

CHAPTER 4

Parts of Speech

Chapter 4: Parts of Speech

Introduction: The Architecture of Language

Language, much like a grand edifice, requires specific materials and structural rules to stand firm and convey meaning effectively. In the English language, these fundamental materials are known as the **Parts of Speech**. Just as a civil engineer must understand the properties of concrete, steel, and glass to build a bridge, an aspirant of the Civil Services must master the eight parts of speech to construct arguments, draft policies, and articulate nuanced thoughts with precision.

In the context of the MPSC and UPSC Main examinations, understanding Parts of Speech is not merely an academic exercise in labeling words; it is about understanding **Functional Grammar**. Words are categorized not by what they *look* like, but by what they *do* in a sentence. The word "water" can be a Noun in one context ("I need water") and a Verb in another ("I water the plants"). This chapter provides an exhaustive, deep-dive analysis of these categories, moving far beyond school-level definitions to the sophisticated nuances required for high-level administrative communication.



1. The Noun: The Naming Word

1.1 Formal Definition and Function

A **Noun** (from the Latin *nomen*, meaning name) is a word used as the name of a person, place, thing, animal, feeling, or idea. Syntactically, nouns function as the subject of a verb, the object of a verb, or the object of a preposition. They are the anchors of a sentence, providing the "who" or "what" that the sentence is about.

1.2 Classification of Nouns

Nouns are broadly classified into five major categories. Understanding these distinctions is vital for applying rules of articles and verb agreement.

1.2.1 Proper Noun

A **Proper Noun** is the specific, unique name given to a particular person, place, or organization.

- **Key Feature:** Always capitalized.
- **Examples:** *Mumbai, Shivaji Maharaj, The Godavari, Microsoft.*

- **Exam Nuance:** generally, articles are not used before proper nouns. However, when a proper noun is used to indicate a *type* or *quality* possessed by a famous entity, it functions as a common noun and takes an article.
 - *Standard:* "Kalidas was a great poet."
 - *Descriptive:* "Kalidas is the **Shakespeare** of India." (Here, 'Shakespeare' implies 'greatest dramatist').

1.2.2 Common Noun

A **Common Noun** is a name given in common to every person or thing of the same class or kind.

- **Examples:** *city, king, river, company, officer.*
- **Analogy:** If 'Tata Nexon' is the Proper Noun, 'Car' is the Common Noun.

1.2.3 Collective Noun

A **Collective Noun** refers to a group or collection of persons or things taken together and spoken of as one whole.

- **Examples:** *Crowd, Mob, Team, Flock, Herd, Army, Fleet, Jury, Family, Parliament.*
- **Subject-Verb Agreement Rule:**
 - When the group acts as a single unit, use a **singular verb**. (e.g., "The jury **has** given its verdict.")
 - When the members of the group are acting individually, use a **plural verb**. (e.g., "The jury **were** divided in their opinions.")

1.2.4 Material Noun

A **Material Noun** denotes the matter or substance of which things are made.

- **Examples:** *Gold, Iron, Wood, Clay, Cotton, Milk.*
- **Exam Tip:** Material nouns are generally uncountable. You cannot say "a gold" or "two milks". Consequently, they usually do not take the indefinite articles 'a' or 'an'.

1.2.5 Abstract Noun

An **Abstract Noun** is the name of a quality, action, or state considered apart from the object to which it belongs. These are things you cannot touch or see but can feel or understand.

- **Quality:** *Goodness, Kindness, Whiteness, Darkness, Hardness, Brightness, Honesty.*

- **Action:** *Laughter, Theft, Movement, Judgment, Hatred.*
- **State:** *Childhood, Boyhood, Youth, Slavery, Sleep, Sickness, Death, Poverty.*

1.3 Gender and Number in Nouns

While often simple, MPSC creates trick questions based on foreign plurals and gender-specific roles.

Singular (Foreign/Complex)	Plural	Usage Context
Criterion	Criteria	Academic/Administrative benchmarks
Phenomenon	Phenomena	Scientific occurrences
Alumnus	Alumni	University graduates (Male/Mixed)
Alumna	Alumnae	University graduates (Female)
Radius	Radii	Mathematical geometry
Syllabus	Syllabi/Syllabuses	Curriculum details
Memorandum	Memoranda	Official notes or records
Analysis	Analyses	Critical examination
Crisis	Crises	Emergency situations
Thesis	Theses	Research propositions
Bureau	Bureaux/Bureaus	Government departments
Index	Indices/Indexes	Mathematical powers vs List references
Formula	Formulae/Formulas	Scientific vs General methods
Datum	Data	Factual information (Data is now often treated as singular mass noun)
Medium	Media	Communication channels

Singular (Foreign/Complex)	Plural	Usage Context
Oasis	Oases	Fertile spots in deserts
Axis	Axes	Center lines
Basis	Bases	Foundations
Appendix	Appendices	Supplementary material
Vertex	Vertices	Geometric points

2. The Pronoun: The Substitute

2.1 Definition and Utility

A **Pronoun** (from Latin *pro* meaning 'for', and *nomen* meaning 'name') is a word used instead of a noun. Its primary utility is **economy** and **variety**; it prevents the monotonous repetition of the noun.

Without Pronouns: "Suresh did not come because Suresh was ill." *With Pronouns:* "Suresh did not come because **he** was ill."

2.2 Types of Pronouns

2.2.1 Personal Pronouns

These stand for the three persons:

1. **First Person:** The person speaking (*I, We*).
2. **Second Person:** The person spoken to (*You*).
3. **Third Person:** The person spoken of (*He, She, It, They*).

