

# Parts of Speech

## Section 2



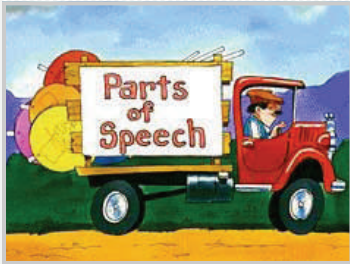
## Word Classification



according to grammatical function

### 2.1 How many *parts of speech* are there?

Check the box with the correct answer



- 8
- 9
- 10
- 12

### What are the parts of speech?

Write their names on the lines below

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### What part of speech is the word *the*?

Write the answer below

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Find the answers on the bottom of the next page

## Section 2

### How many parts of speech are there?

It depends on who you ask. Depending on your source, you will find anywhere from eight to nine or even more!

Confused yet? Maybe you should be. But, most of all, don't be intimidated by it. Remember if you write the book, you get to decide how many parts of speech there are and it is only a matter of classification or how they are sorted into categories. Some grammarians avoid the subject altogether by not even addressing the issue.

### What are the parts of speech?

There is fairly common agreement about nine parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, verbs, prepositions, adverbs, adjectives, conjunctions, articles, and interjections. On some lists you will also find determiners instead of articles (articles are in this class) and possibly quantifiers, most of which can also be classed as determiners. It's important to know that many words can be used as more than one part of speech. Their classification will depend on how they are used in a sentence.

### What is a noun?

A noun is a part of speech that represents the name of a person, animal, place, thing, quality (such as *kindness*), action (*reading*), or measurement (*hour, kilogram*).

Nouns can be categorized as very specific "proper nouns" - which are capitalized and typically used without an article, and more general "common nouns" - which are typically accompanied with a determiner.



Nouns may also be classified as countable and uncountable (sometimes called count and non-count nouns). Countable nouns can have a plural form.

There are also "collective" nouns. These names are for groups, such as *committee, government, team, jury, family*, etc.

### What is a pronoun?

The most simple forms of pronouns (**personal pronouns**) substitute for nouns and noun phrases. They can be further classed as first, second, and third-person pronouns (*me, you, them*). They can also be classified by *case* as subjective or objective (used as the subject or object of a sentence). Examples: *I vs. me; she vs. her; they vs. them*.

Pronouns representing noun phrases can make speech or writing easier by representing much longer passages and ideas with a simple pronoun.

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**Demonstrative pronouns** are pronouns such as *this*, *that*, *these* and *those*, which by their very use indicate or demonstrate what is being talking about. *Example: I want those.* If they are used in front of a noun, they are called **demonstrative adjectives**. *Example: I want those pencils.*

**Possessive pronouns** indicate ownership. That car is *hers*. It is *mine*.

If a pronoun is used to indicate to whom an object belongs, it is called a **possessive adjective**. *Example: That is her car.* Some grammarians would classify such use as determiners, not adjectives.

**Reflexive pronouns** indicate that the subject receives the action of the verb. *Example: I treated myself to a big piece of chocolate cake.*

**Intensive or emphatic pronouns** strengthen the action of the subject. *Example: I'll do it myself.*

**Interrogative pronouns** introduce questions - which, what, who, whom, and whose are examples. *Who did that?*

**Relative pronouns** are used to tie together related groups of words. Examples are which, what, who, whom and whose. *I went to the doctor that my friend recommended.*



### What is an article?

Sometimes called a noun marker, sometimes classed as a determiner, articles precede nouns. **A** and **an** are called **indefinite articles**, **the** is called the **definite article**.

### How about determiners?

Determiners are a broader class of words than articles and include most quantifiers. Determiners can be defined as words that begin noun phrases and help limit or specify the nouns they precede. This class of words would also include possessive and demonstrative adjectives. Examples include *a*, *the*, *your*, *this*, *each*, *several*, *some*.

### Quantifiers?

As long as we have stepped in these waters, let's finish it with quantifiers. They are simply words that precede nouns that give some indication of how many or how much of a noun we are talking about. Examples include *few*, *little*, *many*, *much*, *a lot*, *several*. Quantifiers are typically classified as determiners. In a system in which determiners are not used, quantifiers would typically be classified as adjectives.

## Let's start by defining what we are talking about

### What is a phrase?

A phrase is two or more related words that work together that do not contain a subject **and** a verb.

**Examples:**    *in jail*    *big monkey*    *running slowly*

When we talk about phrases we can include: prepositional phrases (that can work as adjectives and adverbs), adverbial phrases (adverbials), noun phrases, verb phrases (phrasal verbs), verbals (participial, gerund, and infinitive), and compound phrases. Wow! More on these later.

### What is a clause?

A clause is two or more words related words that work together that contains a subject **and** a verb. Compare this definition to that of a phrase. There are two types of clauses: one called independent (or main) which can stand alone as a sentence; and two, dependant (or subordinate) which can not stand along as a complete sentence.

