

Parts of Speech

In English language there are several parts of speech which put together in order to form a sentence. Without these, the language would never be able to function.

Parts of speech are word categories that are defined by the grammatical roles they play in sentence structures. The categories of words are organized by the grammatical functions and meanings they produce and convey. In the English language, there are about ten common parts of speech. These include **nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections, determiners, and articles.**

A. The Noun (n.)

A noun is a word which gives a name to something. There are various different subcategories of nouns:

1. The Proper Noun

This is used to name a specific item, for example the names of places or people or a movie or song title.

Example: The capital of **Iraq** is **Baghdad**.

2. The Collective Noun

It is used to refer to a group of nouns, for example people or animal groups. Example: The **swarm** of bees were headed straight towards our picnic.

3. The Possessive Noun

It is used to show ownership of something, this is done by adding an (apostrophe) and an (s). Example:

That is **Sarah's** friend.

4. The Common Noun

This is the simplest form of a noun and gives a name to an item. Example: Do you want a **cake**?

B. The Verb (vb.)

A verb is one of the most important parts of speech and is a word which is used to describe an action.

There are three main types of verbs which are:

1. The Action Verb: It does exactly what you might expect, it describes an action.

Example: The man **walked** down the street.

2. The Linking Verb: is used to show a state of being rather than a physical action.

Example: "Sarah **feels** cold", "I **am** very tired".

3. The Modal Verb: is used to „help“ the main verb and can show the speakers thoughts or attitude about what they are saying. (Might, must, could and can are all modal verbs).

Example: I **might** walk to the park this afternoon.

C. The Pronoun (pron.)

A pronoun is one which replaces a noun. There are various different types of pronouns within the English language; each one is used in a different way.

1. **The Reflexive Pronoun:** is used to refer to self, for example myself or yourself.

Example: "Peter always puts **himself** first".

2. **The Indefinite Pronoun:** This type of pronoun is used to refer to a non-specific person or item, you might see words such as anything, few, everyone or all.

Example: "Can you take **all** of these?", "I need to speak to **someone** about this rash on my arm".

3. **The Possessive Pronoun:** is used to show possession or ownership of something.

Example: "Is this **your** bag?", "I have been looking after **his** daughter".

4. **The Relative Pronoun:** is used to introduce an adjective clause. You might recognise these as words such as who, which, that or whose.

Example: This is the woman **who** will be working with you.

D. The Adjective (adj.)

An adjective is a word which describes a noun or pronoun. Example: "The documentary on TV last night was very **interesting**", "The weather is **hot** and **sunny** today".

E. The Adverb (adv.)

An adverb is used to modify, or further explain an adjective, verb or another adverb. They can add more information to a sentence making it clearer and easier for the listener to imagine what is being described in detail. Most of the time, adverbs will end in the letters (-ly) but there are some exceptions to this rule such as the words very and never.

Examples: "This is an **extremely** attractive photograph".

F. The Conjunction (conj.)

A conjunction is used as a way of joining two or more ideas or words together. Most commonly you will see the words (for, and, not, but, or, yet and so) used as a conjunction.

Examples: "I will go to the shop, **but** not before I have had something to eat".

G. The Interjection (interj.)

An interjection could also be thought of as an exclamation. They are used to emotion, reaction or excitement and have no grammatical link to anything else within the sentence they appear.

Examples:

"**Wow!** Did you see how big that bird was?"

"**Oh,** I forgot to tell you that I saw your father last week".

H. Determiners and Articles

They are parts of speech that are used with nouns or noun phrases to clarify them. They are usually placed in front of nouns (or noun phrases) and can help specify their identity, quantity, distance (from the speaker), or specific number (among other things).

Determiners: are parts of speech that are placed in front of nouns to clarify their reference. They include categories such as:

1. **Articles** – a, an, the
2. **Numbers** – two, eight, ninety-nine
3. **Pronouns and possessive determiners** – his, her, its, your, my, their, our
4. **Difference determiners** – other, the other, another
5. **Demonstratives** – these, those, that, this
6. **Quantifiers** – a little, a few, much, many, some, any, enough, most
7. **Distributives** – half, both, every, each, all, neither, either
8. **Pre-determiners** – quite, such, rather, what.

