

The Parts of Speech

Part of Speech	Function	Example Words	Examples Sentences
Verb	An action or state of being	run, jump, eat, (Be = am, is, are, was, were)	South Cache is a school. I love South Cache.
Noun	A person, place, thing, or idea	dog, pen, Logan, Mrs. Pabst, happiness	Mimi is my dog .
Pronoun	Replaces a noun	I, you, he, she, we, it, they	I love it .
Adjective	Describes a noun or pronoun	good, big, red, interesting, two	Mimi is a small, white dog.
Adverb	Describes a verb, adjective, or adverb (Answers questions such as <i>how, when, where</i> or <i>why</i>)	quickly, silently, well, very, really	Mimi eats really quickly .
Preposition	Links a noun or pronoun to another word	to, at, on, in	We go to school on Mondays.
Conjunction	Joins words, phrases, or sentences	FANBOYS = for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so	I like dogs, but I don't like cats.
Interjection	A short exclamation expressing emotion	Oh! Ouch!	Ouch! That hurts!

Action Verbs

■ An **action verb** tells what someone or something does.

Some action verbs express physical action; others express mental action.

PHYSICAL ACTION The catcher often **signals** to the pitcher.

MENTAL ACTION A good catcher **understands** the batter's technique.

Linking Verbs

■ A **linking verb** links, or joins, the subject of a sentence (often a noun or pronoun) with a word or expression that identifies or describes the subject.

Be in all its forms—*am*, *is*, *are*, *was*, *were*—is the most commonly used linking verb.

I **am** an athlete.

The players **are** fast.

Squash **is** an indoor sport.

They **were** hockey fans.

Several other verbs besides the forms of *be* can act as linking verbs.

Other Linking Verbs

look	remain	seem	become
stay	grow	appear	sound
taste	smell	feel	

Exercise 29

Identifying Action and Linking Verbs

On your paper, make a list of the nineteen verbs that appear in the following paragraphs. Identify each verb as either *action* or *linking*.

The Statue of Liberty

¹In 1884 France presented the United States with a gift as a dramatic gesture of friendship. ²This spectacular gift was a huge copper statue. ³Its official name is *Liberty Enlightening the World*. ⁴Most people, however, know it simply as the Statue of Liberty. ⁵The gift commemorated the hundredth anniversary of the American Revolution. ⁶It also celebrated the alliance of France with the colonists during their fight for independence from England. ⁷The immense figure of Liberty holds a torch in her right hand. ⁸The inscription on the cover of her book reads "July 4, 1776."

⁹Artist Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi first made a nine-foot model of the statue.

¹⁰Gustave Eiffel, a pioneer in the use of metal as an architectural material, created the iron framework for the full-size statue. ¹¹The completed statue was too large for delivery in one piece. ¹²Workers in France dismantled it. ¹³The pieces of the statue arrived in the United States in 214 cases.

¹⁴The French people donated the money for the construction of the statue. ¹⁵Grateful, the people of the United States collected the funds for the massive granite and concrete pedestal. ¹⁶This impressive monument found a permanent home on Liberty Island in New York Harbor. ¹⁷The dedication of the statue by President Grover Cleveland on October 28, 1886, was a great ceremonial occasion.

¹⁸At 151 feet and 1 inch high, the Statue of Liberty remains one of the largest statues in the world. ¹⁹The monumental lady with the torch quickly became a symbol of American democracy.

Key Information

Nouns name people, places, things, or ideas.

grandfather	peacock
kitchen	vegetarianism

Concrete nouns identify objects that are tangible or can be identified through the senses.

hoof	yawn
fog	melodies

Abstract nouns name ideas, qualities, or characteristics.

fear	spirit
love	kindness

Proper nouns name particular people, places, things, or ideas. Proper nouns are always capitalized.

William Loman	Islam
Zaire	Machu Picchu

Collective nouns name groups. The singular form is sometimes considered singular and sometimes considered plural.

committee	choir
(a) pride (of lions)	

A. Categorizing Nouns

Place each of the nouns listed below in the appropriate column. Many nouns may be listed in more than one column.

crew	democracy	orchestra
theory	clan	aroma
Leontyne Price	Pythagoras	Caracas
hesitation	elation	Buddhism

Concrete	Abstract	Proper	Collective
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Personal Pronouns - 3 Types

Type #1: Subjective Pronouns (Used as a "subject" in a sentence or after a linking verb)

Examples: I, you, he, she, it, we, they (They won the game. It is he.)

Type #2: Objective Pronouns (Used after an action verb or after a preposition)

Examples: me, you, him, her, it, us, them (Maria hit *him*. John found a picture of *her*.)

Type #3: Possessive Pronouns (Used to show possession)

Examples: my, mine, your, yours, his, her, hers, its, our, ours, their, theirs (I like *my* guitar.)

1. It is (I/me).
2. Between you and (I/me), I think something is wrong.
3. Her parents were proud of (she/her).
4. The dog licked (its/it's) wounds.