The Case Table of Personal Pronouns:

Person	Number	Nominative (Subject)	Accusative (Object)	Possessive Adjective	Possessive Pronoun
1st	Singular	I	Me	My	Mine
	Plural	We	Us	Our	Ours
2nd	Sing/Plural	You	You	Your	Yours
3rd	Sing (M)	He	Him	His	His
	Sing (F)	She	Her	Her	Hers
	Sing (N)	It	It	Its	-
	Plural	They	Them	Their	Theirs

Pitfall Alert: Confusing *It's* (It is) with *Its* (Possessive). "The dog wagged **its** tail" (Correct). "The dog wagged **it's** tail" (Incorrect).

2.2.2 Reflexive and Emphatic Pronouns

These end in *-self* or *-selves*.

- **Reflexive:** The action of the subject turns back on the subject.
 - *Example:* "I hurt **myself**."
- **Emphatic:** Used to emphasize the noun.
 - *Example:* "I **myself** saw him do it."

2.2.3 Demonstrative Pronouns

Used to point out the objects to which they refer.

- *This, That, These, Those.*
- *Example:* "**This** is the present from my uncle."

2.2.4 Indefinite Pronouns

Refer to persons or things in a general way, not to any particular person.

- *One, None, All, Some, Somebody, Nobody, Few, Many, Others.*

- *Example:* "One must do one's duty." (Note: Not 'his' duty).

2.2.5 Relative Pronouns

These relate to some noun going before (antecedent) and join two sentences.

- *Who, Which, That, Whom, Whose.*
- *Example:* "The man who came yesterday is a fraud."

2.2.6 Distributive Pronouns

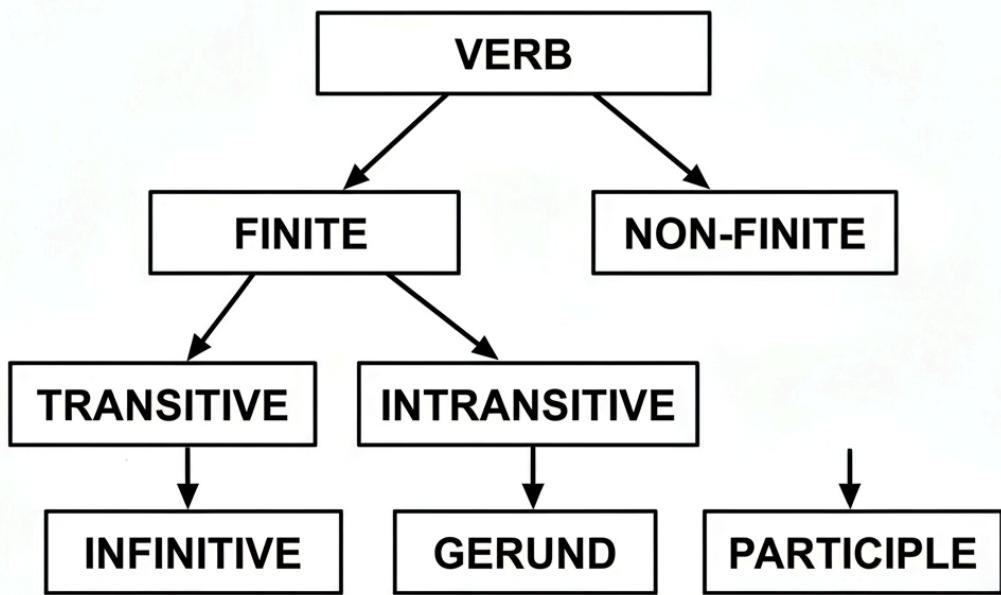
Refer to persons or things one at a time.

- *Each, Either, Neither.*
 - *Rule:* They are always singular and followed by a singular verb.
 - *Example:* "Each of the boys gets a prize."
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3. The Verb: The Engine of Language

3.1 Introduction

The **Verb** (Latin *verbum*, meaning 'the word') is the most important part of speech. It asserts something about a subject. It can express an action (*run, write*), a state of being (*is, was*), or possession (*has, have*).



3.2 Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

- **Transitive Verb:** The action passes from the Subject to an Object.
 - *Structure:* Subject + Verb + Object.
 - *Example:* "The policeman **caught** the thief." (Action passes from policeman to thief).
- **Intransitive Verb:** The action stops with the agent; there is no object.
 - *Example:* "The sun **shines**." (No object required).
- **Ambitransitive:** Some verbs can be both.
 - *Transitive:* "He **flies** a kite."
 - *Intransitive:* "Birds **fly**."

3.3 Verbs of Incomplete Predication

Some intransitive verbs require a word to complete the sense. This word is called the **Complement**.

- *Example:* "The baby **seems**..." (Incomplete). "The baby **seems happy.**" ('Happy' is the Complement).
- Common verbs of this type: *be, become, seem, appear, look, grow, turn.*

3.4 Verb of Person and Number

The verb must agree with its Subject in Number and Person.

- *Singular Subject:* "The **boy plays.**"
- *Plural Subject:* "The **boys play.**"
- *Rule of Proximity:* In constructions like "Either... or", the verb agrees with the nearest subject. "Either he or **I am** mistaken."

3.5 The Infinite, Participle, and Gerund (Non-Finite Verbs)

These are verbs that do not limit themselves to a subject; they have features of other parts of speech.

3.5.1 The Infinitive (Verb-Noun)

- **Form:** Generally *To + Verb* (e.g., *to err, to forgive*). Sometimes used without 'to' (Bare Infinitive) after modals like *can, must, let, make.*
- **Function:** Acts as a Noun.
 - *Subject:* "**To err** is human."
 - *Object:* "Birds love **to sing.**"

3.5.2 The Participle (Verbal Adjective)

It partakes of the nature of both a Verb and an Adjective.

