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**Parts of Speech**

Look at the different kinds of word in this sentence.

**Pronoun Verb Determiner Adjective Noun Preposition Noun Adverb**

*I have an important conference at work tomorrow,*

**Conjunction Pronoun Verb Adverb Adjective**

*so I am very busy.*

There are eight different kinds of word in English. They are called 'word classes' or 'parts of speech'. These eight word classes are as follows:

1. **Nouns:**  A noun names a person, thing, place or idea.

* *Wealth* does not always bring *happiness.*
* *Leila* offered her *mother* a *flower*.
* We did not notice the *heat* in the *house.*

1. **Pronouns:** A pronoun replaces a noun.

* Have *you* seen *her*?
* This house is not old, but *it* has long been uninhabited.
* *She* did not think *he* could come.

1. **Determiners:** A determiner is a word that occurs before a noun (or noun phrase) to express e.g. number or quantity (the, some, each, every, our, my, numerals…etc.)

* *Three* players were booked.
* *Some* fans were unhappy.
* *Each* was fined a week’s wages.

1. **Adjectives:** An adjective describes a noun or pronoun.

* My *beloved* son is very *handsom*.
* Your way is *long* and *difficult*.
* He picked up a *smooth*, *round* stone.

1. **Verbs:** A verb expresses an action or a state of being.

* My husband *installed* the washing machine in the kitchen.
* Time *is* money.

1. **Adverbs:** An adverb adds information (when, where, why, how, how often, to what extent… etc.) to a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

* *Yesterday*, my husband *quickly* installed the washing machine *in the kitchen*.
* He is *very* smart.
* I have considered the plan *very* *carefully*.

1. **Prepositions:** A preposition links a noun or a pronoun with another word (a noun or a verb), and shows the relation between them in time and space.

* My husband installed the washing machine *in* the kitchen *at* noon.
* The hope *of* a nation is its youth.
* I went *to* Ken's house, but Ken was *in* bed.

1. **Conjunctions:** A conjunction connects words or groups of words to one another and establishes relations between them.

* We walked *and* ran alternately.
* You may go *if* you have finished your lessons.
* I asked him *because* I thought he would know the answer.
* He will come tomorrow *or* he will call.

**Note:** Some words can belong to different classes depending on how they are used in a sentence.

**Verbs Nouns**

* Can I *look* at your photos? - I like the *look* of that coat.
* We *work* on Saturday morning. - I'll be at *work* tomorrow.

When a group of words forms a sentence, each word in the group has a definite syntactic function to perform in the sentence; i.e., each word occupies a certain grammatical position in the sentence.

**The Syntactic Functions of Nouns**

A noun can function as subject, direct object, indirect object, subject complement, object complement, or object of preposition.

***Noun as Subject***

* *Time* is money.
* *Omar* is my son.

A subject is a noun, a pronoun, or a group of words referring to the person or thing doing the action. To identify the subject of the sentence, isolate the verb, and ask a question by placing Who? or What? before the verb; the subject is the answer of the question.

* **Peter** decided to attend the lecture. →Who decided to attend the lecture? → Peter= subject
* **Freedom** should not be taken for granted. →What should not be taken for granted? → Freedom = subject

***Noun as Direct Object***

* Emma invited her **friends** to her birthday party**.**

**Note:** A direct object is a noun, a pronoun, or a group of words referring to the person or thing receiving the action of a transitive verb. To determine the direct object in the sentence, ask the question Whom? or What? after an action verb.

* I met **Sarah** in the library. → met whom? → Sarah = direct object (D.O)
* Children are singing **songs** in the park.→ are singing what? → songs = D.O

***Noun as Indirect Object***

* The man bought **the woman** a diamond ring.
* We bought **all the children** an ice-cream**.**

**Note:** An indirect object is a noun, a pronoun, or a group of words that states to whom/for whom or to what/for what something is done. An indirect object is placed between an action verb and a direct object. To find the indirect object in the sentence, you must find the direct object first, and then ask the question to whom? (for whom?) or to what? (for what?) after the action verb and the direct object.

