

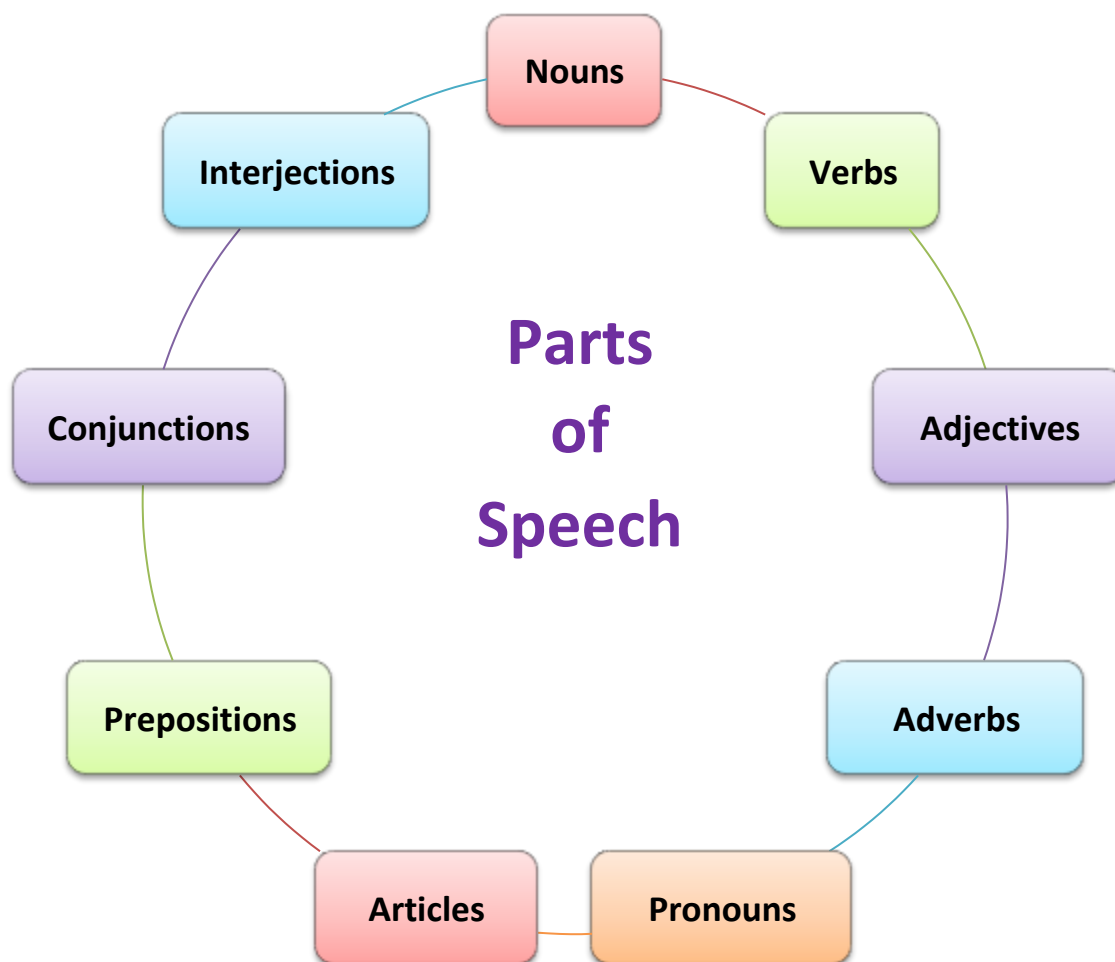
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ENGLISH

PARTS OF SPEECH

What are Parts of Speech?



Every word in English can be categorised according to its function and meaning. These categories are known as **parts of speech**. A word can be a noun, an adjective or a pronoun depending on the role it plays in a sentence.

There are **nine parts** of speech:

- Nouns
- Verbs
- Adjectives
- Adverbs
- Pronouns
- Articles
- Prepositions
- Conjunctions
- Interjections

Nouns

A **noun** is a word which is used to name a person, a thing, a place or an idea.

