



## Parts of Speech

### What are parts of speech?

They are eight categories of words defined in terms of their purpose, place, meaning, and use within sentences. The categories are: nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.

Part of Speech	Definition	Examples
<b>Nouns</b>	Names persons, places, things, ideas, or qualities.	teacher, Albany, basketball, proposal, pride
<b>Pronouns</b>	Words that replace a noun that has already been mentioned.	I, you, him, her, me, this, that, they, which, she, he
<b>Verbs</b>	Words that convey action, a state of being, or existence.	walk, go, sing, are, seem, sleep
<b>Adjectives</b>	Words that describe nouns and pronouns.	beautiful, green, angry, necessary
<b>Adverbs</b>	Words that modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. They answer the questions: "When?", "Where?", "Why?", "How?", "How much?", and "In what way?"	gracefully, very, too, loudly, finally
<b>Prepositions</b>	Words that link nouns or pronouns to other words within a sentence	on, in, over, under, within
<b>Conjunctions</b>	Words that link other words, phrases, or clauses in a sentence.	
<b>a. Coordinating Conjunctions</b>	Words that link independent clauses.	for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so
<b>b. Subordinating Conjunctions</b>	Words that link dependent clauses with independent clauses.	although, because, whether, while
<b>Interjections</b>	Words that are used as exclamations or to express feeling.	Hey! Oh! Darn! Wow!

## Parts of Sentences

### What are the parts of sentences?

They are categories of words or groups of words that make up a sentence. These categories are: subjects, predicates, objects, complements, phrases, and clauses.

Part of Sentence	Definition	Examples
<b>Subject</b>	Word or word group in a sentence that performs the action expressed in the predicate.	The <u>teacher</u> grades fairly.
<b>Predicate</b>	Word or word group that expresses a certain action or state of being.	The students <u>worked very hard on their papers</u> .
<b>Object</b>	Nouns or pronouns that receive the action or complete the meaning of a verb.	
<b>a. Direct Objects</b>	Receive the action or complete the meaning of a verb and answer the questions: "What?" or "Whom?"	The professor wrote a <u>book</u> about the Civil War.  (i.e. wrote <i>what</i> ? Wrote a <i>book</i> ).
<b>b. Indirect Objects</b>	Words that follow transitive verbs and come before direct objects. They answer the questions: "To what?", "For whom?", or "To whom?"	The tutor gave <u>me</u> feedback that was helpful.  (i.e. gave feedback to <i>whom</i> ? Gave <i>me</i> feedback).
<b>c. Object of Prepositions</b>	Nouns or pronouns that follow the preposition.	The young boy ran in the <u>hall</u> .  ( <i>in</i> is the preposition)
<b>Complements</b>	Word or word group that completes the meaning of a subject, object, or verb.	
<b>a. Subject Complements</b>	Subject modifiers that follow linking verbs. As nouns, they are known as predicate nouns. As adjectives, they are known as predicate adjectives.	She is an <u>engineer</u> . (predicate noun)  He was <u>discouraged</u> . (predicate adjective)
<b>b. Object Complements</b>	Modify or refer to the direct object.	The town pronounced John a <u>hero</u> .
<b>c. Verb Complements</b>	The direct or indirect objects of a verb.	Tutoring gives <u>students time</u> to reflect on their own work. ( <b>Students</b> is the indirect object and <b>time</b> is the direct object of the verb "gives.")

<b>Phrases</b>	Group of related words without subjects or predicates.	
<b>a. Prepositional Phrases</b>	This consists of a preposition and an object, and is usually a modifier.	The animals slept <u>in the barn</u> .
<b>b. Verb Phrases</b>	Phrases that consist of a verb and other words in the predicate of a sentence.	Joan and Ken <u>adopted a baby from Russia</u> .
<b>c. Verbal Phrases</b>	Phrases formed from a verbal (a word originating from a verb).	
<b>i. Infinitive phrases</b>	Phrases consisting of infinitives and objects, plus their modifiers.	She seemed <u>to enjoy the movie</u> the teacher played in class.  ( <i>to enjoy</i> is the infinitive)
<b>ii. Participle phrases</b>	Phrases consisting of participles, their objects, and modifiers. The phrases act as adjectives.	I noticed the students <u>pretending to do their homework</u> were all in Mr. Smith's class.  ( <i>pretending</i> is the participle)
<b>iii. Gerund phrases</b>	Phrases consisting of gerunds, their objects, and modifiers. The phrases act as nouns.	<u>Biking on a busy street</u> can be dangerous.  ( <i>Biking</i> is the gerund)
<b>Clauses</b>	Related words containing subjects and predicates that are either sentences or parts of sentences.	
<b>a. Main (independent) clauses</b>	Clauses that are able to stand alone in a sentence.	The student completed his paper on time.
<b>b. Subordinate (dependent) clauses</b>	Clauses that can't stand alone in a sentence.	The student completed his paper on time <u>because he started it early</u> .

The following resources were consulted in the design of this handout:

Cogdill, Sharon and Judith Kilborn. "Parts of Speech and Parts of a Sentence." *Literacy Education Online*. October 5, 1999. The Write Place, St. Cloud State University. 17 October 2000. <http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/grammar/grammarcondensed.html> .

Harris, Muriel. *Prentice Hall Reference Guide to Grammar and Usage*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2006.

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