

# Parts of Speech Review

## Nouns

A **noun** is a word used to name a person, animal, place, thing, and abstract idea.

### Types Of Nouns

There are many different types of nouns. As you know, you capitalize some nouns, such as "Canada" or "Louise," and do not capitalize others, such as "badger" or "tree" (unless they appear at the beginning of a sentence). In fact, grammarians have developed a whole series of noun types, including the proper noun, the common noun, the concrete noun, the abstract noun, the countable noun (also called the count noun), the non-countable noun (also called the mass noun), and the collective noun. You should note that a noun will belong to more than one type: it will be proper or common, abstract or concrete, *and* countable or non-countable or collective.

You always write a **proper noun** with a capital letter, since the noun represents the name of a specific person, place, or thing.

A **common noun** is a noun referring to a person, place, or thing in a general sense.

A **concrete noun** is a noun which names anything (or anyone) that you can perceive through your physical senses: touch, sight, taste, hearing, or smell.

An **abstract noun** is a noun which names anything which you can *not* perceive through your five physical senses, and is the opposite of a concrete noun, such as, *liberty, love or justice*.

A **countable noun** (or **count noun**) is a noun with both a singular and a plural form, and it names anything (or anyone) that you can *count*.

A **non-countable noun** (or **mass noun**) is a noun which does not have a plural form, and which refers to something that you could (or would) not usually count, such as, *oxygen, furniture or gravel*.

A **collective noun** is a noun naming a group of things, animals, or persons, such as, *flock, jury, committee or class*.

## Nouns

Circle all the nouns in the following sentences.

1. The announcer said that the bus for Minneapolis would leave in thirty minutes.
2. Dr. Cooper was in college with my father.
3. John wanted to change the ribbon on his typewriter, but the ribbon would not cooperate.
4. There was a scream of skidding tires and then a metallic thud, followed by the sound of splintered glass.
5. Bob and his brother crossed the continent in their old car last summer.
6. Bob drove through the desert at night and slept in the daytime.
7. Helen is president of the class, and her sister is secretary.
8. Brad wrote a paper about Willa Cather and her life in Pittsburgh.
9. Half of the people in the world can neither read nor write.
10. There is a fine exhibition of paintings by Thomas Hart Benton at the Cleveland Public Library.

## Nouns

Decide which of the following words are common nouns and which are proper nouns. Begin each proper noun with a capital letter.

1. german, science, language, english
2. lake, lake erie, mountain, mount everest
3. park, joshua national monument, gulf, cape cod
4. village, fairfield township, country, saint paul
5. labor, labor day, good Friday, birthday
6. secretary, governor brown, president johnson, mayor john lindsay
7. uncle, uncle harry, sister, father
8. brooklyn bridge, bridge, rittenhouse square, boston common

9. cathedral, saint, saint luke's church, church
10. college, harvard college, university, jefferson high school, indiana state university

## Verbs

A **verb** or compound verb asserts something about the subject of the sentence and express actions, events, or states of being. The verb or compound verb is the critical element of the predicate of a sentence.

Underline 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.
3. The sophomore class has a very good attendance record.
4. Jack walked unsteadily to the stage and swallowed hard.
5. The author tells of his childhood in a Wyoming ranch.
6. Our team played over its head in the first half.
7. Once, a circus horse literally stuck his right hind foot into his mouth.
8. Helen enjoys responsibility.
9. The murderer appears in the second act.
10. All new cars have safety belts as standard equipment.

## Helping Verbs

You construct a **compound verb** out of a helping verb and another verb. The most common helping verbs are: *have, had, were, is, are, been, will, would, could, should, may, might, do, and does*.

Underline the complete verb

1. The lighthouse keeper had never seen such a storm.
2. When will the next moon probe be launched?
3. The truck driver was completely blinded by the sudden flash of oncoming lights.

4. Our people have always had enough to eat.
5. The new school will almost surely be ready by fall.
6. The new law had been poorly enforced.
7. Do you and your brother have enough blankets?
8. The Norwegian freighter had apparently run aground in the fog.
9. The park bench had been freshly painted.
10. The fog was now rapidly lifting from the field.

## Pronouns

A **pronoun** can replace a noun or another pronoun. You use pronouns like "he," "which," "none," and "you" to make your sentences less cumbersome and less repetitive.

Underline the pronouns. In 1-10 also identify the pronoun antecedent.

1. The doctor told the boys that they could use his boat.
2. Bob, your father wants you to call him.
3. Helen and Karen finished the test first; they found it easy.
4. The long run brought the crowd to its feet.
5. Jane has her own ideas, but her family does not agree with the.
6. On the third try, the Nautilus made her way under the North Pole.
7. The boys cooked their meal in the open.
8. Then Jim's power mower broke, the neighbors let him use theirs.
9. Betty has a driver's license, but she doesn't have it with her.
10. The police found the car, but they couldn't move it.
11. Someone had dropped her purse into the pool.
12. What have you done to make Mike so happy?
13. This is the kind of problem that baffles me.

