

## ***Parts of Speech***

### ***In English***

What are they? How many parts of speech are there in English? What did they do? Understanding them can help you to understand English sentence structure and how English grammar works.

Maybe some say there are 8 parts of speech, but that is wrong. There are 9 parts of speech. In the beginning, we enumerate them and then explain them by themselves.

- 1- Nouns
- 2- Verbs
- 3- Adjectives
- 4- Adverbs
- 5- Pronouns
- 6- Prepositions
- 7- Conjunctions
- 8- Determiners
- 9- Interjections

Let's start to define parts of speech and describe how to use them:

- 1- Nouns (we can abbreviate them in the singular as **n.**) can be **things, animals, people** like doctors, pencils, trees, or cats. Also can be **ideas** or **abstract things** like **happiness, time, money ...etc.** Consider the examples:
  - a. Ali is on holiday.
  - b. Politeness is of good quality.
  
- 2- Verbs (their abbreviation in the singular is **v.**) can be actions like **do, run, fly, or win**. Also, they can describe states like **be, love, believe, understand**. Read the following:
  - a. She washed her clothes yesterday.
  - b. He was studying French.
  - c. The postman had brought letters.

**3-** Adjectives (their abbreviation in the singular is **adj.**) describe nouns. They are words used to qualify a noun or pronoun, e.g. **red, big, metal, beautiful.** Look at the following sentences:

- a. Try to get good books.
- b. He is a brave boy.
- c. They are hard workers.

**4-** Adverbs (we can abbreviate them in the singular as **adv.**) describe verbs; their meaning is how someone does something e.g. **quickly, loudly, angrily, or well.** They can also describe adjectives, other adverbs, or even the whole sentence, e.g. very good (adj.), very slowly (adv.), quite well (adj.), unfortunately (before a sentence). When an adverb describes the whole sentence, it adds information to the sentence, e.g. **Sometimes,** I wish I made different choices in my life. Thus, adverbs can describe adjectives, adverbs, verbs, and the whole sentence. Look at the following sentences:

- a. He runs fast in the race.
- b. They came home late.
- c. We are quite tired.
- d. These apples are rather green.

**5-** Pronouns (we can abbreviate them in the singular as a **pro.**) replace or represent nouns like **I, they, you** which represent different people. They are used instead of nouns, so we can refer to people or things without really naming them. Below is a table showing you types of pronouns in general.

Subjective pronouns	Objective pronouns	Possessive pronouns	Reflexive pronouns
I	me	mine	myself
He	him	his	Himself
She	her	hers	Herself
you	you	yours	Yourself Yourselves
we	us	ours	ourselves
they	them	theirs	themselves
it	it	its	itself

Also, we have:

- 1- Interrogative pronouns: **when, what, how, how, ...etc.**
- 2- Distributive pronouns: **all, both everything, everybody,...**
- 3- Demonstrative pronouns: **this, that, those, these, there, here.**
- 4- Indefinite pronouns: **any, anybody, anywhere, every, ....etc.**

They are used to avoid repeating the same words (nouns), or to refer to something when it is obvious e.g. **How was the weather there?** 'there' refers to a certain place. **Give me two, please.** 'Two' is a pronoun that refers to quantity; it refers to a noun that was already mentioned.

- 6- Prepositions (**prep.** the abbreviation in singular) usually go before a noun or noun phrase. They can do two basic things:
  - 1- they can add an idea of time place or movement, e.g. **on Wednesday, in the corner, towards the door.**
  - 2- They can also connect other words to a noun or a pronoun, e.g., **It depends on the cost**, this prep. connects the verb to the subject (the cost). Sometimes the prep. can link the noun or a pronoun mentioned earlier in the sentence, e.g. **What does it depend on?** Here 'on' links to the pronoun 'what'. Read the following:
    - a. The cat is under the table.
    - b. The girl comes with her brother.
    - c. They sit on the sofa.
- 7- Conjunctions (we can abbreviate them **conj.** in singular) connect two things, whether connecting 1- two words, e.g., **I like cake and ice-cream,** 2- two phrases, e.g. **Do you want to go now or wait till this afternoon,** two clauses, e.g. **Although I've been trying to learn for years, I'm still really bad at drawing.** Another example, **He went to bed because he was sleepy.**

**8-** Determiners (deter.) are words that come before a noun to show how the noun is being used. They go before a noun, such as, (the articles) **a, an, the, or** (demonstrative) **this, that, those, these** which help to specify which noun you're talking about. Also, words like **my, your, his, her** (possessive adjectives) are determiners. Thus, their functions are 1-to specify which noun you are talking about by saying who something belongs to; 2- they also can tell you how many of something they are e.g. **ten bananas, some people, both of my brothers.**

**9-** Interjections (**interj.**) aren't normally part of the sentence because they are different. They are words or phrases which show your feelings: how you feel, e.g. **Wow!, Ah, crap!, No way!**

Now let's practice, can you identify the parts of speech correctly? Look at the following sentences:

1. They told me about it. ( pro. v. pro. prep. pro.)
2. Look in the big cupboard. ( v. prep. deter. Adj. n.)
3. Put it there, but carefully. ( v. pro. pro. conj. adv.)
4. I'm studying here this evening. (pro. v. v. adv. deter. n.)

One last important point you must pay attention to, i.e. many words can be more than part of speech:

- a. I'm sure they'll win the game this weekend. (v.)
- b. We'll be hoping for a win in the big game. (n.)
- c. She likes that red dress. (adj.)
- d. What do you think about this red for the kitchen? (n.)

A word can be more than one part of speech; it depends on its function in the sentence. Another example:

- a. I have a few photos of my grandparents.
- b. Sure, you have a few.
- c. She is studying this evening.

In the first sentence "a few" is a deter. because it adds quantity to the noun "photos". It tells us how many photos you have. While in the second one "a few" is a pro. since we can replace it with a

noun. Finally, you may think that "in" in the last sentence is a preposition; no, it is an adverb, why? Because it means "at home", and adds information to the verb "stay" that shows it is an adverb. Besides, It doesn't go with a noun; there is no noun after it.