

Parts of Speech and Sentence Parts

1. A **noun** names a person, place, thing, or idea.

Example: *Many famous Americans were born in poverty.*

[Americans is a **proper noun** because it names a specific person, place, thing, or idea; poverty is a **common noun** because it does not name a specific person, place, or thing. **Proper nouns** are always capitalized.]

2. A **pronoun** is a word used in place of a noun. It is used to avoid repetition.

Example: *Sally washed her hair.*

3. A **verb** is a word or group of words that asserts action or a state of being about a noun/pronoun.

Example: *She gave me a haircut. Ted is happy.*

4. An **adjective** modifies or describes a noun or pronoun, usually answering one of these questions: Which one? What kind of? How many?

Example: *The horse is a domestic animal.*

5. An **adverb** modifies a verb, an adjective, or another verb, usually answering one of these questions: When? Where? Why? How? Under what conditions? To what degree?

Example: *Speak distinctly. This problem is very difficult. We are driving too rapidly.*

6. A **preposition** shows the relationship between its object (the noun or pronoun that follows it) and some word in the sentence.

Example: *We are going to Cleveland.*

7. A **conjunction** connects words or groups of words.

Example: *Cal and Jon are visiting us.*

8. An **interjection** expresses surprise or emotion.

Example: *Look, that airplane is flying upside down!*

The part of speech to which a word belongs is determined by its use in the sentence.

SENTENCE PARTS

1. **Subject/Verb.** Every sentence includes:

- a **subject** (*noun or pronoun plus words that modify the subject*) that tells who or what the sentence is about.

Example: **The friendly coach** [subject] threw the ball to the pitcher.

- a **predicate** which includes the verb plus its objects, complements, and modifiers.

Example: The friendly coach **threw the ball to the pitcher** [predicate].

2. **Object/Complement.** Predicates may include:

- an **object** (*noun or pronoun*) that receives the action of the verb or tells to whom or for whom the action of the verb is done.

Example: The friendly coach threw **the ball** [object] to the pitcher.

- A **complement** renames or describes the subject.

Example: Love is **blind** [complement].

3. **Phrase.** A sentence may include word groups that do not have a subject and verb.

An example is a prepositional phrase: The friendly coach threw the ball **to the pitcher** [phrase].

4. **Clause.** A clause is a group of words that does contain a subject and a verb plus the object, complement, and/or modifying phrases.

Example: **The friendly coach threw the ball to the pitcher.**

To be a complete sentence, a sentence must contain a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.