

From Word to Sentence: Parts of Speech



Table des matières

I - Parts of Speech	3
1. Objectives.....	3
2. Introduction	3
3. Nouns	3
4. Determiners	5
5. Pronouns.....	5
6. Adjectives	6
7. Verbs.....	6
8. Adverbs.....	8
9. Prepositions	8
10. Conjunctions.....	8
11. Interjections.....	9

Parts of Speech



1. Objectives

By the end of this lesson, the learner will be able to:

- Identify and define the eight parts of speech.
- Demonstrate understanding of how each part of speech functions within a sentence by providing examples and explanations.
- Construct grammatically correct sentences using all eight parts of speech in a meaningful context.

2. Introduction

Parts of speech or word classes are the fundamental building blocks of language, and they play a crucial role in developing effective writing skills. Understanding the different parts of speech and how they function within a sentence allows writer to convey their ideas more precisely, express nuanced meanings, and create engaging and coherent pieces of writing.

There are two main categories of word classes: form classes (or open classes) that consists of content words, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs; and structure classes (or closed classes) that encompasses all words making sentences grammatically correct, including articles, pronouns, conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections.

Table 2.1 Word classes with examples

Class	Examples
<i>Open</i>	
noun	Paul, paper, speech, play
adjective	young, cheerful, dark, round
main verb	talk, become, like, play
adverb	carefully, firmly, confidentially
<i>Closed</i>	
pronoun	she, somebody, one, who, that
determiner	a, the, that, each, some
auxiliary verb	can, may, will, have, be, do
conjunction	and, that, in order that, if, though
preposition	of, at, to, in spite of

Word Classes

3. Nouns



Définition

A noun is a part of speech (or word class) that names or identifies a person, place, thing, quality, idea, or activity. A noun or noun phrase can function as a subject, direct object, indirect object, complement, appositive, or object of a preposition.

Types of Nouns

Common nouns vs. Proper nouns	A common noun names any person, place, thing, activity, or idea. It's a noun that is not the name of any particular person, place, thing, or idea. Like: <i>cat, dog, house, city, book, love, happiness, or teacher.</i>	A proper noun names specific or unique individuals, events, or places, and may include real or fictional characters and settings. Unlike common nouns, most proper nouns, like <i>Shakespeare, Chicago, January, Christmas, Ramadan</i> , begin with a capital letter.
Concrete nouns vs. Abstract nouns	A concrete noun names a material or tangible object or phenomenon; something recognizable through the senses, such as <i>cat, tree, or egg.</i>	An abstract noun, by contrast, is a noun or noun phrase that names an idea, event, quality or concept: <i>courage, freedom, progress, love, patience, excellence, and friendship.</i> An abstract noun names something that can't be physically touched.
Count nouns vs. Non- count nouns	Count nouns refer to entities that are viewed as countable. Count nouns therefore have both a singular and a plural form and they can be accompanied by determiners that refer to distinctions in number: <i>a cat, one student, every class, ten flowers, many books...</i>	Non-count nouns refer to entities that are viewed as an indivisible mass that cannot be counted; for example, <i>information, furniture, software.</i> Non-count nouns are treated as singular and can be accompanied only by determiners that do not refer to distinctions in number like <i>much.</i>
Compound nouns	A noun that is made with two or more words; a combination of words that can be separate, hyphenated, or attached: → <i>Airport, bedroom, classroom, eyebrow, football, haircut, sunflower.</i> → <i>Post office, real estate, middle age, air conditioner, hair spray, ground beef.</i> → <i>Mother-in-law, well-being, two-thirds, state-of-the-art, long-term, self-control.</i>	

4. Determiners



Determiners, determinatives, or noun signals, are words that precede nouns, and that indicate that the coming word is a noun.

Types of Determiners

Articles	<p>Articles in English are three: “The” (definite article) and “a” and “an” (indefinite articles).</p> <p>→ <i>A man, a boy, a university, a European, an apple, an hour, an M.A., an egg.</i></p> <p>→ <i>The lion, the man, the university, the food, the people, the hours, the eggs.</i></p>
Demonstratives	Demonstratives are used to point at a person, an object, a place, or an animal. They are: <i>this, that, these, and those.</i>
Possessives	Possessives are used in front of nouns to express possession or belonging. They are: <i>my, your, his, her, its, our, their.</i>
Quantifiers	Quantifiers are words that indicate the quantity of a noun, such as: <i>most, all, (a) few, (a) little, many, much, some, any, etc.</i>

5. Pronouns



A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun, noun phrase, or noun clause. The pronoun is one of the traditional parts of speech. A pronoun can function as a subject, object, or complement in a sentence. Unlike nouns, pronouns rarely allow modification. Pronouns are a closed word class in English: new members rarely enter the language.

