

PART 1: PARTS OF SPEECH

Because speech is made up of individual words, words are called PARTS OF SPEECH.

Here are the eight PARTS OF SPEECH with a brief definition for each.

NOUN – a word that identifies a person, place, thing, or idea

PRONOUN – a replacement for a noun

VERB – a word that expresses existence, action, or occurrence

ADJECTIVE – a word that describes a noun

ADVERB – a word that describes a verb, another adverb, or an adjective (often ends in 'ly')

PREPOSITION – a word that indicates the relationship between nouns or pronouns and other words in the sentence

CONJUNCTION – a connecting word

INTERJECTION – a short utterance that usually expresses emotion

The following pages will provide practice in identifying the eight parts of speech one by one.

Nouns are words that identify a person [teenager], place [Toronto], thing [table], or idea [hope].

Nouns can be singular [table] or plural [tables].

Nouns can be common [table] or proper [Elizabeth]. Proper nouns always start with a capital.

In the following example sentences, the nouns are shaded red.

The **cat** jumped on the **table**.

An **elephant** is bigger than a **car**.

Elizabeth is full of **hope**.

Colour the nouns red in the following sentences. The answers follow on the next page.

1. The dog jumped on the sofa.
2. A monkey is smarter than a cow.
3. Jonathan doesn't have much imagination.
4. The boys and girls danced in the sunshine.
5. The teacher went to Australia for a visit.
6. Mrs. Smith gave us bananas and apples.
7. The school had a fence, a sidewalk, and a playground.
8. Yesterday, my mother got a letter from my grandmother.
9. At our cottage in Muskoka, the lake is very close to the porch.
10. On Tuesday, all the girls go to the gym.
11. Which computer does Brendan use for work?

ANSWERS

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Pronouns are words that replace nouns. Instead of "Scott", one could use the word "he" or "him". Instead of "the cats", one could use the word "they" or "them". Instead of "the book", one could use the word "it" or "this". In the following sentences, the pronouns are shaded pink.

We put them to sleep ourselves.

If you will take that, then I will take this.

The cats don't like us, and we don't like them.

Colour the pronouns pink in the following sentences. The answers follow.

1. He was afraid that he had lost it.
2. Did you tell them about it?
3. They thought she was on the train.
4. On Monday, he hurt himself playing hockey.
5. This is the high road and that is the low road.
6. The teacher gave it to me.
7. I would like to do it myself.
8. She went with us to look for the missing dog.

ANSWERS

1. He was afraid that he had lost it.
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Verbs are words that express action, existence, or occurrence. Most parts of speech are usually a single word, but verbs are often made up of several words (because they include expressions of time). The additional words in multi-word verbs are called helper or auxiliary verbs, and they are sometimes separated from the main verb (especially by the word “not”). [This verb tense chart](#) might be helpful.

In the following example sentences, the verbs are shaded yellow.

Jeremy **ran** down the road.

We **are** never alone.

The lawyer **had been hoping** for a miracle.

Colour the verbs yellow in the following sentences. The answers follow on the next page.

1. The girls opened the door.
2. She is a very pretty baby.
3. The raccoons have been washing their food for ages.
4. The kangaroo can jump very high.
5. All the king’s men can not put Humpty Dumpty together again.
6. The cowboy had been chewing on a stalk of alfalfa.
7. If you gave them this candy, the little boys would become very happy.
8. Are you sure you broke the plate?
9. Later on today, Peter and Janet will be going to a movie.
10. Before I lose my temper, I always count to three.

ANSWERS

1. The girls **opened** the door.
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8. **Are** you sure you **broke** the plate?
9. Later on today, Peter and Janet **will be going** to a movie.
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Contractions and Negatives

Sometimes verbs are contracted with their pronoun subject: for example, “I am” might be written “I’m” and “you are” might be written “you’re”.

Sometimes, the adverb “not” forms part of the contraction. In the following example sentences, the contraction is written out in full and the verb is shaded yellow.

They’re (THEY **ARE**) **going** to lose their shirts.

We’ll (WE **WILL**) never **be** sick at sea.

