single genitive forms.

**Note:** When a pronoun is placed before a noun without a conjunction, such pronoun must be one of the seven forms above.

- **Proper Adjectives:** When two nouns are placed side by side, the first noun is called proper adjective, when it qualifies the next noun.

**Example:**

- Summer (adjective) flowers (noun)
- City (adjective) streets (noun)
- College (adjective) students (noun)
- American (adjective) university (noun)

**ARTICLES:** The articles "a, an, the", are also classified under the group of adjectives, because "a and an" are the shortest forms of "one", and "the" is the shortest form of "this, these, that, those". So, the original forms are the strongest demonstrative adjectives, whereas the derivatives are the weakest adjectives.

**ADVERBS:**

A word, that qualifies a verb, an adjective or another adverb, is called an adverb.

**Example:** A black (adverb) snake crept (verb) very (adverb) quickly into the grass.

Adverbs are of various kinds according to the meanings, in which they qualify verbs or adjectives.

- **Adverbs of Manner:** A word, that denotes the manner or method, in which the action is performed or done by the doer (subject), is called an adverb of manner.

**Example:**

- The young man works (verb) hard (adverb) every day.
- My brother speaks (verb) English fluently (adverb).

- My friend colours (verb) the pictures excellently (adverb).
- We go (verb) to college together (adverb) every day.

**Note:**

- Most of the adverbs of manner derived from qualitative adjectives by suffixing the letters "ly" to quantitative adjectives.

**Example:**

- Beautiful - Beautifully
- General - Generally
- Different - Differently
- Strong - strongly
- Intelligent - Intelligently
- The adverb form of "good" is "well".
- The word "hard" is also used in the form of "hardly" but this is not an adverb of manner, because the word "hard" itself functions both as an adjective and an adverb. So the word hardly is an adverb of denial.
- **Adverbs of Quantity:** A word, that denotes the quantity of a quality or the degree of completion or the extent, to which an action is done or performed, is called an adverb of quantity.

**Example:**

- The flowers are very (adverb) beautiful (adjective)
- The road is (verb) all (adverb) covered (verb) with dust
- The interviewers were (verb) completely (adverb) satisfied (adverb) with Naveen's performance.
- **Adverbs of Number or Frequency:** A word that denotes the number of times or the frequency, at which an action is done or performed, is called adverb of number or frequency.

**Example:**

- I went (verb) to Delhi once (adverb).
- My brother visited (verb) my house twice (adverb).
- We often (adverb) go (verb) to English movies.
- **Adverbs of Time:** A word or a group of words, that expresses the meaning of some time, is called an adverb of time.

**Example:** Now, Then, Just, Late, Early, Soon, Yet, Always, After, Before, Ever, Never, Ago, Once, Long ago, Long back, Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow, Last

week/month/year etc.

- **Adverbs of Place:** A word or a group of words, that expresses meaning of some place, is called an adverb of place.

**Example:** Here, There, Near, Around, Behind, Back, Front, Down, Above, Over, Below, Bottom, Far, Away, Everywhere, Anywhere, etc.

- **Adverbs of Affirmation or Denial:** The words that express affirmation or denial of actions are called adverbs of affirmation or denial.

**Example:**

- Yes - no
- Certainly - not
- Sure - seldom, hardly

- **Adverbs of Interrogation:** The words that are used in interrogative sentences to enquire are called adverbs of interrogation.

**Example:** When, Where, How, Why, etc.

## PREPOSITIONS:

A word, that shows the relationship between nouns, pronouns or a noun and pronoun in a sentence, is called a preposition.

**Example:**

- The books (noun) are in (preposition) the box (object to the preposition).
- Come (verb) in (adverb of place).

**Note:**

There are 126 prepositions in English language with multiple uses. Generally we feel that there are only 20 to 25 prepositions. The others are also known to us but we do not know that those words are prepositions.

All prepositions function as adverbs but a few adverbs only function as prepositions.

Any word, expressing meaning of time or place is an adverb of time or place, whereas such word expressing time or place, followed by a noun or a pronoun is called a preposition. Such noun or pronoun after preposition is called object to preposition.

## CONJUNCTION:

A word, that combines two or more words of the same part of speech or that joins two clauses together, is called a conjunction.

**Example:**

- Ravi (noun), Kiran (noun), Geetha (noun) and (conjunction) Naveen (noun) are going to college.
- Shiva is intelligent (adjective) but (conjunction) adamant (adjective).
- The children went home ("The children went home" is a clause) after (conjunction) the school was over ("the school was over" is a clause).
- My friend went to Delhi ("My friend went to Delhi" is a clause) where (conjunction) his parents are ("his parents are" is a clause).

**INTERJECTION:**

A word, thrown into a sentence to express some sudden feeling of mind such as surprise, sorrow or joy, is called an interjection.

**Example:**

- Hurrah! We have won the match. (joy)
- Alas! The poor man is dead. (sorrow)
- Oh! When did you come from States? (surprise)

