

Parts of Speech

Parts of speech are like the building blocks of sentences. Every word in a sentence has a function. Knowing the function of each word can help you figure out what's going on in a sentence. It can also help you to construct interesting and varied sentences.

There are 8 parts of speech.

1. **Nouns** are people, places, things, or ideas.

- a. Common nouns: *tree, store, badger, mummy*
- b. Proper nouns: *Frankenstein, Harry Potter, January, Rodeo Dr.*



2. **Verbs** express actions, events, or states of being.

Ex: Malcolm *rode* the roller coaster. Malcolm *was* first in line.



3. **Adjectives** describe nouns.

Ex: The creepy store sold *cheap* costumes.



4. **Adverbs** describe verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs.

Ex: The cookie *quickly* disappeared. The chocolate was *extremely* delicious.



5. **Pronouns** replace nouns and make sentences less repetitive.

- a. Personal pronouns refer to specific people or things: *she, it, they*
- b. Demonstrative pronouns point to and identify a noun or pronoun: *this, that, these*
- c. Interrogative pronouns ask questions: *which, whom, what*

6. **Prepositions** link nouns, pronouns, and phrases to other words in a sentence. They give information about where the object is in space or time.

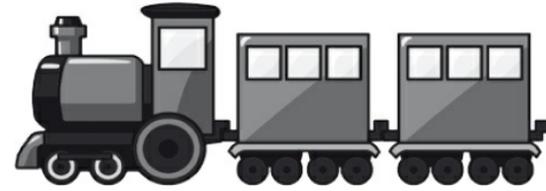
Ex: The troll is *under* the bridge. The movie started *after* the previews.



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7. **Conjunctions** link words or phrases.

Ex: *and, but, for, yet*

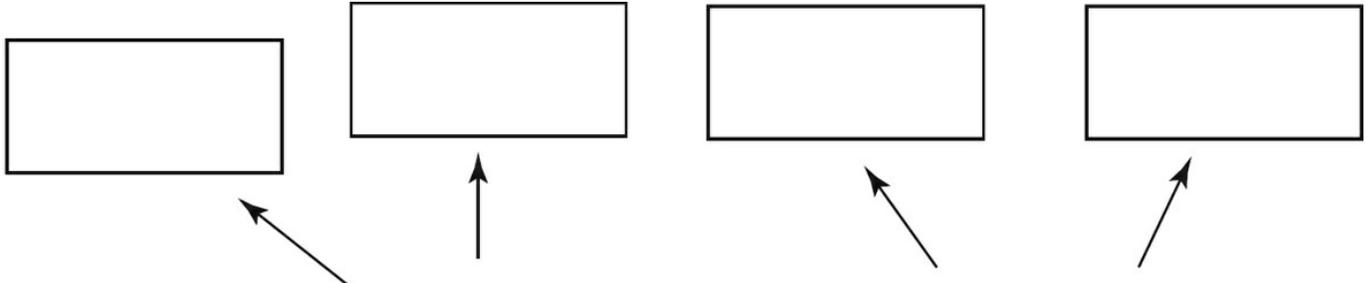


8. **Interjections** are used to express emotion.

Ex: *Ouch! Hey! Oh.*



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Nouns—What are the **things** in this picture?

Verbs—What is this **woman** doing?



The belt is _____ her waist.

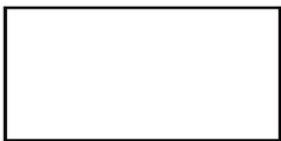


Prepositions—Where are her accessories?

Adjectives—What words **describe** the nouns in this picture?

She is _____ the umbrella.

Her shoes are _____ her feet.



Functions of Words

As mentioned earlier, the *function* of the word is just as important as the *word* itself. Read the following sentences and choose a word from the word bank to complete the sentence. Use the context clues to determine the best meaning. Then, on the line at the end of the sentence, label each missing word by its function as a noun (n), verb (v), or adjective (adj). Each word will be used more than once.

jail

baby

work

word

The police officer warned the trespassers that if they didn't leave the property, they would go to **jail**.
She refused to ___ the child because she wanted him to learn to take care of himself. ___
The ___ panda at the national zoo received a flood of attention after its birth. ___
Although there were no students at school, the teachers still had to come in for the ___ day. ___
Can you help me figure out how to ___ this letter? I want to make sure I say this correctly. ___
Unless you ___ for NASA, your chances of going to space are practically non-existent. ___
The judge threatened to ___ anyone who spoke out of turn in her courtroom. ___
Sometimes it's a challenge to figure out exactly which ___ to use when you're describing something amazing.