Don’t (**DO** NOT) **forget** about the timer on the oven.

Expand the contractions (in the margins) and colour all of the verbs yellow in the following sentences. The answers follow.

1. She can't really follow in her mother's footsteps.
2. Unfortunately, they didn't understand the directions on the cake mix box.
3. Aidan wasn't listening to the teacher at that particular moment.
4. His father told him that he wouldn't be at the homecoming party.
5. It's really terrific that you like each other.
6. Katherine reminded me that you're not like other people.
7. He'll be moving to Ireland next spring.
8. While I'm looking for sweaters, you should look at the jewellery.
9. Let's go to the baseball game while we're in Pasadena.

ANSWERS

1. She can't (CAN NOT) really follow in her mother's footsteps.
2. Unfortunately, they didn't (DID NOT) understand the directions on the cake mix box.
3. Aidan wasn't (WAS NOT) listening to the teacher at that particular moment.
4. His father told him that he wouldn't (WOULD NOT) be at the homecoming party.
5. It's (IT IS) really terrific that you like each other.
6. Katherine reminded me that you're (YOU ARE) not like other people.
7. He'll (HE WILL) be moving to Ireland next spring.
8. While I'm (I AM) looking for sweaters, you should look at the jewellery.
9. Let's (LET US) go to the baseball game while we're (WE ARE) in Pasadena.

Adjectives are words that describe nouns. Three adjectives – “a”, “an” and “the” - are in a special category of their own called “articles”. There is also a special group of pronouns – the ones showing possession – that count as adjectives: for example, “my” and “theirs”. In the following example sentences, the adjectives are shaded grey.

The beautiful lady gave me a wonderful smile.

He looked into her big brown eyes.

I hope I will win an enormous apple because I’m really hungry.

Colour the adjectives grey in the following sentences. The answers follow on the next page.

1. The cute little bunny was hopping around in our garden.
2. Jennifer’s first doll lost her head in a terrible accident.
3. Our American friends are coming for a short visit.
4. Jason’s old dog always comes along on his trips to the big orchard.
5. Alison was embarrassed when her elderly aunt shouted loudly.
6. My bruises are turning yellow and purple now.
7. The huge orangutan and the tiny kitten made a curious pair.
8. When you are crossing a busy street, you must be really careful.
9. We have wonderful news!
10. Adjectives are useful because they tell you more about nouns.

ANSWERS

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Adverbs are words that describe verbs, adverbs, and adjectives. They answer the questions how, when, where, and how much, and often end in the letters 'ly'. In the following example sentences, the adverbs are shaded green.

We slowly walked to our house. (The adverb is describing the verb "walked".)

Monday was an extremely cold day. (The adverb is describing the adjective "cold".)

The children laughed very happily. (The adverb is describing the adverb "happily".)

Colour the adverbs green in the following sentences. The answers follow.

1. Bob shouted loudly and ran quickly across the driveway.
2. The very sad dog headed home.
3. The girls moved too slowly to suit their teacher.
4. The young children were eagerly waiting for Christmas.
5. We have a really nice cat.
6. The boys ate their dinner so hungrily that mother brought out seconds.
7. Alicia accidentally broke her aunt's best china plate.
8. The show dog is beautifully groomed.
9. Yesterday it rained, today it is sunny, and tomorrow it is supposed to be cloudy.
10. The adverb is one of the most totally confusing and absolutely annoying parts of speech.

ANSWERS

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8. The show dog is **beautifully** groomed.
9. **Yesterday** it rained, **today** it is sunny, and **tomorrow** it is supposed to be cloudy.
10. The adverb is one of the **most totally** confusing and **absolutely annoying** parts of speech.

Prepositions are words that indicate the relationship between nouns or pronouns and other words. They introduce prepositional phrases that usually indicate location, direction or association. In the following example sentences, the prepositions are shaded brown.

Tom lived **near** the pond.

Jeremy headed **towards** the north side **of** the town.

My father thinks you look **like** Marilyn Monroe.

Colour the prepositions brown in the following sentences. The answers follow on the next page.