Articles: are a sub-category of determiners that serve as a type of adjective to identify nouns.

They may be:

- **Definitive:** this indicates that the noun's identity is already known to the audience. The word (**the**) would be a definitive article, Example: "I am going to sit in **the** chair".
- **Indefinite:** indicates an unfamiliar noun, or references a noun for the first time, or shows a noun belongs to a certain class of objects. The words (**a**) and (**an**) are considered indefinite articles Example: "I am going to sit in **a** chair."

I. The Preposition (prep.)

A preposition is used in English to show a relationship between two words or phrases. There are five different types of prepositions:

1. Prepositions of time (*in, on, at, ago, before, after, since, for, during, within, ...*)

How to use prepositions of time in, on, at correctly

In

- In + Years
- In + Decades
- In + Weeks
- In + Seasons
- In + Centuries
- In + Periods of time
- In + Holidays

On

- On + Days
- On + Holidays with "day"
- On + Time
- On + Dates
- On + Specific days
- On + Day + Part of day

At

- At + Hours
- At + Holidays without "day"
- At + Parts of the day
- At + Time

2. Prepositions of place (*under, behind, between, in front of, next to, above, below,.....*)

Use Prepositions of Place (in – on – at)

In

- In + Countries In + Cities
- In + Neighborhood In + Enclosed Space

On

- On + Means of transport On + Communications On + Surfaces

AT

- At + Exact Addresses or Intersections At + Specific Locations/ Points

3. Prepositions of movement/ Direction (*up, down, over, onto, into, toward, around, across,... ..*)

4. Prepositions for agent, instruments, devices, machines... (*by, with, on...*)

5. Prepositional phrases (*in time, on time, at the same time, at risk, for ages, by mistakes, for a while, .*)

Sentence Structures

- A sentence refers to a clause, word, phrase, or a group of phrases, words, or clauses that give a complete idea/thought.
- A sentence can give a statement, ask a question, give a command, indicate an exclamation, express a wish or an assertion, and could also show action performance.
- When writing, a sentence always starts with a capital letter and a full-stop, exclamation, or a question mark ends the sentence.

There are four sentence structures:

1. Simple Sentences

These sentences have one clause (the independent clause). The clauses usually express just one idea/ thought. Additionally, these sentences only carry a single verb.

Examples: “The maid is cooking”, “Sam is sleeping”.

2. Compound Sentences

A compound sentence contains at least two independent clauses. These two independent clauses can be combined with a **comma** and a **coordinating conjunction** or with a **semicolon**.

Examples:

- Michael studied at the US **and** Sarah studied in China.
The independent clauses are “Michael studied at the US” and “Sarah studied in China”. These clauses are joined by the conjunction “and”.
- Mary is cooking, but Sam is washing the dishes.
The sentence has two verbs “cooking” and “washing,” hence two clauses. The clauses are joined together by the conjunction “but”

3. Complex Sentences

A complex sentence is a sentence with one independent clause and at least one dependent clause. Additionally, complex sentences have to subordinate conjunctions which indicate a dependent clause, such include, like **because, after, as, although, how, before, since, if, once, then, where, until, whether, that, till, and while.**

Example:

- “I missed my exam because I was late”.

The independent clause is “**I missed my exam,**” whereas the dependent clause is “**because I was late**” and the subordinating conjunction is “**because**”

Notes:

** If a sentence begins with a dependent clause, there should be “comma” after this clause.

Example: “Although she completed her literature review , she still needed to work on her methods section”.

** If the sentence begins with an independent clause, there is no “comma” separating the two clauses.

Example: “I missed my exam because I was late”

4. Complex-compound Sentences

These sentences have multiple clauses, a minimum of two independent/main clauses and a minimum of one dependent clause.

Examples:

- Mary didn’t sit the exam because she came late, so the teacher was angry.

(The independent clauses in this sentence are “Mary didn’t sit the exam” and “The teacher was angry.” On the other hand, the dependent clause is “because she came late”)

- The teacher, who is on duty, is incompetent, but the principal is competent.

(The independent clauses are, “The teacher is incompetent” and “the principal is competent.” the dependent clause is “Who is on duty”) In addition to subordinate conjunctions, dependent clauses can also begin with relative pronouns like (whose, whom, who, which, and that).

