

Parts of Speech Study Guide

The part of speech of a word depends on how it is used in a sentence

POS	Definition	Function	The question	Examples
Noun	Names a person, place, thing or idea	Subject Object	Who? What?	Michael, girl, desk, pen, car, ticket, Cary, New York, love, freedom, courage
Pronoun	Takes the place of noun	Subject Object	Who? What?	I, he, she, it, they, you, we, me, him, her, them, you, us
Verb	Expresses the action or being	Predicate Verbal	What is the subject doing? What is happening?	run, jump, play, love, is, am, are, were, have, go, see, taste, hug, glare, twist
Adjective	Describes or modifies a noun	Adjective	What kind? Which one? How many?	beautiful, rough, old, young, huge, small, angry, happy, twelve, blue, green, colorful
Adverb	Describes or modifies a verb/ adjective/ adverb Often ends in ly	Adverb	How? Where? When? Why? How often? How much? To what extent?	calmly, tomorrow, often, never, outside, there, gently, well, slowly, deeply
Preposition	Comes at the beginning of a prepositional phrase Phrase functions as an adjective or adverb	Adjective Adverb	What kind? Which one? How many? How? Where? When? How often? How much? To what extent? Why?	with - with the mouse within–without until – until the morning underneath –under toward – toward the door to – to the garage through – through the stove on for except near like in from
Conjunction	Joins words, phrases and clauses	Conjunction		and, but, or , nor, for, so, yet, either, after, although, as, until, while; either, or; neither, nor;
Interjection	An exclamation, a word that shows strong emotion	Interjection		Wow! No! Stop! Never! Terrific! Boy! My Goodness!

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A little more in depth – a few more details

Noun Names a person, place, thing or idea	Proper name a particular person, place, thing and is capitalized	Common general name, not capitalized Ex - continent	Compound two or more words put together to create a new term	Concrete People, places, things Cary, boy, desk	Abstract Ideas and qualities Freedom, integrity	Collective A group of individuals Team, pack, flock, committee
Pronoun Takes the place of noun	Personal Ex – I, you, he, she, we	Relative Ex – who, whom, whose, which, that	Interrogative Ex – Who? Whose? What? Which?	Demonstrative Ex – this, these, that, those Ex – This is a new house.	Indefinite Ex – all, another, any, both, each, either, everyone, none, few, many, several	Reflexive Formed with the suffixes self/selves added to personal pronouns Ex - myself, himself, themselves
Adjective Describes or modifies a noun	Proper Ex: Chicago meeting Kennedy memoirs	Possessive pronouns used as adjectives Ex: my, his, its, their, your, her our	Interrogative pronouns used as adjectives Ex: which member What kind, whose book	Demonstrative pronouns used as adjectives Ex: this book, that book, these books, those books	Indefinite pronouns used as adjectives Ex: either book, both books, any books, each book	Articles Definite: the Indefinite: a, an
Verb Expresses the action or being	Transitive Followed by an object Ex-write, tell, sing + the object He writes poems	Intransitive Not followed by an object Ex-soar, climb He climbs higher.	Linking Connects a noun or adjective with the subject Ex-be, become, feel, grow, look, seem, smell, stay She is a teacher.	Helping Helps to create a tense or express a probability Ex-will, shall, have, can, may, might, do, does did, ought, should, would and all forms of <u>be</u> used in verb phrases: Ex - has been done or are learning	Irregular Go – went – gone Bring – brought – brought Lie – lain Hit – hit - hit	Tenses Present: I work Past: I worked Future: I will work Present Perfect: I have worked Past Perfect: I had worked Future Perfect I will have worked
Adverb Describes or modifies a verb/ adjective/ adverb	Modifying verbs Ex: ran here Arrive tonight Will speak soon Hardly know	Modifying adjectives Ex: Often ready Extremely helpful Too late Scarcely prepared	Modifying adverbs Ex: Moves quite rapidly Visits less regularly Very slowly			
Compare modifier adjectives and adverbs	Positive Cold Early Painful quickly	Comparative Uses -er or more Colder Earlier More painful More quickly	Superlative Uses -est or most Coldest Earliest Most painful Most quickly	3 or more syllables Must use more and most More beautiful Most beautiful More carefully Most carefully		