

Parts of Speech

The following table gives definitions and examples for each of the **eight** parts of speech.

Parts of Speech	Function/Job	Example Words	Example Sentences
Noun	a person, place, thing, or idea	pen, dog, work, music, town, London, teacher, John	This is my dog . He lives in my house . We live in Rajshahi .
Pronoun	Replaces a noun	I, you, he, she, some	Tara is my sister; she is beautiful.
Verb	Action or state	(to) be, have, do, like, work, sing, can, must	Tommy is a dog. I like Tommy.
Adverb	Describes a verb, adjective or adverb	quickly, silently, well, badly, very, really	My dog eats quickly . When he is very hungry, he eats really quickly.
Adjective	Describes nouns or pronouns	a/an, the, 23, some, good, big, red, interesting	My dog is big . I like big dogs.
Preposition	Links a nouns, pronouns and phrases to another word	to, at, after, on, but	We went to the park on Monday. The man is poor but he is very honest.
Conjunction	Joins clauses or sentences or words	and, but, when, for, nor, or, yet, so, since,	I like dogs and cats. I like cars, but I don't like driving.
Interjection	Expresses strong or mild emotions	Oh! Ouch! Hi! Well.	Ouch! That hurts! Hi! How are you? Well, I don't know.
Articles	precede a noun	There are only three: a, an, and the	

Identifying common endings on words is one way of spotting certain parts of speech. The common endings in the following table are not always definite, but they will give you a place to start when you are deciding what part of speech a word is. This list is not comprehensive.

Part of Speech	Common Endings	Examples
Nouns	-ity, -ness, -hood, -ment, -tion, -ism, -dom	obesity, kindness, brotherhood, kingdom, achievement, capitalism, complication
Verbs	-fy, -ize, -ate	mystify, economize, stagnate
Adjectives	-y, -ful, -ic, -al, -ive, -ish, -ant	greasy, beautiful, sarcastic, cynical, secretive, pinkish, exuberant
Adverbs	-ly	quickly, outrageously

You can also always find a noun shortly after the articles, **a, an,** and **the** or after adjectives.

For example: A good **teacher** always gives **an** accurate **evaluation** of **the** student's **work**.

However, the lines defining parts of speech are not absolute. Even though a word is one part of speech in one sentence, it may be a different part of speech in another sentence, **depending on how it is used**. For example, in the following sets of sentences the italicized words do not change form, but they do change parts of speech because they are used differently.

The marine was *running* when he fell and sprained his ankle. (**Verb**)

Running is my least favourite pastime. (**Noun**)

The band marched *down* the street. (**Preposition**)

My grandmother makes *down* comforters. (**Adjective**)

The tired runner fell *down*. (**Adverb**)

The following sentence contains all of the parts of speech. Each is labelled to give you an idea of ways the words will appear in regular use.

Oh, they polluted the formerly crystal-blue water in the lake on the Johnson's farm, and it is thick and murky from the chemicals.

Oh (*interjection*), **they** (*pronoun*) **polluted** (*verb*) **the** (*adjective*) **formerly** (*adverb*) **crystal** (*adjective*) **blue** (*adjective*) **water** (*noun*) **in** (*preposition*) **the** (*adjective*) **lake** (*noun*) **on** (*preposition*) **the** (*adjective*) **Johnson's** (*adjective*) **farm** (*noun*), **and** (*conjunction*) **it** (*pronoun*) **is** (*verb*) **thick** (*adjective*) **and** (*conjunction*) **murky** (*adjective*) **from** (*preposition*) **the** (*adjective*) **chemicals** (*noun*).

Exercises:

Circle all the **nouns** in the following sentences.

1. The announcer said that the bus for Khulna would leave in thirty minutes.
2. Dr. Rahman was in college with my father.

Circle the **verbs** in the following sentences.

1. The band uniforms finally arrived just before Christmas.
2. The trainer stepped into the cage of the wounded lion.

Circle the **pronouns**.

1. The doctor told the boys that they could use his boat.
2. Bobby, your father wants you to call him.

Circle the **adjectives** and identify the word it modifies.

1. The old house had been empty for several years.
2. The second team played during the last quarter.

Circle the **adverbs** and identify the words they modify.

1. The bus almost always arrives late.
2. The class worked hard on the project.

Circle the **conjunctions**.

1. Neither the speeches nor the music was very exciting.
2. Both the Japanese and the Italian delegates opposed the attack.

Circle the **prepositions**.

1. The truck was stopped at the border and searched for arms.
2. He is very good at painting.

Circle the **interjections**.

1. Alas! My cow is dead.
2. Hurrah! We have won the game.

Identify each underlined word.

1. Bernice is again enjoying the doldrums.
2. Never peel the bark from a birch tree.
3. Fasten your seat belt for the take-off.
4. When is the next orbital flight?
5. An iceberg was once sighted as far south as Bermuda.

Articles: Articles precede a noun. There are only three: **a**, **an**, and **the**
a computer, **an** airplane, **the** Congress.