I didn't realize there was a ___ in the room until I suddenly heard crying. ___
My favorite thing to do on a long car ride is to play ___ games. I'm particularly good at crossword puzzles and jumbles. ___

Fill in the Blanks

NOUN Adventure

Brainstorm some nouns and write down 8 of your favorites. Then transfer the nouns to the matching blanks in the paragraph on the next page and read about your crazy NOUN adventure!

VERB Afternoon

Brainstorm some verbs and write down 9 of your favorites. Be sure to pay attention to the tense/ending. Then transfer the verbs to the matching blanks in the paragraph on the next page and read about your Saturday VERB Afternoon!

_____ (present tense)

_____ (present tense)

_____ (present tense, end with *-ing*)

_____ (present tense)

_____ (past tense)

_____ (past tense)

_____ (past tense)

_____ (present tense)

_____ (present tense, end with *-ing*)

NOUN Adventure

Last weekend, I packed my favorite _____ and two pairs of _____s and headed off on an adventure. I didn't have an exact plan, but I was hoping to see a _____¹ or at least a _____². Unfortunately, less than an hour into my trip, I ran over a _____³ and broke the _____⁴ in my car. My dreams of adventure disappeared in a puff of _____⁵ when the repairman handed me a _____⁶ for the cost of the repairs.
7 8

VERB Afternoon

On Saturday, my best friend and I went out to _____ and then we went to see a movie. I wanted to see the new romantic comedy, because I love watching two people _____¹ in love. My friend really wanted to see the new action adventure, though, so we ended up _____² an explorer race to find a treasure before his arch nemesis could _____³ it. The hero _____⁴ through the jungle, _____⁵ through small European towns, and frantically _____⁶ maps looking for clues. Eventually, with the help of a fellow adventurer, he was able to _____⁷ the treasure. And, to my delight, the two ended up _____⁸ in love.
9

ADJECTIVE Holiday!

Brainstorm some solid, descriptive adjectives and write down 9 of your favorites on the lines below. Then transfer the adjectives to the matching blanks in the paragraph on the next page and read about your fabulous ADJECTIVE Holiday!

ADJECTIVE Holiday!

My favorite time of the year is _____ time. The weather gets colder, there is _____ music on the radio, and people walk around with _____ smiles on their faces. I love to bake _____ cookies and make _____ candy. Our _____ tree sparkles with _____ lights and decorations, and the stack of _____ presents underneath steadily grows as we get closer and closer to the _____ day.

Description Connoption

In the following paragraph, adjectives and adverbs are bolded. Read the paragraph carefully and decide which type of word is bolded in each sentence. Remember that adjectives only describe nouns, while adverbs can describe verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. Adverbs often end with -ly, but not always! Circle the adjectives and box the adverbs.

The day of the **costume** contest had **finally** arrived. Mrs. Fuzzypaws woke with butterflies in her stomach. Or maybe that was just a hairball. No matter. Today was the day! She could feel it. This year was going to be her year. Tibsy had taken Grand Champion the **past two** years, first for her **outrageously clever** Catopatra outfit and then **last** year with her Queen Feline getup. Mrs. Fuzzypaws knew that **second** place was nothing to sneeze at, but she **desperately** wanted to win. And **this** year, she figured it was in the bag. Relevant, **well-**made, and clever, the **scarlet** and gold scarf had been knitted **precisely** to fit her neck, and the wig had **carefully** been curled and then frizzed. A **quick** lick of the paws, a clip of the nails, and she was ready to make her debut ... as Purr-mione Granger.

Bring It All Together!

You have seen words function as various parts of speech. Now let's see how words can be changed from one part to another. Carefully read through the following chart and see if you can fill in the blanks with the missing forms of each word. Some may have the same spelling while others may not. One has been done for you.

Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
perfection	to perfect	perfect	perfectly
agreement	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	irritably
_____	to comfort	_____	_____
_____	_____	romantic	_____

The Verb/Noun Shuffle

Some of the words in the following list are nouns, some of them are verbs, and some of them could be either. Your job is to shuffle the words into their correct spaces in the chart. Read carefully! There are five words for each column.

- arise delay kindness speak
- cloud eat month woman
- color face pencil write
- danger forgive praise

Verbs	Verbs or Nouns	Nouns

Transforming Words

As you've seen, some words function as only one part of speech, while other words easily function in multiple ways. What do you do if there is a word that you really want to use, but it isn't the correct part of speech? Don't worry. There are some suffixes, or word endings, that you can use to help transform your word into something you are able to use. Let's try a few out!