

Parts of Speech

All words can be put into categories depending on what function they fulfill in a given text. These categories are called “parts of speech”.

WHEN looking at aspects of grammar, it helps to know what the main parts of speech are.

Nouns

Nouns name people, places or things. There are four kinds: proper nouns; collective nouns; abstract nouns; and common nouns.

For example:	PROPER NOUNS name particular people or places	Mary or London
	COLLECTIVE NOUNS name a group of things	team or crowd
	ABSTRACT NOUNS name intangible things	thought or science
	COMMON NOUNS name classes or kinds of things	books or computers

Verbs

Verbs express action or being: they tell us what a subject did or what actually happened.

For example:	Verbs used in the previous sentence are: Verbs express action or being: they tell us what a subject did or what actually happened.
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Adjectives

Adjectives describe nouns. They tell us something more about people, places or things.

For example:	We went to dreary London	She wore high-heeled shoes
	The house has a small kitchen	He is a funny man
	It was a silly idea	I bought a paperback book

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Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg. This document is available in Welsh.

Pronouns

Pronouns are used to replace nouns. It would be repetitive to use the same noun over and over again, so we use pronouns like **I, you, his, her** and **its** instead.

For example:	This is my car. I bought it last summer. Sewing is difficult. It requires a lot of skill.	Diana is beautiful. Her eyes sparkle like diamonds. The pub has its own car park.
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Adverbs

Adverbs tell us something more about a verb; they tell us how an action was done.

For example:	He worked steadily She rode well The concert was surprisingly good	The team played badly I drove erratically He climbed the ladder safely
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Prepositions

Prepositions express a relationship between a noun and other parts of a sentence. Examples are **in, near, beneath, during, before, for, below, on, at** and **after**.

For example:	They live in a house near the sea I sat beneath the tree He left during the interval We ate before the party	Fighting for survival His score was below average She waited on the bench They joined us after the meal
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Conjunctions

Conjunctions join single words, clauses or phrases. Examples include **and, but, although, since** and **because**.

For example:	I have brought my pen and paper She came to my party, but she did not stay for long We spoke to him although he was very rude They go to Spain because they like the hot weather
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Reference and further reading:

- Burt, A. (1991) *A guide to better grammar*. Cheltenham: Thornes.
Phythian, B.A. (1980) *Teach yourself English grammar*. London: Hodder & Stoughton.
Temple, M. (1997) *Grammar book*. University of North London: Blackwells.