



Faculty of letters and languages

French department

Module: English

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1st year students

Parts Of Speech:

Every word in English can be classified as one of eight parts of speech. The term part of speech refers to the role a word plays in a sentence. And like in any workplace or on any TV show with an ensemble cast, these roles were designed to work together.

1. Nouns

A noun is a word that names a person, place, concept, or object. Basically, anything that names a “thing” is a noun, whether you’re talking about a **basketball court**, **San Francisco**, **Cleopatra**, or **self-preservation**.

Nouns fall into two categories: **common nouns** and **proper nouns**. Common nouns are general names for things, like **planets** and **game shows**. Proper nouns are names or titles for specific things, like **Jupiter** and **Jeopardy**!

2. Pronouns

Pronouns are words you substitute for specific nouns when the reader or listener already knows which specific noun you’re referring to.

You might say, “Jennifer was supposed to be here at eight,” then follow it with “**She**’s always late; next time **I**’ll tell **her** to be here a half hour earlier.”

Instead of saying Jennifer’s name three times in a row, you substituted she and her, and your sentences remained grammatically correct.

3. Adjectives

Adjectives are the words that describe nouns. Think about your favorite movie. How would you describe it to a friend who’s never seen it?

You might say the movie was **funny**, **engaging**, **well-written**, or **suspenseful**. When you’re describing the movie with these words, you’re using adjectives. An adjective can go right before the noun it’s describing (“I have a **black** dog”), but it doesn’t have to. Sometimes, adjectives are at the end of a sentence (“My dog is **black**”).

4. Verbs

Go! **Be** amazing! **Run** as fast as you can! **Win** the race! **Congratulate** every participant who **put** in the work and **competed**!

Those bolded words are verbs. Verbs are words that describe specific actions, like **running**, **winning**, and **being amazing**.

Not all verbs refer to literal actions, though. Verbs that refer to feelings or states of being, like **to love** and **to be**, are known as **nonaction verbs**. Conversely, the verbs that do refer to literal actions are known as **action verbs** like: **sing**, **jump**, **teach**, **run** ...etc

5. Adverbs

An adverb is a word that describes an adjective, a verb, or another adverb.

I entered the room **quietly**. (**Quietly is describing how you entered (verb) the room.**)

A cheetah is **always** faster than a lion.

(**Always is describing how frequently a cheetah is faster (adjective) than a lion**)

6. Prepositions

Prepositions tell you the relationships between other words in a sentence.

You might say, “I left my bike leaning **against** the garage.” In this sentence, against is the preposition because it tells us where you left your bike.

Here’s another example: “She put the pizza **in** the oven.” Without the preposition in, we don’t know where the pizza is.

Prepositions in English

10 example prepositional phrases:

- At home
- In the morning
- On Monday
- For dinner
- Above the horizon
- Below the surface
- To school
- From New York
- Around the corner
- Behind the fence

10 common prepositions of place:

- In
- On
- At
- By
- Near
- Between
- Behind
- Above
- Below
- Beside

10 common prepositions of time:

- For
- Before
- After
- During
- Until
- Since
- From
- To
- Throughout
- Within

10 common prepositions of movement:

- To
- From
- Into
- Through
- Along
- Across
- Onto
- Off
- Over
- Up

7. Conjunctions (For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So)

Conjunctions make it possible to build complex sentences that express multiple ideas.

“I like marinara sauce. I like alfredo sauce. I don’t like puttanesca sauce.” Each of these three sentences expresses a clear idea. There’s nothing wrong with listing your preferences like this, but it’s not the most efficient way to do it.

Consider instead: “I like marinara sauce **and** alfredo sauce, **but** I don’t like puttanesca sauce.

In this sentence, **and** and **but** are the two conjunctions that link your ideas together.

8. Articles: (A, An, The)

A pear. **The** brick house. **An** exciting experience. These bolded words are known as articles. Articles come in two flavors: definite articles and indefinite articles. And similarly to the two types of nouns, the type of article you use depends on how specific you need to be about the thing you’re discussing.

A definite article **The** describes one specific noun.

Did you buy the car?

From the above sentence, we understand that the speaker is referring to a specific previously discussed car.

Now swap in an indefinite article:

Did you buy a car?

See how the implication that you’re referring back to something specific is gone, and you’re asking a more general question?