

Lecture 01: Parts of Speech

In English, there are eight parts of speech

1. Nouns

A **noun** simply gives the name of **a person** (*Sammy, man*), place (*Philadelphia, city*), **thing** (*Toyota, car*), or **idea** (*philosophy, warmth, love*).

Nouns can be divided into:

Proper nouns (particular persons, places, things, or ideas) are capitalized. Eg. February (month), Egypt (country) and Mrs. Davis teacher.

Common nouns (everyday names of persons, places, things, or ideas) Eg. cinema , table, ambition.

Nouns are divided into several other categories.

Concrete nouns name things that can be seen, felt, heard, touched, or smelled (*star, water, album, television, flower*) .

Abstract nouns name concepts, beliefs, or qualities (*freedom, capitalism, courage*).

Compound nouns consist of more than one word, but count as only one noun (*Franklin County Community and Technical College*).

Count nouns are persons, places, or things that can be (surprise!) counted (three *cars*, seventy-six *trombones*); **noncount nouns** cannot be counted (*unease, happiness*) and are always singular.

Collective nouns are sometimes counted as one unit (that is, considered to be singular) and sometimes counted separately (that is, considered to be plural). *Army, herd, pack,* and *family* are all collective nouns.

In a sentence, a noun will act either as a subject or some type of complement (predicate nominative, direct or indirect object of a verb, or object of a preposition).

2. Pronouns

The textbook definition of a **pronoun** is “a word that takes the place of a noun.”

Types of Pronouns

To figure out which type a pronoun is (some pronouns can be more than one), look at the way the word is used in the sentence.

1. **Personal pronouns** represent people or things: *I, me, you, he, him, she, her, it, we, us, they, them.*

I came to see you and him today.

2. **Possessive pronouns** show ownership (possession): *mine, yours, hers, his, theirs, ours.*

“These parking spaces are yours; ours are next to the door,” the teachers explained to the students.

3. **Demonstrative pronouns** demonstrate or point out someone or something: *this, that, these, those.*

This is his umbrella; that is your umbrella.

4. **Relative pronouns** relate one part of the sentence to another: *who, whom, which, that, whose.*

The man whom I almost hit last night works in this shop. (*Whom* relates back to *man*.)

One country that I'd like to visit someday is France. (*That* relates to *country*.)

5. **Reflexive pronouns** (sometimes called **intensive** pronouns) reflect back to someone or something else in the sentence: *myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves.*

You must ask yourself what you would do in such a situation.

(*Yourself* relates back to *you*.)

6. **Interrogative pronouns** interrogate (ask a question): *who, whom, which, whose, what.*

What in the world was that politician talking about?

7. **Indefinite pronouns**, contrary to their label, sometimes refer to a definite (specific) person, place, or thing that has already been mentioned in the sentence. Indefinite pronouns include *all, another, any, anybody, anyone, anything, both, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, few, many, most, much, neither, no one, nobody, none, nothing, one, other, others, several, some, somebody, someone, and something.*

Keep in mind that *all, any, more, most, none, and some* sometimes are singular and sometimes are plural.

3. Adjectives

An adjective is “a word that modifies a noun or pronoun.”

e.g. The framed picture came crashing off the wall during the recent earthquake.

Framed gives you information about *picture*, and *picture* is a thing (a noun), so *framed* is an adjective.

Further examples:

*Carrie read an **interesting** story.* (*What kind of story?*)

*The **recent** article has that information.* (*Which article?*)

*Kent owns **those** surfboards.* (*Which surfboards?*)

*Wendy paid **fifty** dollars for the jacket.* (*How many dollars?*)

***Much** space was devoted to her artwork.* (*How much space?*)

An adjective can come before or after the noun or pronoun it describes:

Older cards are found on the table. (*Which cards?*)

Tall players and **intelligent** coaches were interviewed by the **interested** reporter. (*Which players? Which coaches? Which reporter?*)

Tired and **hungry**, the campers reached the lodge. (*What kind of campers?*)

4. Verbs

A **verb** is defined as “a word that expresses action or being.” Verbs that express action are **action verbs**. Action verbs are the most common verbs, and they are easy to spot. For example:

Marilyn jumped for joy when Frank called her.

(*Jumped* and *called* both show action.)

Action verbs can be divided into two categories: **transitive** and **intransitive**. The textbook definition of a transitive verb is “a verb that takes an object.”.

I carried the injured boy to the waiting ambulance.

Carried whom or what? Since *boy* answers that question, the verb *carried* is transitive in that sentence.

