

Parts of Speech

1.1.1 Nouns

A noun names something: a person, place or thing, or even an action or an idea. A noun can be a proper name, or a word which can follow an article (**the** or **an**) or a possessive pronoun (**my**, **her**, **his**, **its**, **your**, **our**, **their**). A phrase in which the noun is the main word is known as a **noun phrase**.

EXAMPLES:

John wanted to ask **Mary** out for a date.

The **creature** from the **deep** had an incredibly strange **sense** of **humour**.

His **learning** did not make her sad.

The **muffler** of his **car** was left on the **road**.

Their **ideas** left much to be desired.

1.1.2 Articles

The words **the**, **a**, and **an** are articles. They are used only at the beginning of noun phrases.

EXAMPLES

The man goes to **a** store.

He buys **an** apple.

He cuts it with **a** knife.

He soon devours **the** apple.

That is **the** end of **the** story.

1.1.3 Adjectives

An adjective is a word used to modify a noun. It can come after an article and or it can be followed by a noun. It can also be used by itself after a linking verb (**to be**, **to become**).

EXAMPLES:

The **beautiful** woman asked John to dance.

The **old** muffler was replaced by a **new** one.

She is **intelligent**.

Some people are too **stupid** to know when to quit.

Good students work more efficiently.

1.1.4 Pronouns

A pronoun is a word (or, in a few cases, a set of words) which can be used in the same place as a noun or noun phrase. In Standard Written English, a pronoun generally has an **antecedent**, that is a noun or a noun phrase to which it is linked.

EXAMPLES:

He kissed the woman on **her** cheek.

We love **each other**.

No one loves **him**.

Everyone loves ice cream.

That was not very nice.

1.1.5 Verbs

A verb can express an action or a state-of-being. Its form may be either simple or compound. A simple verb form is a single word; a compound verb form consists of two or more words. In a compound verb form, all the words except the last are considered **auxiliaries**; the last word is a form of the main verb.

EXAMPLES:

The princess **has married** a poor man.

The king and queen **are** upset.

They **will arrest** the princess' husband.

They **do not have** a sense of humour.

The princess **is hoping** they **develop** one.

1.1.6 Adverbs

There are three kinds of adverbs. One kind modifies clauses or sentences (**nevertheless, moreover, however**); another modifies adjectives and other adverbs (**too, somewhat, very**); the third kind modifies verbs (**quickly**) and often ends in **ly**.

EXAMPLES:

Nevertheless, he lost all his money.

The man was **too** smart for his own good.

She swims **well**.

Her husband does not walk **quickly**.

When in doubt, **however**, you should panic.

1.1.7 Prepositions

A preposition is a word which is combined with a noun, noun phrase, or pronoun to make a prepositional phrase.

EXAMPLES:

The ugly bear chased Goldilocks **into** the woods.

In conclusion, the company has made a substantial profit **from** its sales.

The man **in** the moon smiled **on** the drunkard.

Buy some soda **before** the show.

The company gave a small amount **to** a needy family.

1.1.8 Conjunctions

A conjunction is a word or a set of words which joins two words, phrases, or clauses.

EXAMPLES:

Jane **and** Mary took John to a movie.

After fat Frank has eaten, he will play football.

Jane knew the whole story, **but** she did not tell anyone.

Neither John **nor** Mary has won a prize.

The writer was tired **yet** he did not stop writing.

1.1.9 Subordinate Conjunction

A subordinate conjunction is a conjunction which connects a subordinate clause or participial phrase with a clause. It allows the subordinate clause or participial phrase to go either before, after, or in the middle of the clause to which it is connected.

EXAMPLES:

He ate lunch early **because** he was hungry.

Because he ate lunch early, he is hungry now.

When Jill arrives, she will solve Frank's problem.

While waiting for Mary, John met Jane.

Bill drank milk **after** finishing the cake.

End of the Lesson on Parts of Speech