Personal pronouns	Object pronouns	Possessive adjectives	Possessive pronouns	Reflexive pronouns
I	Me	My	Mine	Myself
You	You	Your	Yours	Yourself
He	Him	His	His	Himself
She	Her	Her	Hers	Herself
It	It	Its	/	Itself
We	Us	Our	Ours	Ourselves
they	Them	Their	Theirs	Themselves

Pronouns

6. Adjectives



Définition

An adjective is a part of speech (or word class) that modifies a noun or a pronoun. Adjectives often, but not always, serve as modifiers, providing additional information about another word or word group, such as a noun or noun phrase. But adjectives can also themselves act as nouns in a sentence.

Types of Adjectives

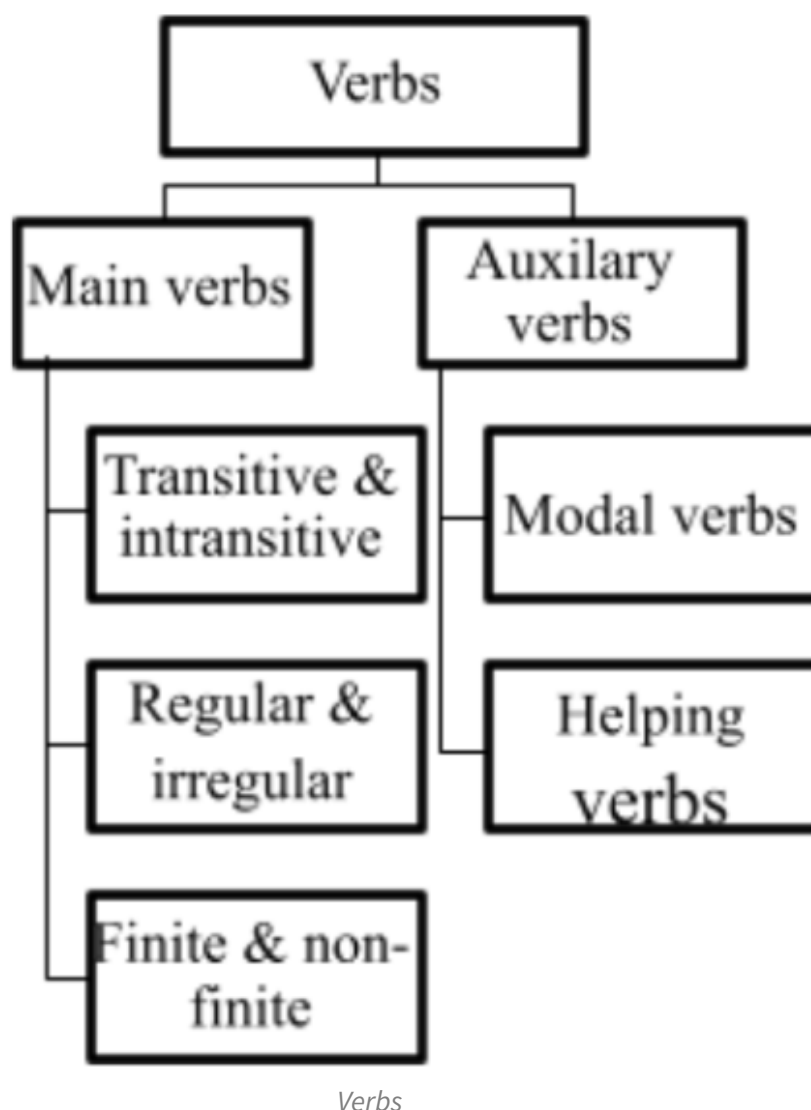
Descriptive	They are adjectives that modify a noun or pronoun by showing its quality, characteristic, or attribute. They can be used in a variety of ways, such as to compare one noun to another, to provide information about a noun's size, age, color, or shape, or to express a noun's emotional or physical state. → <i>Tall, blue, round, soft, loud, happy, delicious...</i>
Predicative	A predicative adjective usually comes after a linking verb rather than before a noun. Another term for a predicative adjective is a subject complement. → <i>She is smart/ We are rich/ They were efficient.</i>
Comparative	The comparative adjective is the form of an adjective involving the comparisons of more or less as well as greater or lesser. They are either marked by the suffix -er as in " <i>the faster bike</i> " or identified by the word more or less " <i>the more difficult job</i> ". Almost all one-syllable adjectives, along with some two-syllable adjectives, add -er to the base to form the comparative. In most adjectives of two or more syllables, the comparative is identified by the word more or less.
Superlative	The superlative adjective by comparison, is the form or degree of an adjective that indicates the most or the least of something. Superlatives are either marked by the suffix -est as in " <i>the fastest bike</i> " or identified by the word most or least " <i>the most difficult job</i> ". Similar to comparative adjectives, almost all one-syllable adjectives, along with some two-syllable adjectives, add -est to the base to form the superlative. In most adjectives of two or more syllables, the superlative is identified by the word most or least. Not all adjectives have superlative forms, like: <i>blind, dead, fatal, final, left, right, unique, universal, vertical, and wrong.</i>

