

# PARTS OF SPEECH

## VERB:

A word that shows action or indicates occurrence or existence (state of being).

The word is probably a verb if:

- You can use **will, shall, can, could, may, might, must, should, or would** in front of it.
- You can *do it, think it, or be it*

**Examples:** ran, jump, shout, thinks, feels, sleeps, eat, laugh, are, is, was, has

*The President **met** with foreign diplomats on Tuesday.*

---

## ARTICLE:

A word that **functions as an adjective and is used to point to nouns**. There are only three articles in English: **a, an** and **the**. *The* is used to point to **definite** or specific nouns. *A* and *an* are for **indefinite** (less specific) noun references.

**Examples:** *The bees that were on the flowers stung Katie.*

*A man gave us directions to the airport.*

[**A** is used before a noun beginning with a consonant sound.]

*An article in the paper caught my attention.*

[**An** is used before a noun beginning with a vowel sound.]

---

## NOUN:

A word that **names a person, place, thing, idea, animal, quality, or action**. Nouns function as the subject of the sentence. They also function as objects, complements, appositives, and modifiers, as well as in direct address.

The word is probably a noun if:

- You can make it plural or singular (one book, two books)
- You can make it possessive (book, book's pages / girl, girls' dresses)
- It can follow a prepositional phrase (to the **store** / with the **cat** / from the **doctor**)
- You can place an article in front of it (a **phone** / an **apple** / the **door**)

**Examples:** child, John, New York, books, pizza, love, pony, generosity

*Edwin, my brother, is a professional musician.*

---

## PRONOUN:

A word that **takes the position of a noun** and functions as nouns do.

The word is probably a pronoun if:

- You can substitute it for a noun (*John* drove the car. **He** drove the car.)
- The form of the word can change according to its function (**They** said **their** prayers before going to bed.)

**Examples:** me, mine, myself, she, theirs, ours, you, he, her, it, we, these, one

*He attended a luncheon in his honor on Wednesday.*

---

## ADJECTIVE:

A word that **describes, modifies, or qualifies nouns and pronouns**. Generally, adjectives appear immediately before the words they modify.

The word is probably an adjective if:

- You can add **-er** or **-est** to the end of it (happy / happier / happiest)
- You can use **more** or **most** in front of it (beautiful / more beautiful / most beautiful)
- You can use the words **very** or **quite** in front of it (very **bright** / quite **different**)

**Examples:** pretty, talented, young, blue

*The small child begged for a bedtime story.*

---

**ADVERB:** A word that **modifies verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs**. Adverbs identify when, where, how, how far, how much, etc.  
 The word is probably an adverb if:

- There is an **-ly** suffix (happily, joyfully, gratefully)
- It can be moved to another place in the sentence and still make sense (He **usually** goes to school. / **Usually**, he goes to school. / He goes to school **usually**.)

**Examples:** quickly, hastily, frantically, low, straight, wrong, hard  
*Kelly **reluctantly** agreed to serve on the committee.*  
*Kelly **never** loses her temper*

**PREPOSITION:** A word that **establishes a relationship** between its object and another word in the sentence. The relationship can be one of time, space, direction, place, accompaniment, cause, or manner.  
 The word is probably a preposition if:

- It is followed by a noun object / Prepositions must be followed by a noun object
- It occurs in a prepositional phrases / Prepositions only occur in prepositional phrases

**Examples:** above, before, concerning, except, near, off, since, under, through  
*Jack sat **beside** Jill **on** the bus.*

**CONJUNCTION:** A word that functions as a **connector** between words, phrases, and clauses. There are coordinating, correlating, and subordinating conjunctions.  
 The word is probably a conjunction if:

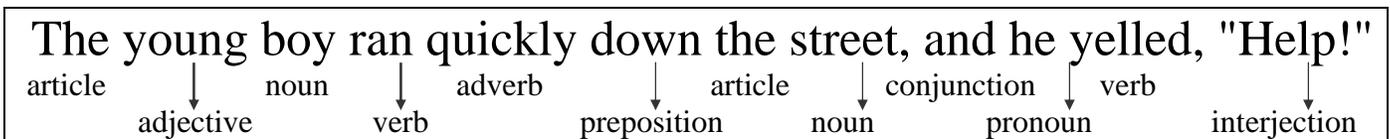
- It connects single words or groups of words

**Examples:** for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so, when, although  
*He brought lunch **and** a gift.*  
*I work part-time, **although** I don't need the money.*

**INTERJECTION:** A word or phrase **used in exclamation**.  
 The word is probably an interjection if:

- It expresses strong emotion (Oh! / Ouch! / Hurry!)
- It is followed by an exclamation or a comma (Help! / Oh, that's great)
- It can stand alone (Wow! / Stop!)

**Examples:** Boo! Yippee! Hooray! Ugh! Oops!  
*Wow! Look at all the snow.*



## PARTS OF SPEECH

A **NOUN** is a person, place, act, quality, or thing,  
Or sometimes even a time, like *today* or *spring*;  
A **NOUN** is the name of anything,  
Like *kindness, garden, love, or swing*.

Instead of nouns, the **PRONOUNS** stand;  
*Her* toes, *his* face, *our* arms, *your* hand;  
A **PRONOUN** takes the noun's true place,  
Like *they* for people, *she* for Grace.

**VERBS** tell what the subject does,  
Like *loves* or *hates, is, or was*;  
**VERBS** tell of acts being done:  
*Read, dance, laugh, type, or run*.

An **ADJECTIVE** describes a noun,  
Like *gay* or *ugly, rich* or *brown*;  
An **ADJECTIVE** modifies a pronoun,  
Like *great, small, up, or down*.

**ADVERBS** tell us where or when,  
Like *up, down, now, or then*;  
How things are done **ADVERBS** also tell,  
Like *nicely, fast, bad, or well*.

A **PREPOSITION** stands before a noun:  
*In* bed, *at* sea, *to* town;  
So the **PREPOSITION** comes before,  
Like *through* or *around* the open door.

**CONJUNCTIONS** join words together,  
Like cats *or* dogs, fowl *and* feather;  
**CONJUNCTIONS** are a bridge across:  
*But, like, as, because*.

An **INTERJECTION**, last of all,  
Like *oh!* and *ouch!*, is very small;  
An **INTERJECTION** shows surprise,  
Like *Who me?, How nice!, Bless my eyes!*