

Parts of Speech

1. Definition of a Part of Speech

A *part of speech*, also known as a *word class*, refers to a grouping that categorizes words according to their grammatical and functional roles within a sentence. Sentences are constructed using various word categories, including *nouns*, *verbs*, *adverbs*, *adjectives*, *pronouns*, *prepositions*, and *conjunctions*. These parts of speech serve distinct functions in a sentence, such as the subject, which typically includes nouns or pronouns; the verb, representing actions or states of being; and the object, which receives the action of the verb.

The following are parts of speech in the English language:

A. Noun

A noun is the cornerstone of any sentence. It represents a person, place, thing, or idea. Nouns can be concrete (like “table” or “dog”) or abstract (like “happiness” or “freedom”).

- **Proper nouns:** John, Jessica, London, New York...
- **Common nouns:** a man, a woman, a city...
- **Collective nouns:** Family, team ...
- **Concrete nouns:** Orange, table...
- **Abstract nouns:** Love, pity...

B. Pronoun

Pronouns take the place of nouns to avoid repetition and add fluidity to our language.

Table 1: Types of the English Pronouns

Type of the pronoun	Definition	Pronouns
<i>Personal pronoun subject</i>	They are used to replace specific nouns referring to people, animals, things, or ideas.	I/you/he/she/it/we/you/they <u>Example:</u> <i>She</i> is going to the store
<i>Personal pronoun object</i>	They are a type of pronoun that typically functions as the direct or indirect object of a verb within a sentence.	Me/you/him/her/it/us/you/them <u>Examples:</u> Dir. O: He saw <i>me</i> /Indir. O: He gave <i>me</i> a book

<i>Relative pronoun</i>	Relative pronouns introduce relative clauses, providing additional information about a noun in the main clause.	Where/which/who/whom/whose/that/when <u>Example:</u> The house, <i>which</i> is painted blue, is for sale
<i>Possessive pronoun</i>	Possessive pronouns indicate or show ownership or possession. They replace the noun and indicate who owns or possesses something.	Mine/yours/hers/his/ours/theirs <u>Example:</u> The book is <i>mine</i>
<i>Demonstrative pronoun</i>	They are used to point to or identify a specific person or a thing.	This/that-these/those <u>Example:</u> <i>This</i> dress suits me very well
<i>Reflexive pronoun</i>	Reflexive pronouns are used when the subject and object of a sentence are the same. They are used for emphasis or to show that the subject performed the action on itself.	Myself/yourself/himself/itself/ourselves/themselves <u>Example:</u> We need to rely on <i>ourselves</i> to solve this problem.

C. Verb

Verbs are the action words. They express what the subject is doing or the state of being.

D. Adjective

Adjectives describe or modify nouns, providing more information about their qualities.

E. Adverb

Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. They answer questions such as “how,” “when,” “where,” or “to what extent.”

Table 2: Types of the English Adverbs

Type of the adverb	Definition	Adverbs
<i>Adverbs of Manner</i>	These adverbs describe how an action is performed	quickly/slowly/carefully/easily <u>Example:</u> She ran quickly to catch the bus.
<i>Adverbs of Frequency</i>	These adverbs indicate how often an action occurs.	always/often/sometimes/rarely/never <u>Example:</u> I always brush my teeth before bed.
<i>Adverbs of Time</i>	These adverbs provide information about when an action takes place	now/today/later/yesterday/soon <u>Example:</u> They will arrive soon .
<i>Adverbs of Place</i>	These adverbs describe the location or direction of an action	here/there/everywhere/nowhere <u>Example:</u> The keys are here .
<i>Adverbs of Degree</i>	These adverbs modify the intensity or degree of an adjective, adverb, or verb.	very/too/quite/almost <u>Example:</u> She is very talented.
<i>Adverbs of Certainty</i>	These adverbs express the speaker's level of certainty or confidence in the statement.	definitely/certainly/probably/possibly <u>Example:</u> He will definitely be here on time.

F. Preposition

Prepositions establish relationships in space or time. Words like “in,” “on,” “under,” and “before” help convey the position or timing of an action.

G. Conjunction

Conjunctions act as the glue that binds words, phrases, or clauses together. Whether it's coordinating conjunction “and,” “but,” “or,” or subordinating “because”, “although”. Conjunctions facilitate smooth transitions between ideas, creating cohesion in our sentences.