Linking Verbs

Just to complicate the situation, the words in the following list are sometimes action verbs and sometimes **linking verbs**:

appear	smell	prove
feel	stay	seem
look	become	sound
remain	grow	taste

So when do these twelve verbs act as action verbs, and when are they linking verbs?

Use this test:

If you can substitute a form of *be* (*am, is, was*, and so on) and the sentence still makes sense, by golly, you've got yourself a linking verb. Look at these examples.

The soup tasted too spicy for me.

Substitute *was* or *is* for *tasted* and you have this sentence:

The soup was (is) too spicy for me.

It makes perfect sense. Now look at this one:

I tasted the spicy soup.

Substitute *was* or *is* for *tasted* and you have this sentence:

I was (is) the spicy soup.

It doesn't make much sense, so you don't have a linking verb.

5. Adverbs

An **adverb** is a word that modifies (describes, gives more information about) a verb, adjective, or other adverb.

Adverbs modify verbs:

John ate quickly. (How did he eat?)

I walk there. (Where did I walk?)

Ashleigh will eat soon. (When will Ashleigh eat?)

Adverbs modify adjectives:

Rex is very happy. (Very modifies the adjective happy and answers the question, To what extent?)

Adverbs can modify other adverbs:

Warren walks too quickly. (Too modifies the adverb quickly and answers the question, How quickly?)

He moved rather recently. (Rather modifies the adverb recently and answers the question, How recently?)

A small group of adverbs known as **intensifiers** or **qualifiers** (*very* is the most common intensifier) increase the intensity of the adjectives and other adverbs they modify. Other common intensifiers are *awfully, extremely, kind of, more, most, pretty* (as in *pretty happy*), *quite, rather, really* (as in *really sad*), *somewhat, sort of, and too*.

6.Prepositions

A **preposition** is a word that links a noun or pronoun to some other word in a sentence.

Take, for example, these short sentences:

Jack and Jill went up the hill.

(*Up* is a preposition connecting *went* and *hill*.)

Little Jack Horner sat in a corner.

(*In* is a preposition connecting *sat* and *corner*.)

Following are the most common prepositions.

about	behind	down	off	to
above	below	during	on	toward
across	beneath	except	onto	under
after	beside	for	out	underneath
against	between	from	outside	until
along	beyond	in	over	up
among	but	inside	past	upon
around	by	into	since	with
at	concerning	like	through	within
before	despite	of	throughout	without

Another type of preposition is the compound preposition. It does the same as a common preposition but is composed of two or more words. Here are the most common compound prepositions:

according to	ahead of	apart from	as of
aside from	because of	by means of	

7.Conjunctions

A **conjunction** joins words in a sentence; that is, it provides a junction between words.

Conjunctions

are divided into three categories:

1. Coordinating conjunctions include *but, or, yet, so, for, and*, and *nor*. You might want to remember

them by using the mnemonic word *boysfan*.

2. Correlative conjunctions cannot stand alone; they must have a “relative” nearby, usually in the

same sentence. The pairs include *both/and, either/or, neither/nor, not only/also*, and *not only/but also*.

3. Subordinating conjunctions are used in the beginning of dependent clauses (words that have a

subject and verb but which cannot stand alone as sentences). You may remember that dependent

clauses are sometimes called subordinate clauses. The most common ones are the following:

after	assuming	in order	providing	unless
although	that	that	that	until
as if	because	in that	since	when
as in	before	inasmuch	so long as	whenever
as long as	even	as	so that	where
as much as	though	now that	than	wherever
as soon as	how	once	that	whether
	if		though	while

8. Interjections

Egad! You don't remember what an **interjection** is? It's a word that can either express surprise or some other kind of emotion, or it can be used as filler. Interjections often stand alone. If one is part of a sentence, it doesn't have a grammatical relation to the other words in the sentence; if it's taken out, the meaning of the sentence will be unchanged. Take a look at these sentences:

Hey, what's going on?

Well, I don't know what to say.

Ouch! Did you step on my toe?

Hey, well, and ouch are interjections.

An interjection is a word that expresses strong feeling or emotion:

- An interjection usually comes at the beginning of the sentence.
- An interjection is often followed by an exclamation point (!) when the emotion is strong or a comma (,) when the emotion is mild.
- Do not overuse interjections. Include one when you want to make your point. If you use too many interjections, your writing loses its power and effectiveness.
- Here are some common interjections:

Aw	Bravo	Darn	Dear me
Eek	Eh	Gee	Golly
Goodness gracious	Gosh	Hallelujah	Hey
Horrors	Hurrah	Hurray	Mmm
Oh	Oh no	Oops	Ouch
Phew	Rats	Really	Ugh
Well	Whoa	Whoops	Wow
Yea	Yeh	Yes	Yippee