

Parts of Speech

Noun: a noun is a word used to name a person, place, thing or idea.

Sharon, Iowa, okra, peace, truth, justice, honesty, dog, cat.

Adjective: An adjective is a word used to modify a noun or a pronoun. To modify means to describe something or to make its meaning clearer. They answer the following questions:

What kind? GRAY sky. OLD shoes. CLEVER dog.

Which one? THAT girl. NEXT day. EITHER way.

How many? FIVE fingers. MANY rivers. SOME problems.

How much? ENOUGH space. MORE water. LESS time. SOME trouble.

Verb: A verb is used to express an action or a state of being. It is what is being DONE in the sentence.

An action verb expresses activity. He RAN quickly.

There are three types of verbs:

A transitive verb expresses an action. The object receives the action.

Neil rang the bell. Bell takes the action of Neil. Rang is the verb.

An intransitive verb expresses an action without an object.

Last Saturday we stayed inside. The children laughed.

Linking verbs link the subject with a noun, a pronoun or an adjective.

The answer IS three.

The winner COULD BE you.

The casserole TASTED good.

Adverb: An adverb is a word used to modify a verb, an adjective or another adverb.

It often ends in LY. It often asks these questions:

Where? We lived THERE.

How? She QUICKLY agreed.

When? May we go TOMORROW?

To what extent? I ran SWIFTLY. Notice that it is NOT "She ran swift." You can tell when people doesn't know grammar because they often do NOT put the LY after an adverb.

WRONG: She coughed terrible.

RIGHT: She coughed terribly.

Pronoun: A pronoun is a word used in place of one or more nouns.

Gloria stepped back from the picture and looked at IT. (It replaces the noun, the picture, so that you don't have to say "Gloria stepped back from the picture and looked at the picture.")

Where is Nicole? SHE said SHE would be here on time. (The pronoun SHE takes the place of NICOLE.)

Our teacher and Mr. Carter said THEY would go to the meeting. (The pronoun THEY takes the place of two nouns: TEACHER and MR. CARTER.)

Some pronouns include I, My, Mine, Me, You, Yours, yours, he, his, him, she, her, hers, it, its, we, our, us, they, their, theirs, them, myself, yourself, himself, ourselves, yourselves, who, whom, whose, which, that. A pronoun can also refer to a person, place or thing that is not stated such as these words: All, each, any, everybody, anybody, everyone, anyone, everything, nobody, some, few, none, no one.

Preposition: A preposition is a word used to show the relationship of a noun or a pronoun to some other word.

The dog slept NEAR the bed.

The cat went UNDER my bed.

The bird flew OVER my head.

We went FROM the beach TO the hotel.

Conjunction: A conjunction is a word used to join words or groups of words.

A coordinating conjunction connects groups of words used in the same way.

And, or, nor, for, yet, but, so.

Paths AND streets are on the map.

You might see a seagull on land OR on sea.

Interjection: An interjection is a word used to express emotions. It has no grammatical relation to the other words in the sentence.

Hey! Ouch! Wow! Oops! Well. Yikes!