

Basics

Parts of speech

In any language, a speech is constructed by the assembly of words and sentences. Each “part” has its own job, called “parts of speech”. There are eight (8) kind of ways to use: *noun, pronoun, adjective, verb, adverb, preposition, conjunction, and interjection.*

You cannot use efficiently these parts if you don’t know what really they are. Like a machine used for the first time, it is indispensable to know each one of its parts in order to operate it adequately. This section reviews the definitions of parts of speech in English and how uses them.

1. What is a “**noun**”? = is a word used to names something
2. What is a “**Pro-noun**”? = is a word used as a substitute of a noun
3. What is a “**Verb**”? = is a word used to describe an action or make a statement
4. What is an “**Adverb**”? = is a word used to modify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.
5. What is an “**Adjective**”? = is a word used to highlight the meaning/description of a noun or a or a pronoun
6. What is a “**Preposition**”? = is a word used to link a noun or pronoun (its object) to another sentence element
7. What is a “**Conjunction**”? = is a word, groups of words, phrases, or clauses that indicated the relationship between the elements of a speech.
8. What is a “**Interjection**” = is a word, used to convey the way the author is feeling

1. The noun

A noun names something, names, countries, tangible things “computer, table.....”
Nouns also name things you cannot see or touch, for example, width, accuracy, error, length, depth, scheme; These words do name qualities or ideas.

- TYPES OF NOUNS:

The **Proper Noun** names a particular person, place, or thing. The **Common Noun** names a class of things.

Proper Nouns	Common Nouns
Algeria, Berlin, Thomas Edison	Country, Writer, Student, street....

Abstract nouns are names that describe a quality or an idea. For example, **energy Beauty, Calmness, Fear, Integrity**.... are abstract nouns. **Count nouns** are the nouns that can be counted, whereas **mass nouns** cannot be counted.

- HOW TO USE NOUNS

In a sentence, Nouns could be used in many ways; as **subjects** or as **objects** of verbs/prepositions or even like an adjective.

The noun as	Example
Subjects	The <i>Bacteria</i> were isolated on selective agar.
The direct object of a verb	High salt concentrations affected the bacterial <i>recovery</i>
Indirect object of a verb	The cold damaged their <i>diffusion</i>
Object of a preposition	The event occurred within the <i>year</i>
Subjective complement	a dynamo is a <i>generator</i>
Objective complement	We elected the academic head <i>chairperson</i>
Appositive	Kevin Smith, <i>the treasurer</i> , gave his report last.
Adjective	It is <i>company</i> policy
Adverb	He went <i>home</i>

- Noun Strings:

A noun string is a sequence of nouns that serves to modify another noun: for example, ***multichannel microwave radiometer***, the nouns “multichannel” and “microwave” serve to modify “radiometer”. You have to avoid stringing many nouns

Bad example: “*State government outbreak surveillance agencies* have implemented *lab resource planning and management studies* and have aided *volunteer medical group greenway initiators* by providing *technical coordinative assistance*”



2. The Pronoun

A pronoun is a word that is used as a substitute for a noun or of more than one noun. Using pronouns in place of nouns relieves the monotony of repeating the same noun over and over. There are several kinds of pronouns: **personal**, *relative*, *interrogative*, *demonstrative*, and *indefinite*.

*Example: **Brucellosis** is a highly contagious bacterial disease. In Egypt, **It** has been reported in cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, and camels. [The pronoun “it” takes the place of the noun “Brucellosis”]*

- **Personal Pronouns** are referring to persons. They are personalized in three persons,

First-person (I, We...): referring to the speaking person/people

Second person (You, your...): referring to person/people that we are speaking to

Third-person (He, she...): referring to person/people/thing(s) that we are speaking of

Personal pronouns take different forms for singular and plural. And they have - In the third person- three genders: masculine (he), feminine (she), and neutral (it). They take different forms for the nominative, objective, and possessive cases.

	NOMINATIVE CASE	OBJECTIVE CASE	POSSESSIVE CASE
Singular			
FIRST PERSON	I	me	my, mine
SECOND PERSON	you	you	your, yours
THIRD PERSON	he (masculine)	him	his
	She (feminine)	her	her, hers
	It (neuter)	it	its
Plural			
FIRST PERSON	we	us	our, ours
SECOND PERSON	You	you	your, yours
THIRD PERSON	They	them	their, theirs

Interrogative Pronouns are used in questions. **Who, whom, which, what, whose**

Demonstrative Pronouns point out a particular person or thing. When they are used before nouns, they are considered adjectives (*these books, that project, those reports*).

Indefinite pronouns refer, in no specific way, to persons, places, or things.

All, either, most, one, another, everybody, much, several, any, everyone, neither, some, anybody, everything, nobody, somebody, anyone, few, none, someone, both, many, no one, such, each, more

3. The Adjective

An adjective is a word used to describe a person or thing; it **makes the meaning** more specific. Usually, adjectives come before the noun. For example *white precipitate, stupid idea, smooth colonies...* they are called **attributed adjectives**.