7. Verbs



Définition

A verb is an action word or a group of words. It is used to indicate the action mentioned within a sentence. There are different types of verbs in generative grammar. A sentence can contain a single verb or a combination of auxiliary and main verb. The main verb is the action done by or on the subject of the verb. However, an auxiliary is a verb that adds functional or grammatical meaning to the clause and they usually accompany the main verb.



There are three types of the main verb:

Transitive and intransitive verbs: Samuel borrowed the mower (transitive)/ the baby smiled (intransitive).

Regular and irregular verbs: Work, worked, worked, working (regular)/ Go, went, gone, going (irregular)

Finite and non- finite verbs: Mary will study Math (Will- is the finite verb because it indicates the tense and shows that the action will happen in the future/ Study- is the non- finite verb because it doesn't have a specific tense or subject agreement)

Auxiliary verbs have two types:

Primary auxiliaries or helping verbs: (to be, to have, to do) they assist the main verb and are used to form various tenses, forms, and combinations: *She is singing/ they have finished/ he did not see.*

Modal auxiliaries: they express the mood or attitude of the subject like: ability, possibility, necessity, permission, or obligation. Some common modal verbs include: *can, could, may, might, must, shall, should, will, would, and ought to.*

8. Adverbs



Adverbs describe verbs and modify adjectives and other adverbs. Adverbs, unlike adjectives, do not modify nouns. Adverbs can also modify phrases, clauses, and sentences. Adverbs answer one of the following questions: When? Where? Why? How? and To what extent?

Type of Adverb	Definition	Example
Adverbs of time	Conveys <u>when</u> something happens!	David will renovate the garage soon .
Adverbs of place	Conveys <u>where</u> something happens!	I was standing nearby when the accident happened.
Adverbs of degree	Indicate <u>how much</u> something happens!	The building was completely destroyed by the fire.
Adverbs of manner	Describes <u>how</u> something happens!	He walked slowly down the alley.
Adverbs of frequency	Indicates <u>how often</u> something happens!	He rarely makes fun of me in front of my friends.
Adverbs of interrogation	<u>Ask questions</u> of certain actions!	Where did you put the keys to the car?
Conjunctive Adverbs	<u>Connects</u> two sentences together!	Paul is my best friend; therefore , I can trust him with my problems.

Types of Adverbs

9. Prepositions



Prepositions are function words used mainly before nouns and noun phrases to indicate their relation to other parts of the sentence. There are two types of prepositions:

- **Simple prepositions:** along, among, at, before, behind, below, during, from, in, for, on, out, over, since, through, to, upon, until, under, within, without, with.
- **Compound prepositions:** according to, as well as, in addition to, out of, with regard to, instead of, in front of.

10. Conjunctions



Conjunctions are words used to join two clauses. Depending on the relationship between the two sentences, coordination, subordination, or correlation is established.

- **Coordinating conjunctions:** there are seven (7) coordinating conjunctions gathered in the word FANBOYS:

F	A	N	B	O	Y	S
For	And	Nor	But	Or	Yet	So

Coordinators

- **Subordinating conjunctions:** subordinating conjunctions are introduced into a sentence to subordinate it and to make it dependent upon another; e.g., 'Although he is rich, he is not happy.' Subordinating conjunctions have different meanings; they are summarized in the following table:

Showing Causal Relationships	Granting Concessions	Specifying Conditions	Telling Place	Signaling Temporal Relationships	Setting up Comparison	Setting up Contrasts
as because in order so that now that since	although as as though even though just as though whereas while	even if if in case provided unless	where wherever	after as as soon as as long as before once still till until when whenever while	as as though	though whereas while although

Subordinators

- **Correlative conjunctions:** correlative conjunctions are pairs of words that correlate two elements (words or phrases) of equal nature.

→ She is *both* intelligent *and* beautiful.

→ I will *either* go for a hike *or* stay home and watch TV.

11. Interjections



Définition

The term interjection goes back to Latin, meaning “something thrown in between” (Nordquist, 2019). They are words used to express emotions and reactions, such as: *Ah!*, *wow!*, *oh!*, *ouch!*...