

# PARTS OF SPEECH

## Nouns

1. A **singular noun** is a word that names one person, place, thing, or idea: brother, classroom, piglet, and joy. A **plural noun** names more than one person, place, thing, or idea: brothers, classrooms, piglets, and joys.
2. To help you determine whether a word in a sentence is a noun, try adding it to the following sentences. Nouns will fit in at least one of these sentences:  
I know something about \_\_\_\_\_. I know something about a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.  
I know something about **brothers**. I know something about a **classroom**.
3. A **collective noun** names a group. When the collective noun refers to the group as a whole, it is singular. When it refers to the individual group members, the collective noun is plural.  
The class meets two days a week. (singular)  
The board of trustees come from all walks of life. (plural)
4. A **common noun** names a general class of people, places, things, or ideas: soldier, country, month, or theory. A **proper noun** specifies a particular person, place, thing, event, or idea. Proper nouns are always capitalized: **General Schwartzkopf, America, July, or Big Bang**.
5. A **concrete noun** names an object that occupies space or that can be recognized by any of the senses: tuba, music, potato, and aroma. An **abstract noun** names an idea, a quality, or a characteristic: courage, sanity, power, and memory.
6. A **possessive noun** shows possession, ownership, or the relationship between two nouns: Raul's house, the cat's fur, and the girls' soccer ball.

## Pronouns

1. A **pronoun** takes the place of a noun, a group of words acting as a noun, or another pronoun.
2. A **personal pronoun** refers to a specific person or thing. **First person** personal pronouns refer to the speaker, **second person** pronouns refer to the one spoken to, and **third person** pronouns refer to the one spoken about.

	Nominative Case	Possessive Case	Objective Case
First Person, Singular	I	my, mine	me
First Person, Plural	we	our, ours	us
Second Person, Singular	you	your, yours	you
Second Person, Plural	you	your, yours	you
Third Person, Singular	he, she, it	his, her, hers, its	him, her, it
Third Person, Plural	they	their, theirs	them

3. A **reflexive pronoun** refers to the subject of the sentence. An **intensive pronoun** adds emphasis to a noun or another pronoun. A **demonstrative pronoun** points out specific persons, places, things, or ideas.  
Reflexive: **They** psyched **themselves** up for the football game.  
Intensive: **Freddie himself** asked Julie out.  
Demonstrative: **That** is a good idea! **Those** are my friends.
4. An **interrogative pronoun** is used to form questions. A **relative pronoun** is used to introduce a subordinate clause. An **indefinite pronoun** refers to persons, places, or things in a more general way than a noun does.  
Interrogative: **Which** is your choice? With **whom** were you playing video games?

Relative: The cake **that** we baked was delicious.  
 Indefinite: **Everyone** has already voted. **No one** should enter without knocking.

5. The **antecedent** of a pronoun is the word or group of words referred to by the pronoun.  
**Ben** rode **his** bike to school. (*Ben* is the antecedent of *his*.)

## Verbs

1. A **verb** is a word that expresses action or a state of being and is necessary to make a statement.  
 Most verbs will fit one or more of these sentences:

We \_\_\_\_\_. We \_\_\_\_\_ loyal. We \_\_\_\_\_ it. It \_\_\_\_\_.  
 We **sleep**. We **remain** loyal. We **love** it! It **snowed**.

2. An **action verb** tells what someone or something does. The two types of action verbs are transitive and intransitive. A **transitive verb** is followed by a word or words that answer the question *what?* or *whom?* An **intransitive verb** is not followed by a word that answers *what?* or *whom?*

Transitive: Children **trust** their parents.

The puppy **carried** the bone away.

Intransitive: The team **played** poorly.

The light **burned** brightly.

3. A **linking verb** links, or joins, the subject of a sentence with an adjective, a noun, or a pronoun.  
 The concert **was** loud. (adjective) I **am** a good card player. (noun)

4. A **verb phrase** consists of a main verb and all its **auxiliary**, or helping, verbs.  
 My stomach **has been growling** all morning. I **am waiting** for a letter.

5. Verbs have four **principle parts** or forms: base, past, present participle, and past participle.

Base: I eat.

Present Participle: I am eating.

Past: I ate.

Past Participle: I have eaten.

6. The principle parts are used to form six verb tenses. The **tense** of a verb expresses time.

### Simple Tenses

Present Tense: She **eats**. (present or habitual action)

Past Tense: She **ate**. (action completed in the past)

Future Tense: She **will eat**. (action to be done in the future)

### Perfect Tenses

Present Perfect Tense: She **has eaten**. (action done at some indefinite time or still in effect)

Past Perfect Tense: She **had eaten**. (action completed before some other past action)

Future Perfect Tense: She **will have eaten**. (action to be completed before some future time)

7. **Irregular verbs** form their past and past participle without adding *-ed* to the base form.