1. Present Participle: Ends in *-ing*. Represents continuing action.

- *Example:* "I saw a **burning** house." (Describes the house).

2. Past Participle: Ends in *-ed, -en, -t*. Represents completed action.

- *Example:* "A **burnt** child dreads the fire."

3. Perfect Participle: *Having + Past Participle.*

- *Example:* "**Having rested**, we continued our journey."

3.5.3 The Gerund (Verb-Noun)

Like the Infinitive, it is a Verbal Noun, but it ends in *-ing*.

- *Example:* "Swimming is a good exercise."
- **Differentiation:**
 - *Gerund:* "The old man is tired of walking." (Object of preposition 'of').
 - *Participle:* "I saw the old man walking." (Adjective describing the man).

3.6 Auxiliaries and Modals

Auxiliary verbs "help" the main verb to form tenses, moods, or voices.

1. **Primary Auxiliaries:** *Be, Have, Do.* Can function as main verbs too.
2. **Modal Auxiliaries:** *Can, Could, May, Might, Shall, Should, Will, Would, Must, Ought.*
 - They express concepts like ability, permission, possibility, or obligation.
 - **Rule:** Modals are never followed by 'to' (except *ought* and *used*). Incorrect: "He can to do it." Correct: "He **can do** it."

3.7 Conjugation of the Verb 'Love'

To master tenses, one must understand conjugation. Below is the Active Voice conjugation for the First Person Singular (I).

Tense	Simple	Continuous (Progressive)	Perfect	Perfect Continuous
Present	I love	I am loving	I have loved	I have been loving
Past	I loved	I was loving	I had loved	I had been loving
Future	I shall/will love	I shall be loving	I shall have loved	I shall have been loving

3.8 Irregular Verbs

Unlike regular verbs that add *-ed*, irregular verbs change their form completely. MPSC often tests these.

Base Form	Past Tense	Past Participle
Arise	Arose	Arisen
Bear	Bore	Borne (carried) / Born (birth)
Bid	Bade	Bidden (command)
Bite	Bit	Bitten
Broadcast	Broadcast	Broadcast (NOT Broadcasted)
Choose	Chose	Chosen
Cling	Clung	Clung
Deal	Dealt	Dealt
Flee	Fled	Fled
Fly	Flew	Flown
Forbid	Forbade	Forbidden
Freeze	Froze	Frozen
Hang	Hung (objects)	Hung
Hang	Hanged (execution)	Hanged
Lie	Lay (recline)	Lain
Lay	Laid (put down)	Laid
Seek	Sought	Sought
Shrink	Shrank	Shrunk
Spin	Span/Spun	Spun
Tear	Tore	Torn

4. The Adjective: The Decorator

4.1 Definition and Classification

An **Adjective** adds something to the meaning of a Noun. It restricts or modifies the noun's scope.

Types of Adjectives:

1. **Adjectives of Quality:** Describe the kind or quality (*Large city, Honest man*).
2. **Adjectives of Quantity:** Show how much (*Some rice, Little patience*).
3. **Adjectives of Number:** Show how many (*Five fingers, Several mistakes*).
4. **Demonstrative Adjectives:** Point out which person or thing (*This boy, That tree*).
5. **Distributive Adjectives:** Refer to each one of a number (*Each boy, Every day*).
6. **Interrogative Adjectives:** Used with nouns to ask questions (*Which way? Whose book?*).

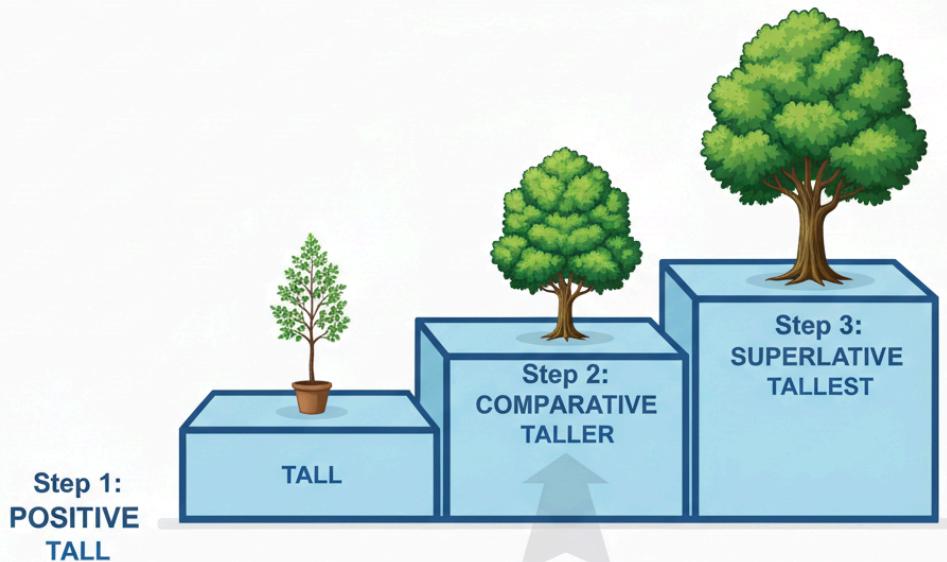
4.2 Degrees of Comparison

Adjectives change form to show comparison.

1. **Positive:** Simple quality (*Sweet*).
2. **Comparative:** Higher degree, used for two items (*Sweeter*).
3. **Superlative:** Highest degree, used for more than two (*Sweetest*).

