

# Grammar—Parts of Speech

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The word “grammar” refers to the way we use words to create meaning. The individual elements in grammar are the eight parts of speech:

- Noun
- Pronoun
- Verb
- Adjective
- Adverb
- Preposition
- Conjunction
- Interjection

This sentence has an example of each of the parts of speech:

interjection		adjective		verb		verb		preposition		noun
<b>Wow!</b>	<b>The</b>	<b>orange</b>	<b>cat</b>	<b>eats</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>drinks</b>	<b>slowly</b>	<b>after</b>	<b>his</b>	<b>nap.</b>
	article		noun		conjunction		adverb		pronoun	

**Noun**—a noun is a person, place, or thing. A noun is the subject of a sentence; typically, we find the subject at the beginning of a sentence.

**Pronoun**—a pronoun replaces a noun or a noun phrase that has already been or is about to be mentioned in the sentence. Pronouns help us to create variety in our sentences. Here’s a list of pronouns:

I	You	He	She	Our	They
Me	Yours	His	Her	Ours	Them
Mine	Yourself	Him	Hers	Ourselves	Themselves
My		Himself	Herself		Their
Myself					Theirs

**Verb**—a verb is the action in the sentence. Typically, we expect the verb to come right after the subject of the sentence.

Passive verbs are all forms of the verb “to be”: *am, are, is, was, were, be, being, been.*

**Adjective**—adjectives describe, or *modify*, the noun. Usually, we place adjectives right before the noun they describe.

Many people consider articles (*a, an, the*) to be a type of adjective. However, because they don't actually modify anything, articles are really part of a category of words known as *noun markers* or *determiners*. Determiners tell us whether a noun is specific (*the hospital*) or general (*a cat, an egg*).

**Adverb**—adverbs give us more information about the verb. Adverbs usually answer the questions: Who? What? Why? When? Where? How? Adverbs frequently end in *-ly*.

**Preposition**—prepositions show us the relationship between a noun or a pronoun and something else in the sentence. Prepositional phrases act as adjectives or as adverbs.

The noun or pronoun that comes after a preposition is called the *object* of the preposition. The object of the preposition is *never* the subject of the sentence.

If you're not sure what a preposition is, think of the Pledge of Allegiance; it's a simple sentence (*I pledge allegiance*) followed by a series of prepositional phrases.

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**Conjunction**—conjunctions join words and phrases together. The coordinating conjunctions are *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*.

**Interjection**—interjections express surprise or emotion. Most of the time, interjections are separated from the rest of the sentence; they often end with an exclamation point (!).