* After class, the teacher will give the **students** their papers. → will give papers to whom? → the students = indirect object (I.O)
* She gave her **mother’s advice** her interest. → gave her interest to what? → her mother’s advice = I.O

***Noun as Subject Complement***

* My father *is* **a lawyer**.
* She *has become* **a** **teacher**.

**Note:**

1. The subject complement may be a noun, an adjective, or a group of words following a linking verb and complementing or describing the subject.
2. A *linking verb*, also called a state-of-being verb, connects the subject complement in the predicate to the subject. English linking verbs are: be, *appear, become, feel, get, grow, look, prove, remain, resemble, seem, smell, sound, taste,* and *turn.*

* You *remain* **my daughter** despite your bad behaviour.
* The assistant's attitude *seems* a **mystery** to everyone involved.
* During the heat wave, dehydration *became* a **threat** for active citizens.

***Noun as Object Complement***

* I *consider* you **my best friend**.
* They *declared* John **chairman**.

**Note:** An object complement is a noun, an adjective, or a group of words that follows a direct object and describes or complements it. An object complement follows verbs such as: *appoint, consider, name, make, think, declare,* and *call.* To find the object complement in the sentence, you need to find both the verb and the direct object, then ask the question What?

* The neighbourhood *consider* Paul a **stupid**. → consider Paul what? → a stupid = object complement.
* That unpleasant man *thought* other people **fools**. → thought other people what? → fools = object complement.

***Noun as Object of Preposition***

* She is a relative *of* Emma.
* ***For*** **learners*****in*** the **class**, math proved to be the most challenging subject.
* The grey cat ***on*** the **fence** wanders ***among*** the **houses**.

**Note:** The noun that follows a preposition functions as the object the preposition.

**The Syntactic Functions of Pronouns**

A pronoun occupies some positions in a sentence that a noun ordinarily would, for instance: subject, direct object, indirect object, and object of preposition.

***Pronoun as Subject***

* **She** is my best friend.
* **They** respect their parents.

***Pronoun as Direct Object***

* I met **her** in the party.
* Have you read the book I gave you? Yes, I have read **it**.

***Pronoun as Indirect Object***

* She asked **me** a question.
* We offered **them** an expensive present.

***Pronoun as Subject Complement***

* This pen is **mine**.
* Those keys sound **yours**.

***Pronoun as Objet of Preposition***

* It seems like a waste of time **for you** and for **me** to drive to Algiers **for** the game.

**The Syntactic Functions of Adjectives**

In English an adjective performs three grammatical functions: adjective; i.e., noun modifier, subject complement, and object complement.

***Adjective as Adjective***

* The **grey** cat drank the **fresh** milk. The word ***grey*** is an adjective functioning as an adjective modifying the noun *cat*. The word ***fresh*** is an adjective/ adjective (adj/ adj) modifying the noun *milk*.

***Adjective as Subject Complement***

* The cookies smell **delicious**.
* You seem ***tired***.

***Adjective as Object Complement***

* Muslims consider Jerusalem ***holy***.
* Studying grammar makes me ***happy***.

**The Syntactic Functions of Verbs**

In order to find out the different syntactic functions that verbs perform within sentences, it is necessary to define finite and non-finite verbs.

**Finite Verbs**

A finite verb is a verb form that can be used as the main verb in a clause. The finite verb consists of a main verb with or without auxiliaries. A finite verb can be transitive, intransitive, or linking.

A *transitive* verb is an action verb that is followed by a direct object.

* I *read* an interesting book.

An *intransitive* verb is an action verb that is not followed by a direct object.

* I *must leave*.

A finite verb shows tense, aspect, mood, person, agreement, and voice.

1. **Tense:** A finite verb can be marked for tense; i.e., present, past, or future.

* She usually *works* hard. (present)
* She *worked* hard. (past)
* She *will work* hard. (future)

1. **Aspect:** A finite verb can be marked for aspect; i.e., simple, perfect, or progressive.