1. My house is at the end of this street.
2. The car drove through the woods and into the valley.
3. Do you have a lot of money for me?
4. Tie a yellow ribbon around the old oak tree.
5. The three girls are no longer friends with each other.
6. The little cat sat patiently beside her food dish.
7. Margaret lives in an old house.
8. From the start, he was addicted to music.
9. She slid down the hill and over the fence.
10. The hat fell off the table and onto the floor.

ANSWERS

1. My house is **at** the end **of** this street.
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Conjunctions are words that connect words, phrases, or clauses. There are two kinds of conjunctions – *co-ordinate* conjunctions (like “and”, “so”, and “but”) and *subordinate* conjunctions (like “which”, “when”, and “because”). In order to understand conjunctions properly, students need to know what phrases, principal clauses and subordinate clauses are. More will be explained about these topics later on, but for now it’s enough to know that principal clauses can stand alone, while subordinate clauses cannot stand alone. There’s a cute video on prepositional phrases [here](#).

Co-ordinate conjunctions can join words. Bob **and** Sally are happy.

Co-ordinate conjunctions can join phrases. Jeremy raced over the hill **and** down the road.

CO-ORDINATE CONJUNCTIONS can join principal clauses. The pigs squealed, **AND** the cows lowed.

Subordinate conjunctions join subordinate clauses to principal clauses. They ate **while** they talked.

Colour the co-ordinate conjunctions that join words **orange**, **bold** the co-ordinate conjunctions that join phrases, colour the co-ordinate conjunctions that join principal clauses **PURPLE**, and outline the subordinate conjunctions in **pink**.

1. Byron likes to think in terms of dollars and cents.
2. She lives near the bridge but far from the pond.
3. We were out of groceries, so we went to the supermarket.
4. My father really likes the painting that hangs on your wall.
5. When my sisters were infants, they cried all night long.
6. Over the hills and through the valleys we went.
7. After the babies had had their nap, they needed to be fed.
8. The carpenters like to build schools but not cinemas.
9. Prepositions introduce phrases but conjunctions join them.

ANSWERS

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8. The carpenters like to build schools **but** not cinemas.
9. Prepositions introduce phrases, **BUT** conjunctions join them.

Interjections are short utterances that usually express emotion. In the following example sentence, the interjection is shaded aqua.

Ouch! That hurt.

Colour the interjections purple in the following sentences. The answers follow.

1. My gosh, that's a huge pumpkin!
2. I can't go to school today, alas.
3. Ladies and gentlemen, ahem, dinner is served.

ANSWERS

1. **My gosh**, that's a huge pumpkin!
2. I can't go to school today, **alas**.
3. Ladies and gentlemen, **ahem**, dinner is served.

On the next page, you will be asked to colour code every single word in each sentence.

Nouns Pronouns Verbs Adjectives Adverbs Prepositions	Co-ordinate Conjunctions that join words Co-ordinate Conjunctions that join phrases CO-ORDINATE CONJUNCTIONS THAT JOIN CLAUSES Subordinate Conjunctions Interjections
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EXAMPLE

Oh no! My delicate crystal suddenly fell to the floor with a loud crash.

Colour each part of speech the appropriate colour in the following sentences. The answers follow on the next page.

1. Our cousins wanted a fast car since they are always in a hurry.
2. The telephone rang and rang, but the manager did not hear it.
3. Dreams are enjoyable, and the achievement of dreams is even better.
4. Holy smokes! Your fancy cigarettes are costing you a lot of money.
5. The carpenter had been using his hammer in an inefficient way.
6. The panther raced very quickly across the endless savannah.
7. The stars and stripes are very important to American citizens.
8. Did you hurt yourself when you fell?
9. A shower of tumbling stars greeted us as we arrived at the fireworks.
10. Stop the use of soap! Your skin will be dry like sandpaper.
11. Which colour do you think best?
12. Helen chose the Caribbean cruise, but Erin chose the African safari.
13. Grammar is the study of the parts of speech and the parts of the sentence.
14. Charlie Brown is famous because, good grief, he is lovable.
15. The skater moved quickly and gracefully to the centre of the huge arena.

ANSWERS

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