**Parts of speech – Reading Material**

**Overview:**

Communication is all about making sense of what you say. All it takes is the right components structured to produce a meaningful sentence. This Reading material module is designed to reinforce your awareness of the parts in a sentence that provide a complete thought.

**Objectives:**

This reading material is designed to help you:

* Understand the parts that form a meaningful sentence and ensure your sentences are complete and comprehensible.
* Understand the application and how each part takes up different forms in specific contexts.

**Parts of Speech Defined**

The English language consists of the parts of speech listed below. Every word you will ever say or write falls into one of these categories (with the exception of the articles “a,” “an,” and “the”). Some words fall into more than one category depending upon their use in a sentence.

Noun

Noun is a word used to name a person, place, thing, or idea. It can be

proper noun or

a common noun

Examples of Proper Nouns:

* Narendra Modi, Arundhati Bhattacharya (people)
* Corbett National Park, Bombay, (places)

Examples of Common Nouns:

* Man, woman (people)
* Playground, town (places)
* Cricket bat, tennis ball (things)
* Independence, freedom (ideas)

Pronoun

Pronoun is a word that replaces a person, place, thing, or idea. It can act as:

* subjects or
* objects, and
* Some can show possession.

Examples:

* I, you, he, she, it, we, they (nominative case acts as subject)
* me, you, him, her, it, us, them (objective case acts as object)
* my, mine, your, yours, his, her, hers, its, our, ours, their, theirs (possessive case shows possession)

**Adjective**

Adjective is a word used to describe, or modify, a noun or a pronoun. It describes:

what kind

which one

how many or

how much

Examples:

the brown dog (Which dog?)

the colonial house (What kind of house?)

the two cars (How many cars?)

She is blonde. (What kind of hair?)

He is tall. (What kind of height?)

Verb

Verb is a word that:

shows action or

indicates a condition or

a state of being.

Examples:

I run.

I am sick.

The people are free.

Note:

It is best to use strong action verbs that paint a vivid picture in the readers’ mind (e.g. race, waddle, chomp).

The verb “to be” (e.g. is, are, was, were…) is not descriptive, so requires the use of adverbs.

Adverb

Adverb is a word used to describe, or modify, a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. It describes the extent of verbs performance by answering the:

how

when

where, or

what

Examples:

I run fast. (How do I run?)

The boys are eating now. (When are the boys eating?)

I am very sick.(How sick am I?)

Preposition

Preposition is a word used to show a relationship between a noun or a pronoun and some other word in the sentence. It often shows:

direction

location, or

time.

Examples:

in the morning

up in the sky

down south

in a minute

at 2:00 p.m.

before bed

by my side

without a doubt

over the hill

after school

through the door

across the street

around the world

Conjunction

Conjunction is a word that connects other words or groups of words to each other. There are three types of conjunctions:

coordinating

subordinating and

correlative

Examples:

Anu and Arun are going to the store. (coordinating)

Anu is going to the store because she likes Arun. (subordintating)

Anu likes Arun whether he likes her or not. (correlative)

Interjection

Interjection is a word used to express emotion that has no grammatical relationship to other words in the sentence. It should be used sparingly .

Examples:

Uh oh, I made a mistake!

Oh no, I forgot to call Sindhu!

Well, what are you going to do?

Context Dependent

Traditional grammar classifies words based on eight parts of speech: the verb, the noun, the pronoun, the adjective, the adverb, the preposition, the conjunction, and the interjection which we had an insight into.

Each part of speech explains not what the word is, but how the word is used. In fact, the same word can be a noun in one sentence and a verb or adjective in the next.

The next few examples show how a word’s part of speech can change from one sentence to the next.

Examples:

Books are made of ink, paper, and glue.

In this sentence, “books” is a noun, the subject of the sentence.

Leena waits patiently while Sona books the tickets.

Here “books” is a verb, and its subject is “Sona.”

We walk down the street.

In this sentence, “walk” is a verb, and its subject is the pronoun “we.”

The mail carrier stood on the walk.

In this example, walk is a noun, which is part of a prepositional phrase describing where the mail carrier stood.

The town decided to build a new jail.

Here “jail” is a noun, which is the object of the infinitive phrase “to build.”

The sheriff told us that if we did not leave town immediately he would jail us.

Here “jail” is part of the compound verb “would jail.”

They heard high pitched cries in the middle of the night.

In this sentence, “cries” is a noun acting as the direct object of the verb “heard.”

The baby cries all night long and all day long.

But here “cries” is a verb that describes the action of the subject of the sentence, the baby.