DEGRES OF COMPARISION

ENGLISH GRAMMAR VISUAL SCALE



CLASS XI/XII

Irregular Comparisons (Crucial for Exams):

- Good, Better, Best
- Bad/Ill/Evil, Worse, Worst
- Little, Less/Lesser, Least
- Much/Many, More, Most
- Far, Farther (distance), Farthest
- Far, Further (additional), Furthest
- Old, Older/Elder, Oldest/Eldest

4.3 Correct Use of Specific Adjectives

- **Later vs Latter:** *Later* refers to time; *Latter* refers to position/order.
- **Elder vs Older:** *Elder* is for family members (never followed by 'than'); *Older* is general for people and things.
- **Further vs Farther:** *Farther* is physical distance; *Further* means 'additional' (e.g., "further instructions").
- **Nearest vs Next:** *Nearest* denotes distance; *Next* denotes position.

4.4 Position of Adjectives

- **Attributive Use:** Placed immediately before the noun. "A **great** king."
 - **Predicative Use:** Placed after the verb. "The king was **great**."
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5. The Adverb: The Modifier

5.1 Definition

An **Adverb** is a word that modifies the meaning of a Verb, an Adjective, or another Adverb. It answers questions like *How?* *When?* *Where?* and *To what extent?*

- Modifying Verb: "He runs **quickly**."
- Modifying Adjective: "He is **very** strong."
- Modifying Adverb: "He runs **quite** quickly."

5.2 Types of Adverbs

1. **Adverbs of Time:** *Before, Now, Lately, Daily, Already, Since.*
2. **Adverbs of Frequency:** *Often, Always, Once, Seldom, Again.*
3. **Adverbs of Place:** *Here, There, Everywhere, In, Out, Away.*
4. **Adverbs of Manner:** *Slowly, Bravely, Clearly, Soundly, Hard.*
5. **Adverbs of Degree:** *Very, Too, Almost, Fully, Enough, So.*
6. **Adverbs of Affirmation/Negation:** *Surely, Certainly, Not.*

5.3 Formation of Adverbs

Most adverbs of manner are formed by adding *-ly* to the Adjective.

- *Clever -> Cleverly*
- *Wise -> Wisely*
- *Kind -> Kindly*

Exception: Some words are the same as Adjectives and Adverbs (e.g., *Fast, Hard, High, Early*).

- Adjective: "A **fast** car."
- Adverb: "He drove **fast**."
- Note: **Hardly** exists but has a different meaning (scarcely) than **Hard** (with effort).

5.4 Position of Adverbs

1. **Adverbs of Manner:** Usually after the verb or object. "He did it **well**."
 2. **Adverbs of Frequency:** Usually between the subject and the verb. "He **often** goes there."
 3. **Enough:** Always placed **after** the word it modifies. "Is the box big **enough**?" (Not "enough big").
 4. **Only:** Should be placed immediately before the word it modifies to ensure clarity.
 - "He **only** lent me ten rupees." (No one else did).
 - "He **only** lent me ten rupees." (He didn't give it; just lent).
 - "He lent me **only** ten rupees." (Not more).
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6. The Preposition: The Relationship Bridge

6.1 Definition

A **Preposition** is a word placed before a Noun or Pronoun to show in what relation the person or thing denoted by it stands in regard to something else. It governs a noun/pronoun (its object).

- "There is a cow **in** the field."
- "He is fond **of** tea."

6.2 Types of Prepositions

1. **Simple Prepositions:** *At, by, for, from, in, of, off, on, out, through, till, to, up, with.*
2. **Compound Prepositions:** Formed by prefixing a preposition to a noun/adjective/adverb.
About, above, across, along, amidst, among, around, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, between.
3. **Phrase Prepositions:** Groups of words functioning as a preposition. *According to, in accordance with, in place of, owing to, with a view to, in spite of.*

6.3 Important Distinctions

- **In vs Into:** *In* implies rest/position inside. *Into* implies motion towards the inside. "He is **in** the room." "He jumped **into** the pool."
- **Between vs Among:** *Between* is used for two persons/things. *Among* is used for more than two.
- **Beside vs Besides:** *Beside* means 'by the side of'. *Besides* means 'in addition to'.

- **Since vs For:** *Since* is used for a point of time (definite start). *For* is used for a period of time (duration). "Since Monday." "For two days."

6.4 Words Followed by Prepositions (Fixed Prepositions)

This is a high-yield section for MPSC vocabulary and grammar questions. Memorize these pairings.

Word	Preposition	Example
Abide	By	You must abide by the rules.
Absolve	From	He was absolved from the charge.
Accede	To	The PM acceded to the request.
Accused	Of	He is accused of theft.
Acquitted	Of	He was acquitted of the crime.
Adapt	To	We must adapt to the environment.
Addicted	To	He is addicted to gambling.
Adhere	To	Adhere to the protocol.
Adjacent	To	The field is adjacent to the school.
Affection	For	He has affection for the poor.
Agree	With (Person)	I agree with you.
Agree	To (Proposal)	I agree to your proposal.
Aim	At	He aimed at the bird.
Alight	From (Bus)	He alighted from the bus.
Alight	On (Ground)	The bird alighted on the roof.
Amazed	At	I am amazed at your ignorance.

Word	Preposition	Example
Ambitious	Of	He is ambitious of fame.
Angry	With (Person)	He is angry with me.
Angry	At (Thing)	He is angry at your behavior.
Apologize	To (Person)	Apologize to the teacher.
Apologize	For (Fault)	Apologize for your delay.
Appeal	To (Person)	He appealed to the judge.
Appeal	For (Help)	He appealed for mercy.
Appetite	For	He has no appetite for food.
Apply	To (Person)	Apply to the Principal.
Apply	For (Post)	Apply for the post of Clerk.
Avail	Of	Avail yourself of this chance.
Averse	To	He is averse to hard work.
Aware	Of	I am aware of the facts.
Ban	On	A ban on smoking.
Bark	At	Dogs bark at strangers.
Bent	On	He is bent on mischief.
Beware	Of	Beware of pickpockets.
Blind	In (One eye)	He is blind in one eye.
Blind	To (Faults)	A father is blind to his son's faults.
Busy	With	He is busy with his lessons.

