

ENGLISH GRAMMAR – The Parts Of Speech

Terry Harding

Grammar is critical to the mastery of language. Grammar is the language of language. Learn the special rules below, which are in *italics* and study the examples.

There are 8 MAJOR “PARTS of SPEECH”

1. NOUNS

A Noun is a Naming Word – Nouns name persons, places things and qualities.

<u>Persons</u>	Mary	girl	mother
<u>Places</u>	Bunbury	Melbourne	Australia
<u>Things</u>	car	tree	magazine
<u>Ideas, qualities</u>	love	tenderness	eternity

2. VERBS -

*The verb is the **Key** to the Sentence – Verbs may show action, state-of-being or possession.*

(a) - ACTION Verbs - show activity

eat, read, breathe, sneeze

(b) - STATE OF BEING VERBS – Show the state the subject is being in

- am, is, are, was, were
- be, been, being

(c) - POSSESSIVE VERBS

- Have, has, had

SIMPLE VERBS

eat, read, breathe, sneeze

COMPOUND VERBS

Compound verbs are a combination of a State-of-Being (Helper) + Main Verb

- am + eating
- have + read
- were + running

3. ADJECTIVES -

Adjectives describe nouns.

e.g. a cat is the noun - **big** cat; **furry** cat; **two** cats; **fat** cat. (They put colour, description and number into your language)

Adjectives tell:

- Which one? The, that, those
- How many? Two, some, few
- What kind? Big, furry, fat, blue.
- Whose? Mum’s, her.

4. ARTICLES

Articles point to nouns. They are part of the adjective family.

They are: “the”, “a”, “an”.

- DEFINITE ARTICLE
Refers to a definite thing e.g. the cat
- INDEFINITE ARTICLE
Refers to any or an indefinite thing, not a specific thing e.g. a cat an apple

5. PRONOUNS

Pronouns take the place of a noun.

I went to Joe's house to meet Joe, I knocked on the door and Joe opened Joe's door.
Instead, pronouns allow us to say it in a better way e.g.

I went to Jo's house to meet him, I knocked on the door and he opened it.

There are 3 persons associated with pronouns

1st person: person speaking

2nd person: person spoken to

3rd person: person spoken about

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	I, me	we, us
2nd	you	you
3rd	he, she, him, her, it	they, them

6. ADVERBS -

Adverbs modify verbs. They tell - HOW, WHEN and WHERE about verbs.

<u>ran HOW?</u>	quickly, slowly, lazily,
<u>ran WHEN?</u>	yesterday, today, again
<u>ran WHERE?</u>	there

Hints Adverbs often (but not always) end in "ly".
 Also, NEVER & NOT are negative adverbs

7. PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions commence phrases.

e.g. in the creek on the roof

Prepositions are often little words

Prepositions often show position

e.g. in, on, under, around, among, through, among, up, below, with, for, from, to.

Spot was ...(insert a preposition here)..... the kennel.

8. CONJUNCTIONS

Conjunctions are "joining words". They join words that are similar e.g. they join two similar words, or two phrases or two clauses.

Common conjunctions are: "and", "but", "yet", "or", "nor".

They join similar words

e.g. 2 nouns: apples and oranges; 2 verbs: jumped and swam.

They join phrases

Water was on the carpet and over the tiles.

They join clauses

Mary was happy but she still did not come.

9. INTERJECTIONS - (Not used much in written language)

Interjections express surprise or emotion.

e.g. Wow! Ouch!