### PRINCIPAL PARTS OF IRREGULAR VERBS

Base Form	Past Form	Past Participle	Base Form	Past Form	Past Participle
be	was, were	been	catch	caught	caught
beat	beat	beaten	choose	chose	chosen
become	became	become	come	came	come
begin	began	begun	do	did	done
bite	bit	bitten or bit	draw	drew	drawn
blow	blew	blown	drink	drank	drunk
break	broke	broken	drive	drove	driven
bring	brought	brought	eat	ate	eaten

Base Form	Past Form	Past Participle	Base Form	Past Form	Past Participle
fall	fell	fallen	run	ran	run
feel	felt	felt	say	said	said
find	found	found	see	saw	seen
fly	flew	flown	set	set	set
freeze	froze	frozen	shrink	shrank <i>or</i> shrunk	shrunk <i>or</i> shrunken
get	got	got <i>or</i> gotten	sing	sang	sung
give	gave	given	sit	sat	sat
go	went	gone	speak	spoke	spoken
grow	grew	grown	spring	sprang <i>or</i> sprung	sprung
hang	hung <i>or</i> hanged	hung <i>or</i> hanged	steal	stole	stolen
have	had	had	swim	swam	swum
know	knew	known	take	took	taken
lay	laid	laid	tear	tore	torn
lead	led	led	tell	told	told
lend	lent	lent	think	thought	thought
lie	lay	lain	throw	threw	thrown
lose	lost	lost	wear	wore	worn
put	put	put	win	won	won
ride	rode	ridden	write	wrote	written
ring	rang	rung			
rise	rose	risen			

8. **Progressive forms** of verbs, combined with a form of *be*, express a continuing action. **Emphatic forms**, combined with a form of *do*, add emphasis or form questions.

Kari **is scratching** the cat.

Loni **has been washing** the walls.

We **do support** our hometown heroes. (present)

He **did want** that dinner. (past)

9. The **voice** of a verb shows whether the subject performs the action or receives the action of the verb. The **active voice** occurs when the subject performs the action. The **passive voice** occurs when the action of the verb is performed on the subject.

The owl **swooped** upon its prey. (active) The ice cream **was scooped** by the cashier. (passive)

10. A verb can express one of three moods. The **indicative mood** makes a statement or asks a question. The **imperative mood** expresses a command or request. The **subjunctive mood** indirectly expresses a demand, recommendation, suggestion, statement of necessity, or a condition contrary to fact.

I **am** overjoyed. (indicative) **Stop** the car. (imperative)

If I **were** angry, I would not have let you in. (subjunctive)

## Adjectives

1. An **adjective** modifies a noun or pronoun by giving a descriptive or specific detail. Adjectives can usually show comparisons. (See Using Modifiers Correctly on pages 9 and 10.)

**cold** winter      **colder** winter      **coldest** winter

2. Most adjectives will fit this sentence:

The \_\_\_\_\_ one looks very \_\_\_\_\_.

The **dusty** one looks very **old**.

3. Articles are the adjectives *a*, *an*, and *the*. Articles do not meet the above test for adjectives.

4. A **proper adjective** is formed from a proper noun and begins with a capital letter.  
Marijka wore a **Ukrainian** costume. He was a **Danish** prince.
5. An adjective used as an **object complement** follows and describes a direct object.  
My aunt considers me **funny**.

## Adverbs

1. An **adverb** modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. Most adverbs can show comparisons. (See Using Modifiers Correctly on pages 9 and 10.)
  - a. Adverbs that tell how, where, when, or to what degree modify verbs or verbals.  
The band stepped **lively**. (how) Maria writes **frequently**. (when)  
Put the piano **here**. (where) We were **thoroughly** entertained. (to what degree)
  - b. Adverbs of degree strengthen or weaken the adjectives or other adverbs that they modify.  
A **very** happy fan cheered. (modifies adjective) She spoke **too** fast. (modifies adverb)
2. Many adverbs fit these sentences:  
She thinks \_\_\_\_\_. She thinks \_\_\_\_\_ fast. She \_\_\_\_\_ thinks fast.  
She thinks **quickly**. She thinks **unusually** fast. She **seldom** thinks fast.

## Prepositions, Conjunctions, and Interjections

1. A **preposition** shows the relationship of a noun or a pronoun to some other word. A **compound preposition** is made up of more than one word.  
The first group **of** students arrived. They skated **in spite of** the cold weather.
2. Some common prepositions include these: *about, above, across, after, against, along, among, around, at, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, besides, between, beyond, but, by, concerning, down, during, except, for, from, into, like, near, of, off, on, out, outside, over, past, round, since, through, till, to, toward, under, underneath, until, up, upon, with, within, without.*
3. A **conjunction** is a word that joins single words or groups of words. A **coordinating conjunction** joins words or groups of words that have equal grammatical weight. **Correlative conjunctions** work in pairs to join words and groups of words of equal weight. A **subordinating conjunction** joins two clauses in such a way as to make one grammatically dependent on the other.  
Coordinating conjunction: He **and** I talked for hours.  
Correlative conjunctions: Russ wants **either** a cat **or** a dog.  
Subordinating conjunction: We ate lunch **when** it was ready.
4. A **conjunctive adverb** clarifies a relationship.  
He did not like cold weather; **nevertheless**, he shoveled the snow.
5. An **interjection** is an unrelated word or phrase that expresses emotion or exclamation.  
**Wow**, that was cool! **Aha!** You fell right into my trap!

## PARTS OF THE SENTENCE

### Subjects and Predicates

1. The **simple subject** is the key noun or pronoun that tells what the sentence is about. A **compound subject** is made up of two or more simple subjects that are joined by a conjunction and have the same verb.  
My **father** snores. My **mother** and I can't sleep.