



Parts of Speech

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In each of the following lessons, read the definition of the part of speech. Check the examples for understanding. Then complete the exercises. The answers are included at the end of this handout. If you do not understand any part of the handout or the answers, please see a tutor in the South Campus Communications Lab, G-219.

I. NOUN

Definition: A noun names something and usually can form a plural (by adding -s or -es) except for non-count nouns such as information or transportation

Persons	George, man, people
Animals	cat, fish, dog
Places	Jacksonville, city, park
Things	paper, spoon, eraser
Ideas	happiness, horror, thought

Exercise:

Directions: Underline the nouns in each of the following sentences:

1. Jason enjoyed the movie about France.
2. The musicians play marching songs.
3. Music lovers thrill to the sound of trumpets.
4. Boys and girls are often eager to listen.
5. The conductor moves his baton vigorously.
6. There is no death penalty for criminals in Puerto Rico.
7. The "Explorer," crammed with scientific instruments, was launched on January 31, 1958.
8. New Mexico was admitted as a state in the twentieth century.
9. Chester Arthur was nominated for vice-president by the Republican Party in 1880.
10. Winston Churchill was the man whose courage led the nation from defeat to victory.

II. PRONOUN

Definition: A pronoun is a word that is used in place of a noun.

Examples: I, it, you, he, she, we, him, them, whom, someone, everyone, none, anybody, that

Exercise:

Directions: Underline the pronouns in each of the following sentences:

1. You and John are the boys who will have to pay for the damage.
2. Mr. Gunsher gave us the record which was just played.
3. She cried loudly, and each of us heard her.
4. They felt flattered by our attention to them.
5. Everyone followed the directions the faculty members had given each of them.
6. She sent them to him as a birthday gift.
7. They collided near the school.
8. Solving the traffic problems taxes the imagination of those who have the responsibility of it.
9. He says anyone who enjoys driving under today's traffic conditions must be crazy.
10. Some take up a hobby because it is fun.

III. ADJECTIVE

Definition: An adjective **modifies the meaning of a noun or pronoun**. An adjective, which may describe or limit a noun or pronoun, answers the following questions:

1. Which one? his daughter that man my dog
2. What kind? dark suit beautiful lady sunny day
3. How many? ten children both people several students

Exercise:

Directions: Underline the adjectives in each of the following sentences.

1. The interior plateau of the Union of South Africa is called its veldt.
2. There are countless millions of gaseous bodies called stars.
3. Baseball, enjoyed by many cheering fans today, was played here and in merry England before 1839.

4. Sir Walter Raleigh was a famous statesman and a bold explorer.
5. His many projects to settle America were unsuccessful.
6. He even made a long voyage to the Hot Lands below the Equator in search of gold.
7. After the death of his beloved queen, he was arrested for being a disloyal citizen.
8. His adventurous career came to an abrupt end when he was executed for piracy in 1618.
9. As college admission standards continue to rise, tension and anxiety build to a ridiculous point in college-preparatory seniors.
10. Twenty-five students attended reading class during the first term.

IV. VERBS

Definition:

Often the **verb is the action word** in the sentence. It defines the action.

The verb **be** and its forms (was, were, are, is, am) do not really show action but a state of being or relationship between the subject and what follows the verb **be** (Lab tutors **are** helpful).

The verb may consist of one word, or the main verb may contain one or more helping words. Some helping words **are has, am, were, might, should, must, are, be . . .**

Examples:

The man screamed loudly. (What did the man do? He screamed.)

All the men have been screaming. (What were the men doing? They have been screaming.)

All the men were old. (The adjective old is linked to the subject of men.)

Exercises:

Directions: Underline the verb (or verb phrase) in the following sentences.

1. A micron is a unit of length.
2. There are over a thousand millimeters in a yard.
3. Freva was the Saxon Goddess of Beauty.
4. Gold melts at 1,063 degrees Centigrade.
5. Egypt measures about one and one-half the size of Texas.
6. The George Washington Bridge is located between New York and New Jersey.
7. It can be seen spanning the might Hudson River.
8. Automobiles have been crossing it since 1931.

9. It is ranked as the second largest bridge in the world.
10. It is constantly being painted.
11. West Point, which is located in the Hudson Valley, houses the United States Military Academy.
12. It is over 150 years old since it was established in 1802.
13. It was established by an Act of Congress and opened with twelve cadets.
14. Many visitors go to West Point and watch the dress parade on Saturdays.
15. The officers trained there are taught to live democratically in order that they may better protect our democratic way of life.

V. ADVERBS

Definition: An adverb is a word that is used to modify or limit the meaning of a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

Examples: 1. Go slowly. Look carefully. Walk there. (The underlined words modify the verbs.)

2. The answer is not too accurate. (The underlined word modifies the adjective.)

3. Watch very closely. (The underlined word modifies the adverb.)

Exercise:

Directions: Underline the adverbs in the following sentences.

1. The name "sirocco" is often given to a warm wind.
2. It is usually given to a warm wind blowing over large areas of hot, dry land.
3. Such winds now occur over the area of our Great Plains.
4. Originally "sirocco" was a name used by people of North Africa.
5. It was not used for ordinary wind.
6. It described the very hot, dusty wind that comes from the South.
7. It comes quickly from the scorching Sahara Desert.
8. This extremely hot wind is a menace to life.
9. Its coming always fills the natives with fear.
10. The biting bits of sand dig deeply into the eyes and skin of those caught in its fury.

