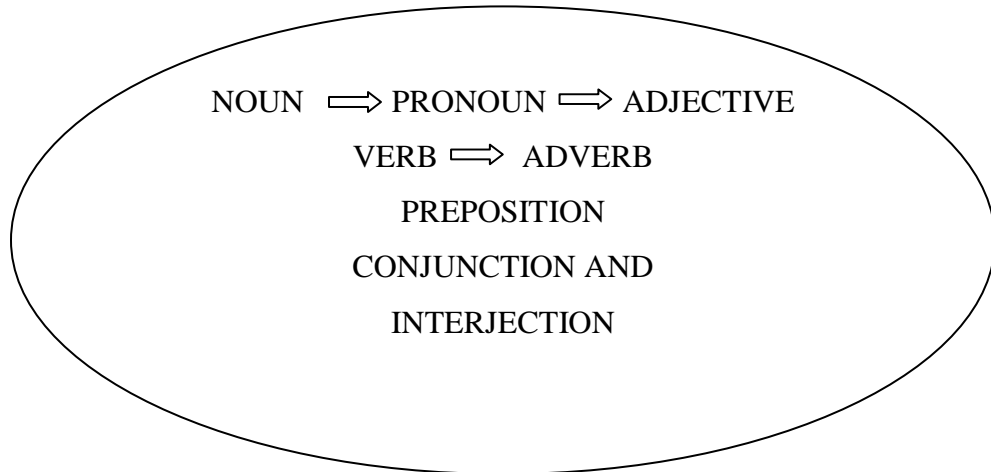


PARTS OF SPEECH

THE EIGHT PARTS OF SPEECH

There are eight parts of speech in the English language:



The part of speech indicates how the word functions in meaning as well as grammatically within the sentence. An individual word can function as more than one part of speech when used in different circumstances. Understanding parts of speech is essential for determining the correct definition of a word when using the dictionary.

1. NOUN

- **A noun is the name of a person, place, thing, or idea.**

man... Butte College... house... happiness

A noun is a word for a person, place, thing, or idea. Nouns are often used with an article (the, a, an), but not always. Proper nouns always start with a capital letter; common nouns do not. Nouns can be singular or plural, concrete or abstract. Nouns show possession by adding 's. Nouns can function in different roles within a sentence; for example, a noun can be a subject, direct object, indirect object, subject complement, or object of a preposition.

EX: The young girl brought me a very long letter from the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared. Oh my!

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2. PRONOUN

- **A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun.**

She... we... they... it

A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun. A pronoun is usually substituted for a specific noun, which is called its antecedent. In the sentence above, the antecedent for the pronoun she is the girl. Pronouns are further defined by type: personal pronouns refer to specific persons or things; possessive pronouns indicate ownership; reflexive pronouns are used to emphasize another noun or pronoun; relative pronouns introduce a subordinate clause; and demonstrative pronouns identify, point to, or refer to nouns.

EX: The young girl brought **me** a very long letter from the teacher, and then **she** quickly disappeared. Oh my!

3. VERB

- **A verb expresses action or being.**

jump... is... write... become

The verb in a sentence expresses action or being. There is a main verb and sometimes one or more helping verbs. ("She can sing." Sing is the main verb; can is the helping verb.) A verb must agree with its subject in number (both are singular or both are plural). Verbs also take different forms to express tense.

EX: The young girl **brought** me a very long letter from the teacher, and then she quickly **disappeared**. Oh my!

4. ADJECTIVE

- **An adjective modifies or describes a noun or pronoun.**

pretty... old... blue... smart

An adjective is a word used to modify or describe a noun or a pronoun. It usually answers the question of which one, what kind, or how many. (Articles [a, an, the] are usually classified as adjectives.)

EX: The **young** girl brought me a very **long** letter from the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared. Oh my!

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5. ADVERB

- **An adverb modifies or describes a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.**

gently... extremely... carefully... well

An adverb describes or modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb, but never a noun. It usually answers the questions of when, where, how, why, under what conditions, or to what degree. Adverbs often end in -ly.

EX: The young girl brought me a very long letter from the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared. Oh my!

6. PREPOSITION

- **A preposition is a word placed before a noun or pronoun to form a phrase modifying another word in the sentence.**

by... with.... about... until

(by the tree, with our friends, about the book, until tomorrow)

A preposition is a word placed before a noun or pronoun to form a phrase modifying another word in the sentence. Therefore a preposition is always part of a prepositional phrase. The prepositional phrase almost always functions as an adjective or as an adverb. The following list includes the most common prepositions:

EX: The young girl brought me a very long letter from the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared. Oh my!

7. CONJUNCTION

- **A conjunction joins words, phrases, or clauses.**

and... but... or... while... because

A conjunction joins words, phrases, or clauses, and indicates the relationship between the elements joined. Coordinating conjunctions connect grammatically equal elements: and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet. Subordinating conjunctions connect clauses that are not equal: because, although, while, since, etc. There are other types of conjunctions as well.

EX: The young girl brought me a very long letter from the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared. Oh my!

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8. INTERJECTION

- **An interjection is a word used to express emotion.**

Oh!... Wow!... Oops!

An interjection is a word used to express emotion. It is often followed by an exclamation point.

EX: The young girl brought me a very long letter from the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared. **Oh my!**

Each sentence given below contains an underlined word. You have to find out what part of speech that word belongs to.

1. She was running a high temperature.

- a) adjective
- b) adverb
- c) noun

2. I am the happiest woman in the world.

- a) adverb
- b) adjective
- c) verb

3. He has many influential friends.

- a) noun
- b) verb
- c) adjective

4. Choose the lesser of the two evils.

- a) adverb
- b) noun
- c) verb

5. Hari is the most intelligent boy in the class.

- a) conjunction

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b) preposition

c) adverb

6. A fast car goes fast.

a) verb

b) adjective

c) adverb

7. She was angry but she said nothing.

a) preposition

b) pronoun

c) conjunction

8. There is something under the bed.

a) preposition

b) conjunction

c) noun

9. They live in a small cottage above the lake.

a) verb

b) noun

c) preposition

10. He cut himself while shaving.

a) adverb

b) adjective

c) verb

11. She was angry with him.

a) adverb

b) adjective

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c) noun

12. I have other things to attend to.

a) adjective

b) adverb

c) noun

Answers

1. Adjective (modifies the noun temperature)

2. Adjective (modifies the noun woman)

3. Noun

4. Verb

5. Preposition

6. Adverb (modifies the verb goes)

7. Conjunction (connects the two clauses)

8. Preposition

9. Preposition

10. Verb

11. Adjective

12. Adjective