Key Information

Prepositions show relationships of nouns and pronouns to other words in the sentence. These relationships often indicate space or time.

in the closet
 after lunch
 during the dance
 outside the perimeter
 since yesterday
 from the government

Compound prepositions consist of more than one word.

according to the law
 on top of Old Smokey
 out of the ordinary

Prepositions begin phrases that conclude with a noun or pronoun, called the **object of the preposition**.

A wounded deer stood **in front of the car**.
 A box **of antique jewelry** sat on the trunk.

■ A. Identifying Prepositional Phrases

Underline the twelve prepositional phrases in the following paragraphs.

That summer it was very hot, but according to Grandma, past summers had been hotter. She sat down between two apple trees, took a Chinese fan from her apron pocket, and told us about the time, many years ago, that she had actually fried an egg on the sidewalk—and it worked.

Next to her, Franny sprawled on the green grass and listened intently, in spite of the fact that she had already heard the story many, many times. Opposite her, I pulled a blade of grass from the rocky ground, stuck it between my teeth, and chewed contentedly.

Commonly Used Prepositions

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

■ A **compound preposition** is made up of more than one word.

Compound Prepositions

according to	aside from	in addition to	next to
ahead of	as to	in front of	on top of
along with	because of	in spite of	out of
apart from	by means of	instead of	owing to

Key Information

Adjectives modify nouns and pronouns.

eerie room

some people

latest fad

Many adjectives have comparative and superlative forms.

hot, hotter, hottest

sharp, sharper, sharpest

psychic, more psychic, most psychic

The adjectives *a*, *an*, and *the* are called articles.

Proper adjectives are formed from proper nouns and are always capitalized.

Italian opera

Buddhist thought

Dutch tulips

A. Identifying Adjectives

Underline all of the adjectives, except articles, in the following passage.

Along the foot of a tilted red rock a porcupine came. . . . It broke open a tiny shelter of sticks and some meager round-eared creature, all eyes and bony limbs, fled across the stones. The porcupine, ignoring it, was about to devour the beetles . . . when suddenly it paused, raised its head and listened. As it remained motionless a brown, mongoose-like creature broke quickly through the bushes and disappeared down its hole. From farther away came the sound of scolding birds.

- A **proper adjective** is formed from a proper noun and begins with a capital letter.

Rembrandt was a **Dutch** painter.

The **Berlin** Wall came down in 1989.

The following suffixes are often used to create proper adjectives: *-an*, *-ian*, *-n*, *-ese*, and *-ish*. Sometimes there are other changes as well. In some cases, the noun and adjective forms are the same.

PROPER NOUNS**PROPER ADJECTIVES**

Alaska

Queen Victoria

Vietnam

Denmark

Navajo

Alaskan

Victorian

Vietnamese

Danish

Navajo

Exercise 44**Identifying Proper Adjectives**

On your paper, list the ten proper adjectives that appear in the following passage.

The Early Colonization of the Americas

¹The Spanish colonization of the Americas began in the late 1400s after Christopher Columbus, an Italian explorer, sailed westward from Europe until he reached some Caribbean islands. ²The great Columbian drama unfolded as hundreds of Native American cultures, including the Aztec and Incan civilizations, collided violently with conquistadors and colonists. ³A century later, England and France joined in the quest for a North American empire. ⁴Some Europeans hoped to acquire great wealth, while others hoped to spread the Christian faith. ⁵Still others sought freedom from oppressive European laws and customs.

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Adverbs

■ An **adverb** is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb by making its meaning more specific.

The following sentences illustrate the use of adverbs to modify verbs, adjectives, and adverbs.

She **always** waited **patiently**.

verb

The waiting room was **very** noisy and **overly** crowded.

adjective

adjective

Rather oddly, we have **almost** never visited his farm.

adverb

adverb

Adverbs modify by answering the questions *when? where? how? and to what degree?*

I will call **tomorrow**.

His phone rings **often**.

The speaker will stand **here**.

Kim **carefully** polished the car.

We were **truly** sorry.

Exercise 50

Identifying Adverbs

On your paper, write all the adverb(s) that appear in each sentence below. Then write the word or words each adverb modifies.

A Great Blues Singer

1. Bessie Smith is often considered a great blues singer.
2. She was born into an extremely poor family in Chattanooga, Tennessee.
3. Hardly fourteen, she was already touring with Ma Rainey and her Rabbit Foot Minstrels.
4. Others have sung songs more matter-of-factly than she.
5. Jazz writers have called her style rhythmically adventurous.
6. In 1923 Smith began to make commercially successful records.
7. Louis Armstrong was one very famous jazz musician with whom she sang.
8. Her greatest fame probably came in the years from 1923 to 1928.
9. Her record *Nobody's Blues but Mine*, which covers the period from 1925 to 1927, remains popular today.
10. Bessie Smith did not survive a tragic car accident in 1937.