Word	Preposition	Example
Capable	Of	He is capable of improvement.
Charge	With (Crime)	He was charged with murder.
Collide	With	The car collided with a bus.
Comply	With	You must comply with the rules.
Confident	Of	I am confident of success.
Congratulate	On	I congratulate you on your success.
Consist	Of (Material)	The house consists of five rooms.
Cope	With	He cannot cope with the work. (NOT cope up with)
Cure	Of	He was cured of malaria.
Deal	In (Trade)	He deals in sugar.
Deal	With (Person)	I cannot deal with him.
Deprive	Of	He was deprived of his rights.
Die	Of (Disease)	He died of cholera.
Die	From (Cause)	He died from overeating.
Differ	With (Person)	I differ with you.
Differ	From (Thing)	This differs from that.
Eligible	For	He is eligible for the post.
Envious	Of	He is envious of my success.
Escape	From	He escaped from jail.
Excel	In	He excels in painting.

Word	Preposition	Example
Exempt	From	He is exempted from the tax.
Fond	Of	He is fond of music.
Guilty	Of	He was found guilty of murder.
Ignorant	Of	He is ignorant of the law.
Inferior	To	This cloth is inferior to that.
Insist	On	He insisted on going there.
Jealous	Of	He is jealous of his rival.
Junior	To	He is junior to me. (No 'than')
Knock	At	Who knocks at the door?
Listen	To	Listen to me.
Look	At	Look at the blackboard.
Look	For (Search)	He is looking for his lost book.
Look	After (Care)	She looks after her mother.
Look	Into (Investigate)	The police looked into the matter.
Married	To	Rama was married to Sita. (NOT with)
Prefer	To	I prefer tea to coffee.
Prevent	From	He prevented me from going.
Proud	Of	He is proud of his wealth.
Quarrel	With (Person)	Do not quarrel with your friends.
Quarrel	Over (Thing)	They quarreled over a trifle.

Word	Preposition	Example
Rely	On	You can rely on him.
Remind	Of	You remind me of my brother.
Repent	Of	He repented of his folly.
Senior	To	He is senior to me.
Succeed	In	He succeeded in the exam.
Superior	To	This is superior to that.
Sure	Of	I am sure of success.
Surprised	At	I was surprised at his behavior.
Sympathize	With	I sympathize with you.
Tired	Of	I am tired of this work.
Wait	For	Wait for me.
Worthy	Of	He is worthy of praise.

7. The Conjunction: The Connector

7.1 Definition

A **Conjunction** is a word used to join words, phrases, or clauses together. Unlike prepositions, they do not govern an object.

- "Ram **and** Hari are cousins."
- "He ran fast, **but** missed the train."

7.2 Types of Conjunctions

7.2.1 Coordinating Conjunctions

Join together sentences of equal rank.

- **Cumulative** (Add): *And, Both...and, As well as, Not only...but also.*
- **Adversative** (Contrast): *But, Still, Yet, Nevertheless, Whereas.*
- **Disjunctive** (Choice): *Or, Either...or, Neither...nor, Otherwise, Else.*
- **Illative** (Inference): *Therefore, For, So, Consequently.*

7.2.2 Subordinating Conjunctions

Join a subordinate (dependent) clause to a principal clause.

- *Time:* When, While, Before, After, Until, Since.
- *Cause/Reason:* Because, Since, As.
- *Purpose:* That, Lest, In order that.
- *Condition:* If, Unless, Provided.
- *Concession:* Though, Although, Even if.
- *Comparison:* Than, As...as.

7.3 Correlative Conjunctions

These are used in pairs.

- *Either... or*
- *Neither... nor*
- *Both... and*
- *Though... yet*
- *Whether... or*
- *Not only... but also*

Exam Rule: Balance the structure. The words following the pair must belong to the same part of speech.

- *Incorrect:* "He **not only** lost his ticket, **but also** his luggage."
- *Correct:* "He lost **not only** his ticket, **but also** his luggage." (Both followed by nouns).

8. The Interjection: The Exclamation

8.1 Definition

An **Interjection** is a word which expresses some sudden feeling or emotion. It has no grammatical relation to the rest of the sentence.

