

Parts of speech

Traditional grammar classifies words based on nine **parts of speech**:

Verb
Noun
Pronoun
Articles
Adjective
Adverb
Preposition
Conjunction
Interjection

1. VERBS

A verb performs either of three kinds of tasks:

it expresses action;

it expresses a state of being;

it expresses the relationship between two things.

Transitive verbs take objects. They tell us what the subject (agent) does to something else (object).

He **bought** a shirt. (agent) (did something) (object- answers the question "what?")

She **brushes** her hair every hour.

Marina **will lose** the race.

Intransitive verbs do not take an object. They express actions that do not require the agent's doing something to something else.

Tom **danced**.

They **ran** down the road.

2. NOUNS

A noun is any word which names a person, place, thing, idea, animal, quality, or activity.

person - Nicholas

place - countryside

thing - pen

idea - equality

animal - kangaroo

quality - weight

activity - supervision

Proper nouns are the names of specific things, people, or places, such as *Chicoutimi* and *Christine*.

Common nouns are general names such as *woman*, *wall* and *lamp*. They can be either concrete or abstract.

Concrete nouns refer to things which you can sense such as *calculator* and *pantry*.

Abstract nouns refer to ideas or qualities such as *freedom* and *truth*.

3. PRONOUNS

A **pronoun** is a word which takes the place of a noun or stands in for an unknown noun. The noun which the pronoun replaces is called its antecedent.

Mary wondered whether **she** should go to the party. "Mary" is the **antecedent** of the pronoun "she".

Nominative or subject case: ("I," "you," "she," "he," "it," "we," "you," "they.")

She came to the house.

Who has seen the wind?

This is **she**.

The **object** personal pronouns are: "me," "you," "her," "him," "it," "us," "you," and "them."

The object case pronoun functions as a direct or indirect object, or as an object of a preposition.

I gave **her** a test.

I sold **it** to **them**.

The book is beside **him**.

Possessive personal pronouns are "mine," "yours," "hers," "his," "its," "ours," and "theirs."

That tennis racquet is **mine**.

The pleasure was all **hers**.

A **demonstrative pronoun** points to and identifies a noun or a pronoun: "this" and "these", "that" and "those".

An **interrogative pronoun** is used to ask **questions**: "who," "whom," "which," "what".

You can use a **relative pronoun** to link one phrase or clause to another phrase or clause: "who," "whom," "that," and "which."

Indefinite pronouns have no specific antecedents.

Singular: another both everything
nothing any each
neither one anybody
either nobody none

Plural: all few more
much most several
both some many

Reflexive pronouns indicate that the subject performs actions to or for itself.: "myself", "yourself", "himself", "herself", "itself", "ourselves", "yourselves", "themselves"

An **intensive pronoun** is a pronoun used to emphasise its antecedent. Intensive pronouns are identical in form to reflexive pronouns.

4. ARTICLES

Definite article: "the".

Indefinite articles: "a" and "an".

5. ADJECTIVES

Possessive adjectives: The possessive adjectives **my, your, his, her, its, our,** and **their** modify nouns by showing possession or ownership.

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

Eg. **These** apples are wonderful.

Interrogative Adjectives: The interrogative adjectives **what, which,** and **whose** modify nouns and pronouns to indicate a question about them.

pronoun: **Which** fell?

adjective: **Which** trapeze artist fell?

6. ADVERBS

Adverbs modify, limit or qualify other words. They can modify:

verbs

adjectives

other adverbs

whole sentences

Many adverbs end in **-ly**.

awkwardly happily
sharply tightly cheerfully
loudly swiftly viciously

Some adverbs do not end in **-ly**.

everywhere here
never so
fast much rather

7. PREPOSITIONS

A preposition links a noun or a pronoun with some other word or expression in the sentence.

The cow jumped **over** the moon.

The **preposition** "over" links its object, "the moon," to the verb "jump."

about below in over
about inside past up across
into since upon after
near through with between
against by of throughout

The children climbed the mountain **without** fear.

The spider crawled slowly **along** the railing.

8. CONJUNCTIONS

Conjunctions join words, phrases or clauses.

I ate the pizza **and** the pasta.

Coordinating conjunctions join sentence parts of equal grammatical status. They are:

and for or yet
but nor so

Correlative conjunctions join words, phrases, and clauses, as well as whole sentences.

both ... and

neither ... nor

either ... or

not only ... but also

Subordinating conjunctions connect clauses of unequal status. A subordinating conjunction introduces a subordinate or dependent clause, which is unable to stand alone as a complete sentence.

after even if that
while although even though
though as if unless in order

9. INTERJECTIONS

Interjections are particles used in speech to indicate emotion or provide transition:

eh, okay, say, oh, no, ouch, yuck

It's great being a Tasmanian, **eh**?

Yuck! That tastes disgusting.

	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Comparative</u>	<u>Superlative</u>
Adjectives	big	bigger	biggest
	lousy	lousier	lousiest
	quiet	quieter	quietest
		more quiet	most quiet
	merciful	more merciful	most merciful
	astounding	more astounding	most astounding
Adverbs	badly	worse	worst
	loudly	louder	loudest
	gracefully	more gracefully	most gracefully