

Democratic Republic of Algeria
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
University of Béjaïa
Faculty of Letters and Languages
Department of French
Second Year
Group 1
Miss Mezhoud

I/ 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.

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 planet and game show. 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.

Pronouns can do all of the jobs that nouns do and many of them are shorter and more versatile. Pronouns let us say things like I am proud of myself or It is time to ask somebody for help. Pronouns are a major part of speech and correctly using them will drastically improve your speech and writing.

Generally speaking, pronouns allow us to shorten our sentences and make them sound less repetitive.

We use a bunch of different pronouns in our writing and in speech.

Types of pronouns:

There are many different types of pronouns that we use in writing and speech. For now, we will briefly look at each of these different types.

Possessive pronouns:

A possessive pronoun is a pronoun that expresses possession, ownership, origin, relationship, etc.

Possessive pronoun examples:

mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs

Possessive pronouns used in sentences:

That toy on the shelf is **mine**.

All of the houses in our neighborhood look the same, but **ours** is the only one with a satellite dish.

Wendy and Ronald separated the french fries into two piles: the left one was **hers** and the right one was **his**.

Personal pronouns

Personal pronouns are pronouns that we use to refer to people and, sometimes, animals.

The pronouns it, they, and them can also apply to objects.

Personal pronoun examples:

I, you, she, he, it, we, they, me, us, them

Personal pronouns used in sentences:

I am afraid of mice.

The toaster gets really hot when **it** heats bread.

My cats are friendly, so **you** can safely pet them.

Relative pronouns:

Relative pronouns connect **dependent clauses** to **independent clauses**.

Relative pronoun examples:

who, whom, which, what, that

Relative pronouns used in sentences:

I need to find a person **who** can read Swedish.

She doesn't want to eat a meal **that** is too spicy.

This book, **which** ends on a cliffhanger, is really exciting.

Reflexive pronouns:

A reflexive pronoun is a pronoun used as an object of a verb that refers to the same person or thing as the subject of the verb.

Reflexive pronoun examples:

myself, yourself, itself, herself, himself, ourselves, themselves

Reflexive pronouns used in sentences:

Ken looked at **himself** in the mirror.

I like to cheer **myself** up with desserts.

The silly clowns made fools of **themselves**.

Intensive pronouns:

Intensive pronouns refer back to the subject in order to add emphasis. Intensive pronouns are identical in appearance to reflexive pronouns.

Intensive pronoun examples:

myself, yourself, herself, himself, itself, ourselves, themselves

Intensive pronouns used in sentences:

I built my house **myself**.

The children made the cookies **themselves**.

Often, the stress of giving a speech is worse than the speech **itself**.

Indefinite pronouns:

An indefinite pronoun is a pronoun that doesn't specifically identify who or what it is referring to.

Indefinite pronoun examples:

some, somebody, anyone, anywhere, nothing, everybody

Indefinite pronouns used in sentences:

This note could have been written by **anybody**.

Someone ate my lunch.

The water splashed **everywhere**.

Demonstrative pronouns:

Demonstrative pronouns are used to point to specific things.

Demonstrative pronoun examples:

this, that, these, those

Demonstrative pronouns used in sentences:

This is my favorite shirt.

I don't know what **that** is, but it definitely isn't friendly.

I need you to fix **these**.

Interrogative pronouns:

Interrogative pronouns are pronouns used to ask questions about unknown people or things.

Interrogative pronoun examples:

who, whom, what, which, whose

Interrogative pronouns used in sentences:

Who wrote this letter?

What is an amphibian?

Which is the correct answer?

Reciprocal pronouns:

Reciprocal pronouns express mutual relationships or actions.

Reciprocal pronoun examples:
each other, one another

Reciprocal pronouns used in sentences:
My sister and I love **each other**.
The members of the team support **one another**.
The two fishermen love to compete with **each other**.

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").

Order of Adjectives:

The English language gives its users the liberty to use multiple adjectives to describe everything they can perceive with their five senses. There is, however, a particular order in which these adjectives should be used in a sentence. Let us look at how it works.

The first component that should be placed in a sentence according to the order of adjectives is **the determiner**.

Determiners include possessive adjectives, demonstrative adjectives, demonstrative pronouns and articles. For example: my, his, your, her, their, its, this, that, these, those, a, an and the.

Then comes **the quantity** of the particular object in the second place. For example: two, ten, a dozen, many, much, a few, several, etc.

A person's **opinions** about a particular noun is placed in the third position in a sentence with multiple adjectives. Just keep in mind that opinions can be general or specific. For example: beautiful, tasty, precious, horrible, pretty, elegant, lovely, etc.

The size of the noun comes next. For example: huge, tiny, big, small, medium, long, etc.

The fifth position can be occupied by **the age** of the noun. For example: new, old, ancient, young, etc.

The shape of the noun is what takes the sixth position. For example: square, cubical, round, circular, spherical, cylindrical, triangular, etc.

Colours of nouns take the next position after shapes in a sentence. For example: grey, purple, deep blue, black, etc.

The origin of the noun comes in the eighth position. For example: Indian, Chinese, Spanish, Dutch, English, Sri Lankan, etc.

The ninth position is taken up by **the material** of the noun. For example: silk, cotton, jute, wooden, glass, acrylic, etc.

In the last position, just before the noun, you can write **the purpose** or qualifier of the object. For example: sports (uniform), vending (machine), denim (shirt), jute (saree), painting (brush), etc.

The most important point that you should remember when using multiple adjectives is that the order has to be followed even if all types of adjectives are not used.

For example:

I saw a/ cute/ little/ white cat on the way home.

(Determiner / opinion / size / colour)

Have you seen the / ancient / Portuguese synagogue in Cochin?

(Determiner / Age / Origin)

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.

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.

7 Conjunctions

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 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, like the or this, 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?