8.2 Types by Emotion

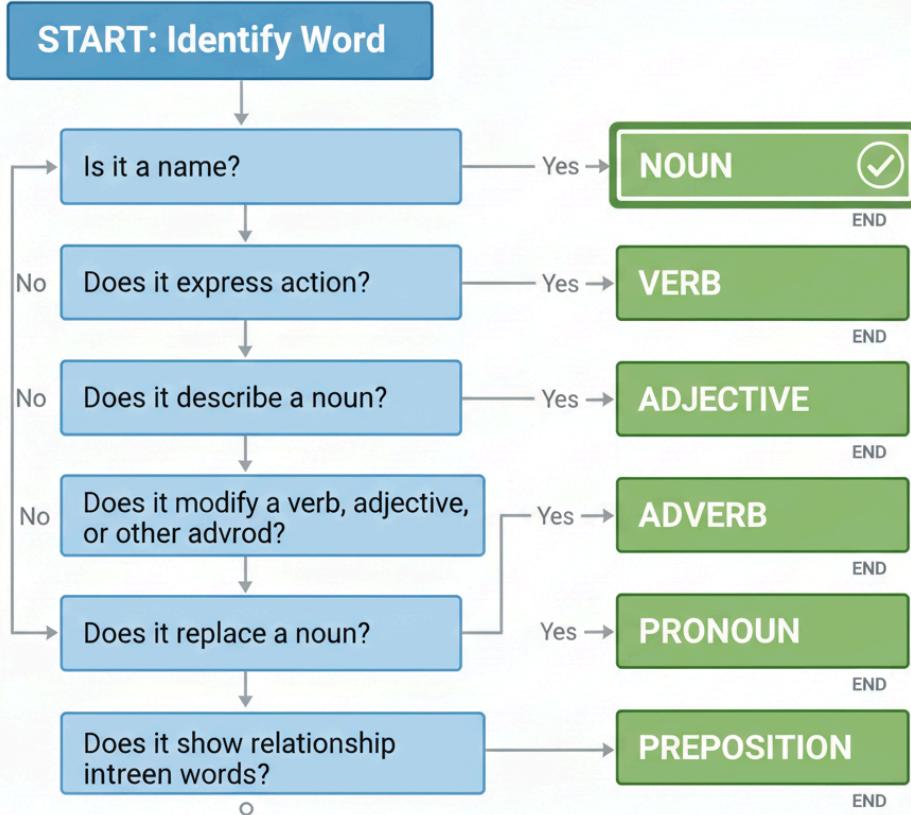
- **Joy:** *Hurrah! Ha!* ("Hurrah! We have won the game.")
- **Grief:** *Alas! Ah!* ("Alas! He is dead.")
- **Surprise:** *Ha! What! Oh!* ("What! Are you here?")
- **Approval:** *Bravo! Well done!* ("Bravo! A great hit.")
- **Attention:** *Listen! Hush! Behold!* ("Hush! Don't make a noise.")

8.3 The Same Word as Different Parts of Speech

This is the essence of functional grammar. A word is classified by its function in a specific context.

Word	Part of Speech	Example
About	Adverb	He was walking about .
	Preposition	Tell me about him.
Above	Adverb	The heavens are above .
	Preposition	The moral law is above the civil law.
After	Adverb	They arrived soon after .
	Preposition	He takes after his father.
	Conjunction	We went away after they had left.
Better	Adjective	I have a better plan.
	Adverb	I know better .
	Noun	Give place to your bettters .
Down	Verb	He tried to better his lot.
	Adverb	Down went the "Royal George".

Word	Part of Speech	Example
	Preposition	The fire engine came rushing down the hill.
	Adjective	The down train.
	Noun	He has seen the ups and downs of life.
	Verb	Down with the tyrant!
Round	Adjective	A round table.
	Noun	The round of daily duties.
	Preposition	The earth revolves round the sun.
	Verb	We shall round the cape in safety.
	Adverb	He came round to their belief.
Well	Noun	Let well alone.
	Adjective	I hope you are well .
	Adverb	He speaks well .
	Interjection	Well! that ends the matter.



9. Determiners

9.1 Overview

Determiners are words placed in front of a noun to specify the noun in some way. In modern grammar, they are often treated as a distinct class, though traditionally grouped with adjectives.

9.2 Types of Determiners

1. **Articles:** *A, An, The.*
2. **Demonstratives:** *This, That, These, Those.*
3. **Possessives:** *My, Your, His, Her, Its, Our, Their.*
4. **Quantifiers:** *Some, Any, Much, Many, Little, Few, All, Both, Either, Neither, Each, Every, No.*

9.3 Usage Nuances

- **Some vs Any:** *Some* is used in affirmative sentences; *Any* is used in negative or interrogative sentences.
 - "I have **some** money."
 - "I do not have **any** money."
 - **Little vs A Little vs The Little:**
 - *Little*: Hardly any (Negative). "There is **little** hope."
 - *A Little*: Some (Positive). "There is **a little** hope."
 - *The Little*: Not much, but all there is. "**The little** information he had was reliable."
 - **Few vs A Few vs The Few:**
 - Same logic as above, but for countable nouns.
 - *Few*: Almost none. "**Few** men are free from faults."
 - *A Few*: Some. "**A few** days rest is needed."
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10. Articles

10.1 The Indefinite Article (A, An)

Used before singular countable nouns to indicate a general member of a group.

