



## Parts of Speech

There are eight parts of speech: **nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.**

**Nouns:** A noun is a **person** (*librarian*), a **place** (*home*), a **thing** (*book*), or an **idea** (*justice*).

**Proper Nouns** are capitalized and name particular **people** (*Steve*), **places** (*the Poconos*), or **things** (*the Eiffel Tower*).

**Pronouns:** A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun. There are several types of pronouns; here are a few :

- **Personal Pronouns** refer to specific persons or things:

Singular: *I, me, you, she, her, he, him, it*

Plural: *we, us, they, them, you*

- **Possessive Pronouns** indicate ownership:

Singular: *my, mine, your, yours, her, hers, his, its*

Plural: *our, ours, your, yours, their, theirs*

- **Relative Pronouns** show relationships: *who, whom, which, that, whose*. To **whom** did he sell the car?

**Verbs:** Verbs usually convey **action** (*jump, think, eat, swim*) or **being** (*is, become, feel*)

- **Main Verbs** in sentences tell what the subject is doing: *Fish **swim** in water.* (What do fish do? They swim.)
- **Linking Verbs** connect the subject to another word or words that help describe the subject:  
*The professor **is** late.* (The verb *is* links the subject *professor* to the descriptor *late*.)  
◊ Common linking verbs: *are, is, was, seems, become, looks, sounds, feel, tastes*

**Adjectives:** Adjectives describe (or “modify”) a noun or pronoun. An adjective usually answers a question:

- Which one? (Which bird? *The **purple** bird with **spikey white tufts** on its head.*)
- What kind of? (What kind of man? *The **wise old** man.*)
- How many? (How many dogs? ***Four** dogs.*)

**Adverbs:** Adverbs usually describe (or “modify”) a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. Often, but not always, adverbs end in **-ly**. They may answer one of these questions:

- When? *Go **immediately** to jail.* (Describing when you should go.)
- How? *The class is **very quickly** filling up.* (Describing how quickly.)

**Prepositions:** A preposition connects a noun or pronoun with another other word in the sentence to indicate direction or place: *The dog splashes **through** the water.* (*Through* links *water* (the place) to the verb *splashes*.)

- Common prepositions are: *as, at, before, behind, below, by, down, for, in, of, on, since, through, to, upon, without.*

**Conjunctions:** Conjunctions connect words and phrases, indicating relationships between the elements joined.

- **Coordinating Conjunctions** connect two grammatically equal elements: *John walks **or** runs everyday.* (*walks* and *runs* are both verbs – two different activities John does).
- **Coordinating Conjunctions** include: *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so* (think FANBOYS).
- **Correlative Conjunctions** also connect grammatically equal elements. They come in pairs, including: *either/or, neither/nor, not only/but also, whether/or, both/and*: *The car is **not only** stylish, **but also** very affordable* (*stylish* and *affordable* are both adjectives and both are characteristics of the car).
- **Subordinating Conjunctions** connect two groups of words that are **not** equal in rank: *Grandmother’s hearing sharpened **although** she lost her sight* (her improved hearing happened in spite of her loss of sight).
- Some of the most common subordinating conjunctions: *after, although, as, even though, because, before, since, whenever.*

**Interjections:** Interjections are words used to express surprise or emotion: *Wow! My goodness! Ouch!*