Radhika is on a **vacation**.

Mushrooms grow wild in the **fields**.

I do not wish to live in **fear**.

Richard Dawkins writes extensively about **atheism**.

- Proper Noun: **Proper nouns** are specific names given to a person, place or thing. The first letter of each proper noun is capitalised.

Krishna is one of the most trustworthy employees.

Fredrick lives in **Kolkata**.

The **Koh-i-noor** is a diamond which was originally mined from **Kollur Mine** in **Andhra Pradesh**.

- Common Noun: **Common nouns** are names which are generic names. They are the opposites of proper nouns.

The tree grew tall and strong.

The lady bid farewell to her **sons**.

The city was under siege.

- Abstract Noun: **Abstract nouns** are names given to entities which have no physical form but exist as ideas.

The new leader was a staunch proponent of **democracy**.

Stress and **worry** cause health **problems**.

One should seek **happiness** and **contentment** within oneself.

- Collective Nouns: **Collective nouns** are names given to groups or collections.

A **congregation** of worshippers thronged the temple.

A **pack** of dogs growled viciously at the young couple.

The farmer transported the **bale** of hay to the cowshed.

- Material Nouns: **Material nouns** are names given to materials or substances through which other things can be made.

These cups and plates are made of **plastic**.
Cotton is used to make saris and kurtas.
My earrings are made of **silver**.

- Countable Nouns: **Countable nouns** are nouns which can be counted.

Five **birds** are perched on a branch.
She gave me a few **pieces** to try.
Lata is mother to three **children**.

- Uncountable Nouns: **Uncountable nouns** are nouns which cannot be counted. These nouns are measured using various systems of measurement.

Meena served **water** to the weary traveller.
A boxful of **sugar** was added to the cake **batter**.
The **air** which we breathe is polluted.

Verbs

Verbs are words which represent actions or express the state of being. They form the main part of the predicate. Without verbs, the sentence will make little or no sense.

The children **are walking** to school.
Manik **lives** with his mother and two siblings.
India **will embark** on a new journey under the new leadership.

- Transitive Verbs: Verbs which can take one or more objects are known as **transitive verbs**.

Ramesh **packed** his bags.
Kushal **wrote** a poem for his friend.
Grandma **cooked** a hearty meal for all of us.

- Intransitive Verbs: Verbs which cannot take objects are known as **intransitive verbs**.

Mr Gupta **sneezed** loudly.
The kitten **slept** peacefully.
The train **arrived** ten minutes late.

- Finite Verbs: A **finite verb** is that which has a subject and shows the tense in a sentence.

Harish **has been working** here for five years. (Harish – Subject; Tense – Present Perfect Continuous)
Karim **is** my dearest friend. (Karim – Subject; Tense – Simple Present Tense)
We **lay** on the grass and **watched** the clouds. (We – Subject; Tense – Simple Past Tense)

- Nonfinite Verbs: A **nonfinite verb** is that which neither has a subject nor exhibits tenses in a sentence.

I wish **to buy** a house in Mumbai.
They found him **sleeping** soundly on his bed.
Knitting is what she likes doing the most.

- Main Verbs: A **main verb** is the primary verb of the sentence. It carries the meaning in the verb phrase of which it is the main part.
- Helping or Auxiliary Verbs: A **helping** or **auxiliary verb** is not the primary verb. It expresses ideas such as tense, mood and nature of the main verb. It is always used before the main verb.

Jayesh is **taking** care of the tickets as we speak.
Mithun has been **working** with this company for the last two years.
Dr Herman would be **available** only after 4 pm.

- The verbs which are in **italics** are main verbs.
- The verbs which are underlined are helping or auxiliary verbs.

Adjectives

Adjectives are words which are used to describe nouns or pronouns. They can be used to describe the quality, quantity, size, age and function of the words they qualify.