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:

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

**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, and 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.

**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.):