

The Parts of Speech in English

English grammar books usually refer to the **8 Parts of Speech**: *Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives, Adverbs, Verbs, Conjunctions, Prepositions, and Interjections*.

Why do you need to know the parts of speech?

If you do not know what part of speech a word is, you are more likely to use it incorrectly. This is especially true with words which can be more than one part of speech. Let's begin by looking at each part of speech:

| Part of Speech | Explanation | Examples |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Noun | A noun is a name of a person, place, thing, animal, idea, or activity | Cat, Sasha, Mexico, Happiness, Studying, fast (n.) |
| Pronoun | A pronoun is a word which replaces a noun | I, me, you, they, he, her, hers, ours, myself |
| Adjective | An adjective is a word that modifies or describes a noun or a pronoun | nice, delicious, happy, fast (adj.) |
| Adverb | An adverb is a word that modifies a verb, another adverb, or an adjective | nicely, happily, fast (adv.) |
| Verb | A verb is a word that expresses action or existence | run, study, go, fast (v.) |
| Conjunction | A conjunction is a word that connects words, phrases, or clauses | The FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) |
| Preposition | A preposition is a word used to link nouns, pronouns, and phrases to other words in a sentence | upon, under, over, up, in, out |
| Interjection | Interjections express emotion or surprise | Wow! Ouch! Help! Super! |

Did you notice something? *Some words can be nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs! The same word!*

Let's look at the sentences below to find out more about parts of speech:

The fast lasts for forty days. Here, **fast** is a **noun**. We can guess because it is:

A) at the beginning of the sentence

B) it is preceded by an article.

These are two clues.

He fasted for forty days. Here, we can understand **fasted** is a **verb** because it is the main action of the sentence, has been conjugated, and it follows the pronoun *he*.

He is a fast runner. Here, we know **fast** is an **adjective** because it modifies, or describes *runner*, which is a noun.

He runs fast. Here, we know **fast** is an **adverb** because it answers a question about the verb *run*. How does he run? Fast! He runs fast.

Try to decide what part of speech the underlined words are. Write the part of speech in the space provided.

*For screen reader users, the spaces for answers are indicated by a * sign.*

Happiness can often seem elusive.

* _____

She seems friendly.

* _____

A friend is someone who listens.

* _____

The friendly chipmunk was a great pet.

* _____

She speaks English fluently.

* _____

Her written English is flawless.

* _____

Now, use each of the words given in a sentence:

Well (n.):

Well (adv.):

Last (v.):

Last (adj.):

Last (adv.):

Perfect (adj.):

Perfect(v.):