**Examples:**

*Because he was crazy*                      dependent clause

*The monkey is rabid*                      independent clause



Dependent clauses serves many purposes and can be classified a variety of way—depending on who you read—as relative, participial, adjectival, adverbial, noun, and elliptical. More detail on these later.

### What is a sentence?

A sentence is a group of words that express a complete thought. While a simple definition, similar ones being used in many reference books, what is a “complete thought”? Some definitions will say that it must have a subject and verb and final punctuation. Look up several definitions in reference books—and try to find one that you will feel most comfortable with and able to explain, in simple English, to your students.

**Examples:**

I want to go home now.

When is the next movie?

## Section 3

Notice that a sentence is a main or independent clause.

Sentences can be broken into subject and predicate parts. They can be classified as simple, compound, complex and compound-complex sentences.

Depending on the purpose of the sentence they can also be classified as declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences.

More on the variety of possible classifications later.

## Phrases

Phrase classifications that we need to become familiar with include: prepositional phrases (that can work as adjectives and adverbs), noun phrases, verb phrases (phrasal verbs), verbals (participial, gerund, and infinitive), and compound phrases.

### **What is a prepositional phrase?**

A prepositional phrase (PP) opens with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun (the object of the phrase). A PP functions as a multi-word adjective phrase (adjectival) or adverb phrase (adverbial).

#### **The prepositional phrase as an adjective:**

##### **Examples:**

The monkey ***in the red hat*** . . .  
helps describe the monkey

The man ***with the organ*** . . .  
helps describe the man



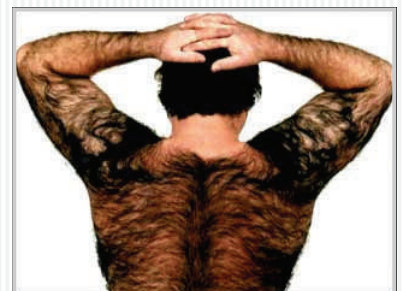
#### **The prepositional phrase as an adverb:**

##### **Examples:**

She dances ***with grace and style***. describes how she dances

The hair on his back grows quickly  
and ***with great vigor***. describes how  
his hair grows

His is afraid ***of his own shadow***.  
Modifies the  
adjective afraid.



These type of prepositional phrases are sometimes called ***adverbials*** or ***adverbial phrases***.

## Sentence Structure + Components

We'll use simple sentences to illustrate some basic ideas about sentence structure. A simple sentence has a subject and a main verb. It may also contain a describing phrase (or complement).

### What is a subject? What is a verb?

A *subject* is the noun or pronoun that identifies the person, place, or thing the sentence is about. The *verb* tells the action done by the subject or explains its condition.

#### Examples:

##### Subject

She  
He  
My dog  
My dog and cat

##### Verb

studies.  
runs.  
is a Lothario.  
are dancing.



### What is a complement?

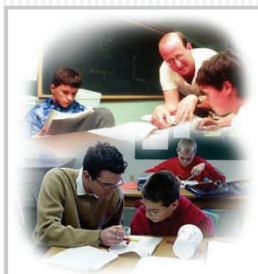
A sentence may also have a describing phrase (or **complement**), but it does not have to have one. A describing phrase or complement gives additional information about the meaning about the subject or verb.

Following are examples of simple sentences with describing phrases (or compliments). Note that the complements or phrases can function as adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, and nouns.

Subject	Verb	Describing Phrase or Complement
He	loves	her. (pronoun)
Her new car	is	super fast. (adjective phrase)
Her major	was	English Literature. (noun phrase)
She	runs	fast. (adverb)
She	owns	her own tour business. (noun phrase)

A complement can also be a verb phrase or a prepositional phrase.

His girlfriend	wants	<i>to buy a new car.</i> (verb phrase)
Professor Lee	is	<i>in the classroom.</i> (prepositional phrase)



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You may also combine descriptive phrases.

He            wants            to start a new business            on the Internet.  
(verb phrase            +            prepositional phrase)

Joanne        bought            a new car yesterday. (noun phrase + adverb)

**Write three descriptive sentences below.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Sentence Structure: Subject-Verb Agreement**

A singular subject must be followed by a singular verb, and a plural subject must be followed by a plural verb. This rule is called **subject-verb agreement**.

#### **Examples:**

Her book is missing. (singular)  
Her books are missing. (plural)  
Her books and pens are missing. (plural)

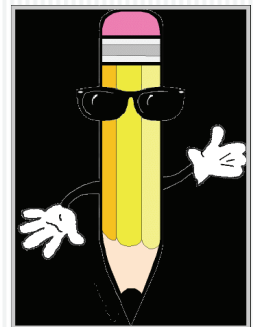
Generally agreement is not a difficult issue, but it can be when dealing with certain **terms** and or **terms + prepositions**. We'll try to cover most of them—just for good reference.

Each and every, when used with a singular noun, should be followed by a singular noun.

#### **Examples:**

Each pencil is of the highest quality. (singular)

Every pencil is of the highest quality. (singular)



The following subject nouns require a singular verb.

everyone, anyone, someone, no one,  
everybody, anybody, somebody, nobody,  
everything, anything, something, nothing