* Paul *did* his homework. (simple)
* Paul *has done* his homework. (perfect)
* Paul *is doing* his homework. (progressive)

1. **Mood**: A finite verb can be marked for indicative, interrogative, imperative, or subjunctive mood.

* Lila *is* a good student. (indicative)
* *Is* Lila a good student? (interrogative)
* *Be* a good student. (imperative)
* If they *were* not good students, they would leave school. (subjunctive)

1. **Person:** A finite verb can be marked for person (first, second, or third)

* I *think* clearly. (first)
* You *think* clearly. (second)
* She *thinks* clearly. (third)

1. **Agreement:** A finite verb corresponds in number with the subject.

* Liz *likes* music. (singular)
* Liz and Emily *like* music. (plural)

1. **Voice:** A finite verb can be marked for active or passive voice.

* She *prepared* everything. (active)
* Everything *was prepared*. (passive)

A finite verb functions as the main verb of a clause.

* I *miss* my mother.→miss: finite transitive verb.
* The woman *died*.→ died: finite, intransitive verb.
* My mother *seemed* happy. → seemed: finite linking verb.

**Non-Finite Verbs**

A non-finite verb (also known as a verbal) differs from a finite verb as it can not be the main verb of a [clause](http://grammar.about.com/od/c/g/clauseterm.htm). Typically, the non-finite verb is unmarked for [tense](http://grammar.about.com/od/tz/g/tenseterm.htm), [aspect](http://grammar.about.com/od/ab/g/aspectterm.htm), [mood](http://grammar.about.com/od/mo/g/moodterm.htm), person, agreement, and voice. The main types of non-finite verbs are gerunds, participles, and infinitives.

**Gerunds**

A gerund is a verbal that ends in *-ing* and functions as a noun. It may function as subject, direct object, indirect object, subject complement, and object of preposition.

***Gerund as Subject***

* *Reading is* my favourite pastime.
* *Travelling* might satisfy your desire for new experiences.

***Gerund as Direct Object***

* They did not appreciate my *cooking*.

***Gerund as Indirect Object***

* Lila gives *studying* all her energy.

***Gerund as Subject Complement***

* Her favourite hobby is *reading*.
* My cat's favourite activity is *sleeping*.

***Gerund as Object of Preposition***

* She is interested in *studying* abroad*.*
* The police arrested him for *speeding*.

**Participles**

A participle is a verbal, used as an adjective, modifying a noun or pronoun. There are two types of participles: present participles and past participles. A present participle ends in *-ing*. A past participle ends in *-ed*, *-en*, *-d*, *-t*, or *–n*.

* She hugged her *crying* baby. → *crying*: present participle/adjective modifying the noun *baby*.
* *Smiling*, she hugged her *beloved* mother. → *smiling*: present participle/adj modifying the pronoun *she*; *beloved:* past participle/adjective modifying the noun *mother*.

**Infinitives**

An infinitive is a verbal consisting of the word *to* plus a *verb* and functioning as a noun (subject, direct object, subject complement), adjective, or adverb.

***Infinitive as Subject***

* *To win*means everything to him.
* *To wait* seemed foolish when decisive action was required.

***Infinitive as Direct Object***

* My baby has learnt *to walk*.
* Most people like *to win*.

***Infinitive as Subject Complement***

* The most important thing is ***to learn.***
* The most important thing is ***to learn.***

***Infinitive as Adjective:***

* The healthy environment of the classroom encourages the desire *to study*.
* This is the best time *to start*.

***Infinitive as Adverb:***

* We went to the mosque *to pray*.

**The Syntactic Functions of Adverbs**

Generally an adverb functions as an adverb modifying the verb.

* I considered the situation *carefully*.→***carefully***: adv/adv
* The woman waited in line *patiently*. → ***patiently***: adv/adv
* Intelligent students answer exam questions *very* easily. → ***very***: adv/intensifier (adv)

**Note:** An adverb of place or time can function as subject complement.

* The meeting is *here*.

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