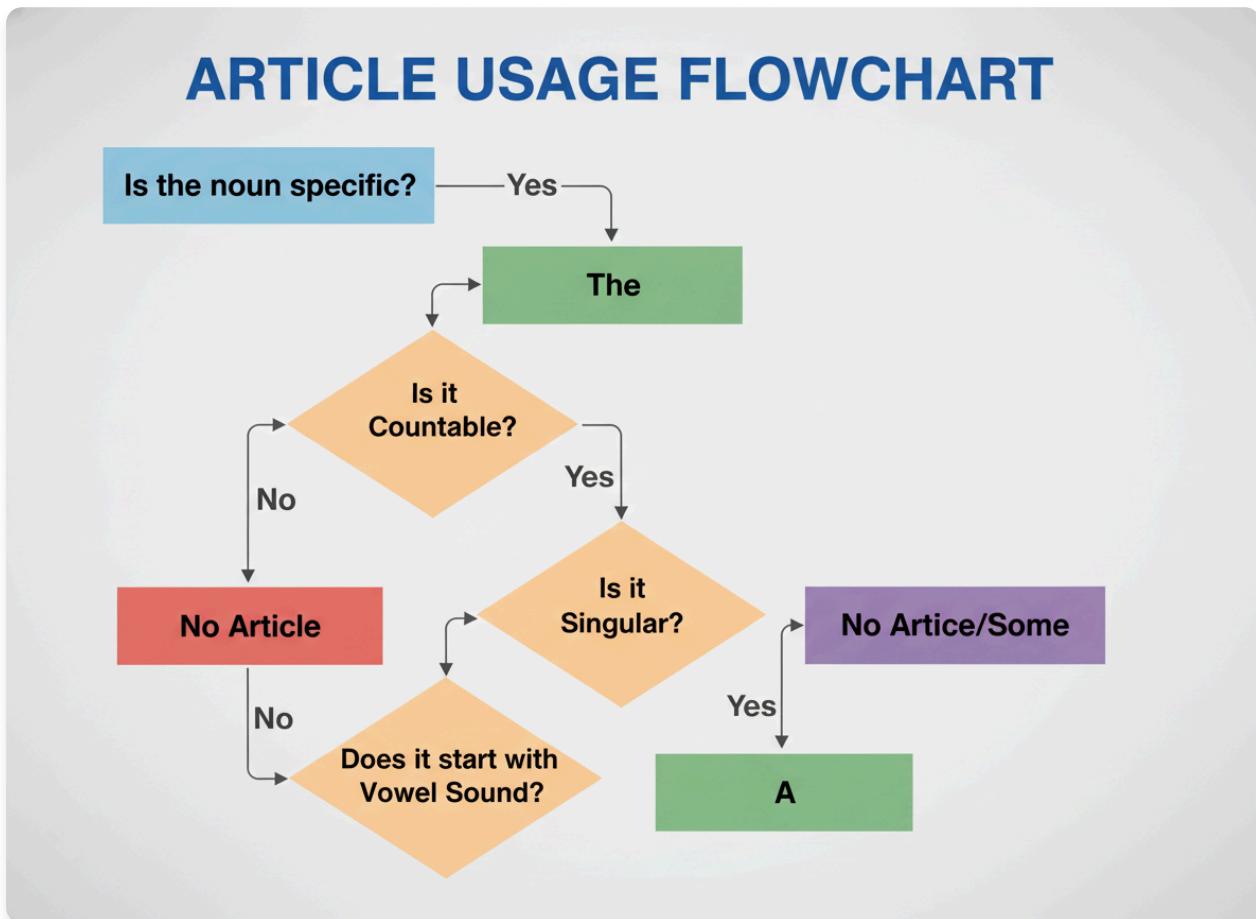
- **Choice between A and An:** Depends on **Sound**, not spelling.
 - **A**: Used before consonant sounds.
 - *A boy, A horse, A university* (*Yu-niversity starts with 'y' sound*), *A one-rupee note* (*Wa-n starts with 'w' sound*).
 - **An**: Used before vowel sounds.
 - *An enemy, An ink-pad, An hour* (*h is silent*), *An M.P.* (*Em-P starts with 'e' sound*).

10.2 The Definite Article (The)

Used to point out a particular person or thing.

- **Usage Rules:**

1. When speaking of a particular person/thing already mentioned: "I saw a boy. **The** boy was crying."
2. When a singular noun represents a whole class: "**The** cow is a useful animal."
3. Before names of rivers, seas, oceans, mountain ranges (plural): "**The** Ganga, **The** Himalayas."
4. Before superlatives: "He is **the** best boy."
5. Before ordinals: "He was **the** first man to arrive."



10.3 Omission of the Article (Zero Article)

- Before proper nouns (usually). "Delhi is the capital of India."
- Before abstract nouns used in a general sense. "Honesty is the best policy."
- Before material nouns. "Gold is precious."
- Before languages. "I learned French." (But: "The French language").

Summary

This chapter has dissected the anatomy of the English language, exploring the eight Parts of Speech that form the foundation of all communication. We began with **Nouns**, the naming words, distinguishing between Proper, Common, Collective, and Abstract types, noting the importance of capitalization and collective agreement. We then moved to **Pronouns**, the crucial substitutes that provide economy to language, emphasizing the case table for personal pronouns. The **Verb**, the engine of the sentence, was analyzed in depth, covering Transitive/Intransitive distinctions, the complexities of Non-Finite verbs (Infinitives, Gerunds, Participles), and the critical rules of Subject-Verb Agreement.

We explored **Adjectives** and **Adverbs** as the modifiers of language, detailing their degrees of comparison and correct positioning. The chapter provided an exhaustive list of Fixed **Prepositions**, a vital resource for MPSC aspirants, and clarified the usage of **Conjunctions** and **Interjections**. Finally, we touched upon **Determiners** and **Articles**, specifically the phonetic rules governing 'A' vs 'An' and the specific utility of 'The'. Mastery of these components is not just about grammatical correctness; it is about acquiring the precision required for administrative drafting and effective governance.

CHAPTER-END ASSESSMENT

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Identify the part of speech of the underlined word: 'The **up** train is late.'

- A. Preposition B. Adverb C. Adjective D. Noun

Answer: C — Here, 'up' describes the noun 'train', specifying which train it is. Therefore, it functions as an Adjective. If it were 'He went up', it would be an Adverb.

2. Which of the following sentences contains a Collective Noun?

- A. Gold is precious. B. The crowd was very big. C. Honesty is the best policy. D. Mumbai is a big city.

Answer: B — 'Crowd' is a collective noun as it refers to a group of people. 'Gold' is Material, 'Honesty' is Abstract, 'Mumbai' is Proper.

3. Select the correct pronoun to complete the sentence: 'Let you and ____ go there.'

- A. I B. me C. mine D. myself

Answer: B – The word 'Let' is a transitive verb and is followed by the objective case. The objective case of 'I' is 'me'. So, 'Let you and me go there' is correct.