14. Is this the face that launched a thousand ships?
15. Have you had anything to eat?
16. Which of these hats belongs to you?
17. Each one must fend for himself.
18. Nobody knew the answer to that question.
19. That is the best course to take.
20. Several of our students won valuable scholarships.
21. Who wrote the editorial?
22. What did he say?
23. This is the color I prefer.
24. The captain herself gave us permission.
25. Everyone arrived late.
26. That hat is mine.
27. Is that yours?
28. The boys cleaned up the kitchen themselves.

## Adjectives

An **adjective** modifies a noun or a pronoun by describing, identifying, or quantifying words. An adjective usually precedes the noun or the pronoun which it modifies.

Underline 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.
3. The new coach seems pleasant and competent.
4. The old elephant was suffering from a bad toothache.  
The enormous jet can not land at the regular airport.
5. A magnetic field surrounds the entire earth.

6. The new atomic submarines are spacious and comfortable.
7. The water in the lake tastes salty.
8. Many young Americans are making important scientific discoveries.
9. The two men in the other car seemed angry.
10. Most European students can speak the English language.
11. This little book contains some big ideas.
12. A cold wind drove the deep snow into the huge drifts.
13. Some small economy cars are neither small nor economical.
14. This new arrangement is good for all of us.

## Adverbs

An **adverb** can modify a verb, an adjective, another adverb, a phrase, or a clause. An adverb indicates manner, time, place, cause, or degree and answers questions such as "how," "when," "where," "how much".

Underline the adverbs and identify the words they modify.

1. The bus almost always arrives late.
2. The class worked hard and successfully on the project.
3. The car usually starts on cold mornings.
4. The streets have become crowded recently.
5. The auditorium was soon filled.
6. The building was slowly deteriorating.
7. The doctor gave orders quietly and confidently.
8. Polio is sometimes rather difficult to diagnose.
9. Lately, the summers have been extremely hot.
10. There goes Mr. Garrison now.

# Conjunctions

You can use a **conjunction** to link words, phrases, and clauses.

You use a **coordinating conjunction** (*and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet*) to join individual words, phrases, and independent clauses.

A **subordinating conjunction** introduces a dependent clause and indicates the nature of the relationship among the independent clause(s) and the dependent clause(s). The most common subordinating conjunctions are: *after, although, as, because, before, how, if, once, since, than, that, though, until, when, where, whether, and while*.

**Correlative conjunctions** always appear in pairs -- you use them to link equivalent sentence elements. The most common correlative conjunctions are: *both...and, either...or, neither...nor, not only...but also, so...as, and whether...or*.

Underline the conjunctions (coordinating, correlative, subordinating)

1. Neither the speeches nor the music was very exciting.
2. Both the Japanese and the Italian delegates opposed the attack.
3. The search party worked quickly and carefully.
4. The policeman beckoned us forward, but we could not move.
5. Although the odds were against him, Washing drove forward.
6. We were not at home when the package arrived.
7. The dictionary is a valuable tool; however we must know how to use it.
8. The outfielders wear glasses so that the sun will not blind them.
9. We will go to Mexico and Peru.
10. The burglars went down the alley, into the basement, and up the stairs.

# Prepositions

A **preposition** links nouns, pronouns and phrases to other words in a sentence. Some common prepositions are: *at, under, over, of, to, in, out, beneath, beyond, for, among, after, before, within, down, up, during, without, with, outside, inside, beside, between, by, on, out, from, until, toward, throughout, across, above, about, around*.

Find the prepositions and their objects.

1. The truck was stopped at the border and searched for arms.
2. During the centuries, the continents have been drifting apart.
3. Booth jumped to the stage and screamed at the astonished audience.
4. For many years, there have been bad feelings between the towns.
5. After the game, the crowd rushed for the goal posts.
6. According to the morning paper, there will be no school on Friday.
7. Everyone but John had seen the car approaching.
8. Beyond the city limits there is no rule against fireworks.
9. All but one of the trees died during the winter.
10. To whom is the announcement addressed?

## Mastery Test for Parts of Speech

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.
6. Nobody in the room could identify the wallet.
7. The class became hilarious while the teacher was out.
8. The admiral himself gave the order.
9. Everyone except Eve had a smile for Jack.
10. The governor underwent a successful operation.



11. Dad is using his power saw.
12. Hot water is a good reviver of cut flowers.
13. The duck coats its feathers with oil.
14. Each year the firemen stage a water duel.
15. The crew rowed hard at the finish.
16. The suspect was wearing a tan jacket.
17. The police suspect the man's chauffeur.
18. Outside the embassy, a crowd has gathered.
19. Leave your boats outside.
20. Before the telecast, we were all nervous.
21. Before you leave, let me have your address.
22. Few comic strips are really comical.
23. Few attended the meeting.
24. This isn't Leslie's handwriting.
25. This airplane luggage weighs only ten pounds.