

# Nine Parts of Speech

## Articles

Articles are words that define nouns as specific or unspecific. The English language has three articles (a, an, the), which can be classified as definite or indefinite article.

**Definite article:** We use this article in front of a noun when we believe the reader knows exactly to what we are referring.

**Example:** **The** head surgeon at Jackson's Hospital is my brother.

**Indefinite article:** We use this article to refer to a person or thing that is not identified or specified.

**Example:** **An** alligator sauntered across the road yesterday.

**Example:** There is **a** book on the end table.

## Nouns

A noun names a person, place, object, or idea. It tells the reader who or what the sentence is about.

**Person nouns:** Dr. Roberts, Nurse Ratchett, boy, girl, salesperson

**Place nouns:** Washington, store, mall, school

**Thing nouns:** toy, apple, dog, cookie

**Ideas/Abstract Nouns:** dream, joy, honesty, hope, calm, love, truth, friendship, freedom, loyalty, anger, wisdom, belief, talent, memory, nightmare, success, patience, plan, comfort, laughter, failure

## Verbs

A verb expresses action (what is the subject doing) or express a state of being. A complete verb includes the main verb and all of its helpers or modifiers.

**Example:** Joseph **jumped** the hurdle, **swam** two miles, **jogged**, **bicycled**, and **won** the marathon.

## Pronouns

A pronoun replaces and refers to a noun. The most common pronouns are *I*, *you*, *he*, *she*, *it*, *we*, and *they*.

**Example:** Anna enjoys watching **her** squirrels run while **they** enjoy the sun.

## Adjectives

An adjective describes a noun or pronoun. It answers the following questions: Which one? How many? And what kind?

**Example:** There were **five**, **red**, **delicious**, apples on the **brown** table.

## Adverbs

An adverb modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. Adverbs express where, when, how, why, and to what extent or degree.

**Example:** The band marched **quickly** while the dancers **majestically** twirled around the golden pole.

## Prepositions

A preposition is a word that introduces a phrase (called a prepositional phrase) and shows a relationship between its object and some other word. A preposition usually expresses something about time, place, or direction. Common prepositions include the following:

- |           |           |          |              |           |
|-----------|-----------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| • about   | • below   | • except | • off        | • toward  |
| • above   | • beneath | • for    | • on         | • under   |
| • across  | • beside  | • from   | • out        | • until   |
| • after   | • besides | • in     | • outside    | • up      |
| • against | • between | • inside | • over       | • upon    |
| • around  | • beyond  | • into   | • since      | • with    |
| • at      | • by      | • like   | • through    | • without |
| • before  | • down    | • near   | • throughout |           |
| • behind  | • during  | • of     | • to         |           |

## Conjunctions

Conjunctions are words that join words, phrases, or clauses. There are three types: Coordinating Conjunctions (sometimes called FANBOYS), Subordinating Conjunctions (sometimes called Dependent Words), and Conjunctive Adverbs. Each takes slightly different punctuation, as seen in the following example:

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Sample Sentences:</b>          | I went to the store. + It was closed.                |
| <b>Coordinating Conjunction:</b>  | I went to the store, <b>but</b> it was closed.       |
| <b>Subordinating Conjunction:</b> | I went to the store <b>although</b> it was closed.   |
|                                   | <b>Although</b> I went to the store, it was closed.  |
| <b>Conjunctive Adverb:</b>        | I went to the store; <b>however</b> , it was closed. |

Consider also how a clause is joined with a phrase with different punctuation:

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Sample Clause + Phrase:</b>    | I like apples. + not oranges.                |
| <b>Coordinating Conjunction:</b>  | I like apples <b>but</b> not oranges.        |
| <b>Subordinating Conjunction:</b> | I like apples, <b>although</b> not oranges.  |
| <b>Conjunctive Adverb:</b>        | I like apples, <b>however</b> , not oranges. |

## Interjections

Interjections interrupt or show strong emotion. They are separated from the rest of the sentence by a comma or an exclamation point.

- Example:** Wow, I'm impressed with your work.  
**Example:** Fantastic! You did a good job.