Study unit 4

English language words

A Parts of speech



"I have a brown leather chair by the window, and I often sit there in the morning to listen to music."

In the sentence above, *I* is a **pronoun**; *chair, window, morning* and *music* are all **nouns**; *have, sit* and *listen* are **verbs**; *brown* and *leather* are **adjectives**; *often* is an **adverb;** *by* and *to* are **prepositions;** *the* is a **definite article**; *a* is an **indefinite article;** *and* is a **conjunction** or **link word**.

Here are two more examples:

"We saw an elephant at the zoo yesterday."
Elephant and *zoo* are nouns; *saw* is a verb; *at* is a preposition; *an* is an indefinite article; *the* is a definite article.

"It was a cold night, so I walked quickly."
Was and *walked* are verbs; *cold* is an adjective; *night* is a noun; *quickly* is an adverb; *so* is a link word.

B Grammar

When you are learning vocabulary, you need to know certain things about different words; for example, if nouns are **countable**, e.g. *books, apples, chairs*; or **uncountable**, e.g. *information* (NOT ~~informations~~), *advice* (NOT ~~advices~~). (See Unit 86.)
With verbs, you need to know if they are **regular**, e.g. *work, live,* etc; or **irregular,** e.g. *go/went, take/took*. You will also need to learn the grammar of **phrasal verbs**, e.g. *take something off, wake up*. (See Units 79–80.)
You also need to learn certain groups of words as **phrases,** e.g. *at the moment, never mind, see you later*. (See Units 75–6.)

C Word building

In the word *uncomfortable, un-* is a **prefix,** and *-able* is a **suffix**. Other common prefixes include *in-* and *dis-*, e.g. *incorrect* and *dislike*. Common suffixes include *-ment* and *-ive*, e.g. *improvement* and *attractive*. (See Units 70–72.)

D Pronunciation

Dictionaries show the pronunciation of a word using **phonemic symbols**, e.g. *book* /bʊk/, *before* /bɪ'fɔ:/, *cinema* /'sɪnəmə/.
Every word has one or more **syllables**, e.g. *book* has one syllable, *before* has two syllables, *cinema* has three syllables.
It is important to know which syllable to **stress**, e.g. on before it is the second syllable (be'fore), on *cinema* it is the first syllable ('cinema). The vertical mark ' shows where the stressed syllable begins.

E Punctuation

Every sentence must begin with a **capital letter** and end with a **full stop**. Some sentences have a **comma**, which often shows a **pause** [when you stop reading or speaking for a short time] in a long sentence. Did you also know that a question must end with a **question mark**?

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Exercises

4.1 **Put the words into the correct columns.**

~~noun~~	comma	phonemic symbol	adverb	stress
question mark	syllable	preposition	full stop	adjective

parts of speech	punctuation	pronunciation
noun		

4.2 **There is one word missing in each line of the text. Where does the missing word go? What could it be? What part of speech is it?**

Last year I went to for my holiday. I spent the first week Seville staying with a couple of friends, and then I a train to Barcelona, where I spent another ten days. It is beautiful city and I had a marvellous time. I stayed in a very hotel right in the centre, but I didn't mind spending a lot money because it was a wonderful and it was very convenient. My brother was the person who recommended it; he goes Spain a lot and he stays anywhere else. I may go back next year if have enough time.

1 *Spain (noun)*
2 .....
3 .....
4 .....
5 .....
6 .....
7 .....
8 .....
9 .....
10 .....

4.3 **Answer the questions.**

1 What type of verb is ***break***? *an irregular verb*
2 What does a sentence begin with? .....
3 What do you put at the end of every sentence? .....
4 What's missing here. .....
5 What shows you there is a pause in the middle of a long sentence? .....
6 What type of noun is ***butter***? .....
7 What type of verbs are ***pick somebody up*** and ***grow up***? .....
8 What are ***full stop*** and ***comma*** examples of? .....
9 How do dictionaries show the pronunciation of a word? .....
10 Is the 'a' in ***phrase*** pronounced the same as ***can, can't*** or ***late***? .....

4.4 **Mark the stress on each word. How many syllables are there?**

'English 2	informal	opposite	syllable
decide	adjective	education	pronunciation

4.5 **Look at these words and answer the questions.**

cheap	dangerous	kind	lucky

1 What part of speech are these words? *adjectives*
2 Can you change the first two words into adverbs? ....
3 Is the pronunciation of *kind* like *wind* (noun) or *find* (verb)? .....
4 What prefix do you need to form the opposite of the last two words? .....
5 What suffix makes a noun from *kind?* .....

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