VI. PREPOSITION

Definition: A preposition is a word that shows the relation between two or more things. Some prepositions are *to, at, by, on, in, into* Prepositions are positional words. Think about these phrases:

The knife is on the table.

under the table.

beside the table.

The knife went into the table.

A preposition also has an **object**, a noun or a pronoun.

Exercise:

1. There are sixty-four mountain peaks in the United States over 14, 000 feet high.
2. The state of Colorado claims forty-eight of these tall mountains.
3. The highest of them all, Mount Whitney, is in California.
4. Mount Whitney rises to the height of 14,495 feet.
5. Colorado claims the possession of the second highest mountain.
6. Mount Elbert is located in Colorado.
7. It reaches the height of 14,431.
8. Have you ever had the desire to climb to the top of one of these peaks.
9. Mount Evans in Colorado has an automobile road which you can take to the top.
10. Riding in a car is the easiest way of reaching the summit of one of these awesome immensities.

VII. CONJUNCTION

Definition: A conjunction is a word that joins words, groups of words, or complete sentences of equal value.

A. Coordinating conjunctions join words or groups of words of equal value.

- EXAMPLES:
1. Lucy and Ed left the door open.
 2. He is going to school, but I am going to work.
 3. He is going to school; however, I am going to work.

B. Subordinating conjunctions are words that make one group of words (dependent clause) dependent upon another group of words (independent clause). The group of words beginning with a subordinating conjunction would be a sentence fragment by itself.

EXAMPLES: 1. When I came in, he left. Fragment: When I came in.

 2. He left because he was late. Fragment: Because he was late.

Exercise:

Directions: Underline the conjunctions in the following sentences.

1. Janet and Joan are twins, but they are different in many ways.
2. While basalt is one of the heaviest rocks, pumice floats in water.
3. If you have used a piece of pumice stone to rid your fingers of grime, you know of its other qualities.
4. Pumice forms when boiling rock pours out of a fuming volcano.
5. It is a mixture of basalt and air bubbles.
6. He had lots to do; therefore, he went home.
7. Although it is spring, the air temperature remains chilly.
8. The time is passing quickly, yet I have not completed the assignment.
9. The names and the numbers are relevant, for they must be used to find the data.
10. It is time for us to locate those passages, so the instructor will know we're serious.

VIII. INTERJECTIONS

Definition: An interjection is a word that expresses strong emotion. Interjections can be followed by a comma or an exclamation point.

EXAMPLES: Wow! I never knew that.

Oh, did I do that?

See a tutor in the Communications Lab for more help on interjections if needed.

IF YOU HAVE CHECKED YOUR WORK AFTER EACH EXERCISE AND FEEL THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THE PARTS OF SPEECH, TURN TO THE NEXT PAGE AND TAKE THE "CHECK UP." AN ADVISER WILL BE HAPPY TO CHECK YOUR WORK.

Overall Check-Up on Parts of Speech

Directions: Identify the underlined words as

noun (n), pronoun (pn), verb (v), adjective (adj), adverb (adv), preposition (p), or conjunction (c).

1. Paul Anderson was proclaimed the world-champion weight lifter.
2. He established this record by lifting 1175 pounds.
3. The records indicate that the first fight with boxing gloves was fought in 1818 in France.
5. He had so much to do that he went home early.
6. Not wanting to be rude, he made his apologies to his host.
7. "Ordinarily, I would not leave so soon, but I have so much to do," he told his host.
8. The understanding was between the guest and his host.
9. In 1876, R. Barnes of Chicago led the National League with an average of .403.
10. In the 1957 World Series, Lew Burdette won three games, two of which were shutouts.

ANSWERS FOR PARTS OF SPEECH EXERCISES

I. Nouns

1. Jason, movie, France
2. musicians, songs
3. lovers, sound, trumpets
4. boys, girls
5. conductor, baton
6. penalty, criminals, Puerto Rico
7. explorer, instruments, January 31, 1958
8. New Mexico, state, Twentieth Century
9. Chester Arthur, vice-president, Republican Party, 1880
10. Winston Churchill, man, courage, nation, defeat, victory

II. Pronouns

1. You, who
2. us, which
3. she, each, us, her
4. They our, them
5. everybody, them
6. she, them, him
7. they
8. those, who it
9. he, anyone, who
10. some, it

III. Adjectives

1. interior, its (a pronoun acting like an adjective)

2. countless, gaseous
3. many, cheering, merry
4. famous, bold
5. his (a pronoun acting like an adjective)
6. long
7. his, beloved, disloyal
8. his, adventurous, abrupt
9. college, admission, ridiculous, college, preparatory
10. twenty-five, reading, first

IV. Verbs

1. is
2. are
3. was
4. melts
5. measures
6. is located
7. can be seen
8. have been crossing
9. is ranked
10. is being painted
11. is located, houses
12. is, was established
13. was established, opened
14. go, watch
15. are taught, may protect

V. Adverbs

1. often
2. usually
3. now
4. originally
5. not
6. very
7. quickly
8. extremely
9. always
10. deeply

VI. Prepositions

1. in, over
2. of, of
3. of, in
4. to, of
5. of
6. in
7. of
8. to, of, of
9. in, to
10. in, of, of , of

VII. Conjunctions

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. and, but | 6. therefore |
| 2. while | 7. although |
| 3. if | 8. yet |
| 4. when | 9. and, for |
| 5. and | 10. so |