

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
Nouns	Names persons, places, things, ideas, or qualities.	teacher, Albany, basketball, proposal, pride
Pronouns	Words that replace a noun that has already been mentioned.	I, you, him, her, me, this, that, they, which, she, he
Verbs	Words that convey action, a state of being, or existence.	walk, go, sing, are, seem, sleep
Adjectives	Words that describe nouns and pronouns.	beautiful, green, angry, necessary
Adverbs	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
Prepositions	Words that link nouns or pronouns to other words within a sentence	on, in, over, under, within...
Conjunctions	Words that link other words, phrases, or clauses in a sentence.	
a. Coordinating Conjunctions	Words that link independent clauses.	for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so
b. Subordinating Conjunctions	Words that link dependent clauses with independent clauses.	although, because, whether, while
Interjections	Words that are used as exclamations or to express feeling.	Hey! Oh! Darn! Wow!

Exercise: Identify the underlined words as noun (n), pronoun (pn), verb (v), adjective (adj), adverb (adv), preposition (p), conjunction (c) or interjection (i)

a. He established this record by lifting 1175 pounds.

1

b. The records indicate that the first fight with boxing gloves was fought in 1818 in France.

2

3

4

c. He had so much to do that he went home early.

5

6

7

d. "Ordinarily, I would not leave so soon, but I have so much to do," he told his host.

8

9

10

e. The understanding was between the guest and his host.

11

12

f. Janet and Joan are twins, but they are different in many ways.

13

14

g. Wow! I never knew that. Are you serious?

15

h. There are sixty-four mountain peaks in the United States over 14, 000 feet high.

16

17

i. This extremely hot wind is a menace to life.

18

19

j. Oh, did I do that?

20

ANSWER KEY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
v	v	adj	p	pn	v	adv	adv	c	pn

11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
n	n	c	p	i	p	p	adv	adj	i