Adjectives do not modify verbs, adverbs, or other adjectives. However, they can also act as a complement to *linking verbs (to feel, to seem, to taste...)* or the verb *to be*; placed after the noun. For example, *Bio-molecular diagnostic is faster than conventional techniques*. They are called **Predicate adjectives**.

Articles “a”, “an” and “The” are adjectives

Possessive pronouns are also considered as **possessive adjectives** (*my, his, yours...*)

Demonstrative adjectives: **this, these, those, that**

Interrogative adjectives: **which, what, whose**

Coordinate adjectives: are more than two adjectives that modify the same noun.

They should be separated by “*comma*” or by the word “*and*”. For example, *This is going to be a long, cold winter*.

Comparative adjectives:

- If the adjective has one syllable, the comparative is formed by adding the suffix -er (or just -r). Exp: *A cooler chamber*
- For two-syllable adjectives ending in -y, replace -y with -ier. Exp: *a messier desk*
- For multi-syllable adjectives, add the word more. Exp: *more prospective*

Superlative adjectives:

- One-syllable adjectives become superlatives by adding the suffix -est or (-st)
- Two-syllable adjectives ending in -y replace -y with -iest.
- Multi-syllable adjectives add the word most.

4. The verb

A verb is a word (or group of words) used to express action “*eat*”, event “*happen*” or a statement “*exist*”. A verb can be described as **transitive** or **intransitive**. A transitive verb requires an object to express its action; it needs to transfer its action to something or someone. An intransitive verb will make sense without one. Some verbs may be used both ways.

Exp: **transitive**/ The peroxidase *catalyzed*^(tV) the reaction^(Obj)

Intransitive/ They *jumped*^(intV)

Linking verbs are verbs that serve to **link** a subject with further information that gives further descriptions. All forms of “**to be**” (am, is, are, was, were, has been, are being, might be, etc.). Some verbs can be both action and linking verbs; these include all the sense verbs, such as *look, touch, smell, appear, feel, sound, and taste*.

Exp: ‘**linking V**’/ The Gram-negative bacteria *appeared*^(linkV) purple under the microscope

‘**action V**’/ It *appears*^(actV) right now

Verbs change their forms to agree in person (First, Second, Third-person) with their subjects; and changed forms to indicate time distinction “**The tense**” (Present, past, future, present perfect, past perfect)

Modal verbs are auxiliary verbs (helping verbs); they add meaning to the main verb in a sentence by expressing possibility, ability, permission, or obligation. They are: **can, will, could, shall, must, would, might, and should**.

Exp: The authors *should*^(modalV) *indicate*^(V) the assignments for each sample.

Your Histograms *must*^(modalV) show^(V) the *P*-values.

Staph exotoxins *could*^(modalV) cause^(V) harmful affections.

You *do*^(modalV) know^(V) how to write a scientific paper!

5. The Adverb

An adverb is a word used to modify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. Specifically, adverbs describe 'how', 'where', 'when', 'in what manner', and 'to what extent' something is done or happens.

Incredibly, slightly, very, always, only, too, quickly

Exp: The operators are *exceptionally*^(adv) competent. ['Exceptionally' modifies 'competent']

The job was *very*^(adv) hard

Fortunately, we performed all biochemical reactions

6. The Preposition

A preposition is a word used to **link** a noun or pronoun (its object) to another sentence element by expressing :

- direction (**to, into, across, toward**),
- location (**at, in, on, under, over, beside, among, by, between, through**)
- time (**before, after, during, until, since**).

Commonly Used Prepositions

About	below	for	throughout
Above	beneath	from	to
Across	beside	in	toward
After	besides	into	under
Against	between	like	underneath
Along	beyond	of	until
Amid	but (meaning "except")	off	unto
Among	by	on	up
Around	concerning	over	upon
At	down	past	with
Before	during	since	within
Behind	except	through	without

Preposition vs Adverb:

Some words function as prepositions and as adverbs.

PREPOSITIONS :

The manager sat *behind* the desk *in* her office. [the word 'behind' makes the connection between 'the manager' and 'the desk']

ADVERBS:

He came *in* and sat *down* [the word 'in' modifies 'came']

7. The conjunction

A conjunction is a word that **connects** words, groups of words, phrases, or clauses together and can indicate the relationship between them. The phrases joined by conjunctions should share the same structure.

Exp:

The results were obtained from clinical **and** subclinical mastitis.

Gram staining is a good method for orientation, **whereas** biochemical screening is essential for species identification.

Not only am I finished studying for English, **but** I'm also finished writing my essay.

The fowl remains on the plate **until** boiling of the medium

Coordinating conjunctions allow you to join words, phrases, and clauses of equal grammatical rank in a sentence. “**for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so**”

Correlative conjunctions are pairs of conjunctions that work together.

both/and, either/or, neither/nor, not only/but, whether/or

Subordinating conjunctions join independent and dependent clauses. It can signal kinds of relationships between the clauses (cause-and-effect relationship, contrast....).

after, although, as, as if, as long as, as much as, as soon as, as though, because, before, by the time, even if, even though, if, in order that, in case, in the event that, lest, now that, once, only, only if, provided that, since, so, supposing, that, than, though, till, unless, until, when, whenever, where, whereas, wherever, whether or not, while