

Subject : English
First Class
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Parts of Speech

“Parts of speech” are the basic types of words that English has. It is important to be able to recognize and identify the different types of words in English. This helps you to analyze sentences and understand them.

1- Noun

A noun is a name of a person, place, thing, animal, idea, or activity.

The simple definition is: **a person, place or thing**. Here are some examples:

- **person:** man, woman, teacher, John, Mary
- **place:** home, office, town, countryside, Iraq
- **thing:** table, car, banana, money, music, love, dog

Exercise:

Directions: Underline the nouns in each of the following sentences:

- This is my dog.
- He lives in my house.
- We live in London.
- Sarah and Mona share one room.

2- Verb

A verb is a word that expresses action or existence.

The verb is king in English. The shortest sentence contains a verb. You can make a one-word sentence with a verb, for example: "**Stop!**" You cannot make a one-word sentence with any other type of word.

Verbs are sometimes described as "action words". This is partly true. Many verbs give the idea of action, of "doing" something. For example, words like *run*, *fight*, *do* and *work* all convey action.

But some verbs do not give the idea of action; they give the idea of existence, of state, of "being". For example, verbs like *be*, *exist*, *seem* and *belong* all convey state.

A verb always has a subject. (In the sentence "John speaks English", *John* is the subject and *speaks* is the verb.) In simple terms, therefore, we can say that verbs are words that tell us what a subject **does** or **is**; they describe:

- **action** (Adam plays football.)
- **state** (Suha seems kind.)

Note all verbs change in form. For example, the verb *to work* has five forms:

- *to work*, *work*, *works*, *worked*, *working*

Exercise:

Directions: Underline the verbs in each of the following sentences:

- English Club is a web site.
- He goes to his hospital by car.
- They can help you.
- She wrote seven books.

3- Adjective

is a word that tells us more about a *noun*. It "describes" or "modifies" a *noun* (The **big** dog was **hungry**).

An adjective often comes BEFORE a noun:

- a **green** car

- a **dark** sky
- an **interesting** story

And sometimes an adjective comes AFTER a verb:

- My car is **green**.
- The sky became **dark**.
- His story seemed **interesting**.

Exercise:

Directions: Underline the adjectives in each of the following sentences:

- Some of food was hot.
- She was tall while her brother was short.
- Ali is not so clever as Ahmed.
- He was stronger in the youth.

4- Pronoun

Pronouns are small words that take the place of a noun. We can use a pronoun instead of a noun. Pronouns are words like: **he, you, ours, themselves, some, each...** If we didn't have pronouns, we would have to repeat a lot of nouns. We would have to say things like:

- Do you like the manager? I don't like the manager. The manager's not friendly.

With pronouns, we can say:

- Do you like the manager? I don't like **him**. **He**'s not friendly.

Exercise:

Directions: Underline the pronouns in each of the following sentences:

- I like you more than she.
- He blames me for his failure.

- It's five o'clock.
- We like music, although we don't play the piano.

5- Adverb

An **adverb** is a word that tells us more about a *verb*. It "qualifies" or "modifies" a *verb* (The man *ran* **quickly**). In the following examples, the adverb is

- John *speaks* **loudly**. (How does John speak?)
- **Afterwards** she *smoked* a cigarette. (When did she smoke?)
- Mary *lives* **locally**. (Where does Mary live?)

Exercise:

Directions: Underline the adverbs in each of the following sentences:

- He ran quickly.
- They certainly worked hard.
- She opened the door slowly.
- When he is very hungry, he eats really quickly.

6- Determiner

They are words like ***the, an, this, some, either, my*** or ***whose***.

Determiners include the following common types:

Articles: *a/an, the*

Demonstratives: *this, that, these, those*

Possessives: *my, your, his, her, its, our, their, x's* (possessive 's)

Quantifiers: *(a) few, fewer, (a) little, many, much, more, most, some, any*, etc.

Numbers: *one, two, three*, etc.

Look at these example noun phrases. The first word in each noun phrase is a determiner:

- *the* dog
- *those* people
- *some* brown rice
- *either* side of the road
- *seven* pink elephants
- *your* oldest child
- *which* car

Exercise:

Directions: Underline the determiners each of the following sentences:

- I have two dogs and some rabbits.
- He drank a little milk.
- She ate a few cakes.
- Ali is an engineer.

7- Preposition

The name *preposition* (pre + position) means "place BEFORE".

A **preposition** typically comes BEFORE **another word**—usually a noun phrase. It tells us about the relationship between the noun phrase and another part of the sentence. Some very common prepositions are: *in, of, on, for, with, at, by*. Look at these example sentences:

- The book is **on the round table**. (relationship in space)
- We will meet **in November**. (relationship in time)
- I sent the information **by email**. (relationship of method)

Exercise:

Directions: Underline the prepositions each of the following sentences:

- We went to school on Monday.
- She was angry with her friend.
- The cat played in the box.
- You should be at the station by six o'clock.

8- Conjunction

A conjunction is a word that connects two parts of a sentence. The very common word **and** is a conjunction. Look at how it joins these words, phrases and clauses:

- bread **and** butter (joins two words)
- up the stairs **and** along the corridor (joins two phrases)
- Ali likes tea **and** Ahmed likes coffee (joins two clauses)

Here are some other common conjunctions:

- *and, but, or, nor, for, yet, so*
- *although, because, since, unless*

Exercise:

Directions: Underline the conjunctions each of the following sentences:

- Ahmed and Layla went up the hill.
- The water was warm, but I didn't go swimming.
- I went swimming although it was cold.
- He went home because he was tired.

9- Interjection

Interjections are short exclamations like **Oh!**, **Ah!** They have no real grammatical value but we use them quite often, usually more in speaking than in writing.

When interjections are inserted into a sentence, they have no grammatical connection to the sentence.

An interjection is sometimes followed by an exclamation mark (!) when written.

Exercise:

Directions: Underline the interjections each of the following sentences:

- Ah! There he is.
- Oh! I thought you would be late.