4. Which sentence correctly uses the word 'Adverse'?

- A. He is adverse to hard work.
- B. The decision was adverse to his interests.
- C. I am adverse to going out.
- D. He has an adverse for music.

Answer: B – 'Adverse' means unfavorable or hostile. 'Averse' means unwilling or disinclined. Option 1 should be 'averse'. Option 2 is correct (unfavorable decision).

5. Choose the correct preposition: 'He is innocent ____ the crime.'

- A. for
- B. of
- C. in
- D. at

Answer: B – The adjective 'innocent' is always followed by the fixed preposition 'of'.

6. Identify the type of the underlined adverb: 'He **seldom** comes here.'

- A. Adverb of Manner
- B. Adverb of Time
- C. Adverb of Frequency
- D. Adverb of Degree

Answer: C – 'Seldom' answers the question 'How often?'. Therefore, it is an Adverb of Frequency.

7. Select the sentence with the correct order of adverbs.

- A. He spoke earnestly yesterday at the meeting.
- B. He spoke at the meeting yesterday earnestly.
- C. He spoke earnestly at the meeting yesterday.
- D. He spoke yesterday earnestly at the meeting.

Answer: C – The normal order is Manner, Place, Time (MPT Rule). Earnestly (Manner) + at the meeting (Place) + yesterday (Time).

8. What is the comparative form of 'Little'?

- A. Littler B. Less C. Least D. More little

Answer: B — The comparative form of 'Little' is 'Less' (or sometimes 'Lesser'). 'Least' is superlative.

9. Identify the correct sentence regarding the use of 'few/a few'.

- A. A few men are free from faults. B. Few men are free from faults. C. The few men are free from faults. D. Few of men are free from faults.

Answer: B — 'Few' implies a negative meaning (hardly any). The sentence implies that almost no one is perfect, so 'Few men are free from faults' is the intended meaning. 'A few' would imply a positive number.

10. Which of the following is a Subordinating Conjunction?

- A. And B. But C. Because D. Or

Answer: C — 'Because' introduces a dependent clause (reason), making it subordinating. The others are coordinating conjunctions.

11. Fill in the blank with the correct article: 'He is ____ honour to his profession.'

- A. a B. an C. the D. no article

Answer: B — The word 'honour' begins with a vowel sound (O-nour, 'h' is silent). Therefore, it takes 'an'.

12. In the sentence 'Walking is good for health', the word 'Walking' is a:

- A. Participle B. Infinitive C. Gerund D. Verb

Answer: C — 'Walking' ends in -ing and functions as the Subject of the sentence (Noun). Therefore, it is a Gerund (Verbal Noun).

13. Choose the correct past participle of the verb 'Lie' (to recline).

- A. Laid B. Lied C. Lain D. Lay

Answer: C — For 'Lie' (recline): Present=Lie, Past=Lay, Past Participle=Lain.
(Confusing with Lie/Lied/Lied (untruth) and Lay/Laid/Laid (put)).

14. Which part of speech is the word 'since' in: 'I have not seen him **since**.'

- A. Preposition B. Conjunction C. Adverb D. Adjective

Answer: C — Here, 'since' modifies the verb 'seen' and stands alone without an object or a following clause. It functions as an Adverb of Time.

15. Identify the correct plural form of 'Crisis'.

- A. Criseses B. Crisese C. Crises D. Crisis

Answer: C — Words ending in 'is' of Greek origin typically change 'is' to 'es' in plural.
Crisis -> Crises.

Short Answer Questions

1. Differentiate between a 'Gerund' and a 'Present Participle' with examples. (5 Marks) Key Points:

- Both end in -ing.
- Gerund functions as a Noun (Subject/Object). Example: 'Smoking is injurious.'
- Present Participle functions as an Adjective or forms continuous tenses. Example: 'I saw a smoking gun.'
- Gerund = Verbal Noun; Participle = Verbal Adjective.

2. Explain the difference between 'Older' and 'Elder' with suitable examples. (5 Marks) Key Points:

- Elder/Eldest: Used only for persons, specifically members of the same family. Never followed by 'than'. Example: 'He is my elder brother.'

- Older/Oldest: Used for both persons and things. Followed by 'than'. Example: 'He is older than I am.' or 'This temple is older than that one.'

3. What are 'Verbs of Incomplete Predication'? Give two examples. (5 Marks) Key Points:

- Intransitive verbs that do not make complete sense on their own.
- They require a 'Complement' to complete the predicate.
- Example 1: 'The baby looks...' (incomplete) -> 'The baby looks happy.' (happy = complement).
- Example 2: 'He became...' (incomplete) -> 'He became a doctor.' (doctor = complement).

4. Discuss the position of the adverb 'Only' in a sentence and how it affects meaning. (5 Marks) Key Points:

- Rule: 'Only' should be placed immediately before the word it modifies.
- Shift in placement changes meaning completely.
- Example 1: 'Only I saw him' (No one else saw him).
- Example 2: 'I saw only him' (I saw no one else).
- Example 3: 'I only saw him' (I didn't speak to him, just saw).

5. Explain the use of the definite article 'The' before Proper Nouns with exceptions. (5 Marks) Key Points:

- General Rule: 'The' is not used before proper nouns (names of people/cities).
- Exception 1: Rivers, Seas, Oceans (The Nile, The Arabian Sea).
- Exception 2: Mountain ranges (The Himalayas) but not single peaks (Everest).
- Exception 3: When a person is compared to a famous figure (He is the Newton of this age).
- Exception 4: Plural names of countries (The USA, The Netherlands).