

## THE PARTS OF SPEECH (BASIC OVERVIEW)

Please understand that a word is not a part of speech until it is used in a phrase, clause, or sentence. Parts of speech are roles words play, not the words themselves. Many words can fill different jobs in different circumstances.

**NOUN:** a word used to denominate a person, place, thing, or idea.

i.e. fish, boxes, love, knowledge, memory, pencil, house, people

**PROPER NOUN:** the given name of a person, place, or thing. Proper nouns are capitalized.

i.e. America, Sarah Jane, *The Old Man and the Sea*, Oxford University

**PRONOUN:** a word used to replace a noun in order to avoid repetition.

i.e. he, she, it, they, us, you, him, her, them, we

**SUBJECT NOUN:** a noun used as the subject of a verb in a sentence.

**OBJECT NOUN:** a noun used as the object of a verb, preposition, etc. in a sentence.

**VERB:** a word used to show the action or state of existence of a noun.

**ACTION (ACTIVE) VERB:** the actual action of a noun regardless of tense.

i.e. run, left, has flown, should have been watching, have written

**STATE OF BEING (PASSIVE) VERB:** the state of existence of a noun regardless of tense.

i.e. is, am, are, was, were, have, has, had, be, being, been, should, would, could

**ADJECTIVE:** a word that modifies, adds meaning, or adds specificity to a noun.

i.e. blue, sharp, scary, happy, his, Jennifer's, old

**ARTICLE:** a specific kind of adjective meaning "this, specific, singular."

i.e. the, a, an

**ADVERB:** a word that modifies, adds meaning, or adds specificity to a verb, an adjective, or an adverb.

i.e. slowly, subliminally, very, not, hopefully

**PREPOSITION:** a word that describes a spatial relationship between objects or actions and objects.

i.e. in, through, around, for, from, toward, over, among

**CONJUNCTION:** a word that joins words, phrases, or clauses together.

**COORDINATING CONJUNCTION:** a conjunction which keeps parts equal.

i.e. for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so

**SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTION:** a conjunction which makes one part dependent on the other.

i.e. that, after, when, as, if, because, although

**CONJUNCTIVE ADVERB:** an adverb form used as a coordinating conjunction.

i.e. however, consequently, finally, accordingly, similarly, nevertheless

**VERBAL:** a word formed from a verb functioning as a different part of speech.

**INFINITIVE:** the perfect, unconjugated form of the verb (starting with "to") acting as a noun.

i.e. to run, to turn, to fly, to smell, to analyze, to clear, to surprise

**GERUND:** the "ing" form, "ed" form, "en" form, or "t" form of a verb acting as a noun.

i.e. running, formed, written, left, lifted, given, surrendering

**PARTICIPLE:** the "ing," "ed," "en," or "t" form of a verb acting as an adjective.

i.e. scooping, raked, smitten, dealt, tried, spun, accommodating

**INTERJECTION:** a word added into a sentence (usually at the beginning) to show excitement or emotion.

i.e. dang, hey, oh, wow, woot, help, whoa, crap