CHAPTER 5 PARTS OF SPEECH

Nouns

In this lesson, you will learn about nouns. A noun is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea. This lesson will cover (1) the role of nouns in sentences and (2) different types of nouns.

Nouns and Their Role in Sentences

A noun names a person, place, thing, or idea.

Some examples of nouns are:

- Gandhi
- · New Hampshire
- garden
- happiness

A noun's role in a sentence is as **subject** or **object**. A subject is the part of the sentence that does something, whereas the object is the thing that something is done to. In simple terms, the subject acts, and the object is acted upon.

Look for the nouns in these sentences.

- 1. The Louvre is stunning. (subject noun: The Louvre)
- Marco ate dinner with Sara and Petra.
 (subject noun: Marco; object nouns: dinner, Sara, Petra)

KEEP IN MIND...

The subjects *I* and *we* in the two sentences to the left are pronouns, not nouns.



- 3. Honesty is the best policy. (subject noun: honesty; object noun: policy)
- 4. After the election, we celebrated our new governor. (object nouns: governor, election)
- 5. I slept. (0 nouns)

Look for the nouns in these sentences.

- 1. Mrs. Garcia makes a great pumpkin pie. (subject noun: Mrs. Garcia; object noun: pie)
- 2. We really need to water the garden. (object noun: garden)
- 3. Love is sweet. (subject noun: love)
- 4. Sam loves New York in the springtime. (subject noun: Sam; object nouns: New York, springtime)
- 5. Lin and her mother and father ate soup, fish, potatoes, and fruit for dinner. (subject nouns: Lin, mother, father; object nouns: soup, fish, potatoes, fruit, dinner)

Why isn't the word *pumpkin* a noun in the first sentence? *Pumpkin* is often a noun, but here it is used as an adjective that describes what kind of *pie*.

Why isn't the word *water* a noun in the second sentence? Here, *water* is an **action verb**. To *water* the garden is something we do.

How is the word *love* a noun in the third sentence and not in the fourth sentence? *Love* is a noun (thing) in sentence 3 and a verb (action) in the sentence 4.

How many nouns can a sentence contain? As long as the sentence remains grammatically correct, it can contain an unlimited number of nouns.

BE CAREFUL!

Words can change to serve different roles in different sentences. A word that is usually a noun can sometimes be used as an adjective or a verb. Determine a word's function in a sentence to be sure of its part of speech.

Types of Nouns

Singular and Plural Nouns

Nouns can be **singular** or **plural**. A noun is singular when there is only one. A noun is plural when there are two or more.

• The book has 650 pages.

Book is a singular noun. Pages is a plural noun.

Often, to make a noun plural, we add -s at the end of the word: *cat/cats*. This is a **regular** plural noun. Sometimes we make a word plural in another way: *child/children*. This is an **irregular** plural noun. Some plurals follow rules, while others do not. The most common rules are listed here:

KEEP IN MIND...

Some nouns are countable, and others are not. For example, we eat three blueberries, but we do not drink three milks. Instead, we drink three glasses of milk or some milk.

Singular noun	Plural noun	Rule for making plural
star	stars	for most words, add -s
box	boxes	for words that end in -j, -s, -x, -z, -ch or -sh, add -es
baby	babies	for words that end in -y, change -y to -i and add -es
woman	women	irregular
foot	feet	irregular

Common and Proper Nouns

Common nouns are general words, and they are written in lowercase. Proper nouns are specific names, and they begin with an uppercase letter.

Examples:

Common noun	Proper noun
ocean	Baltic Sea
dentist	Dr. Marx
company	Honda
park	Yosemite National Park

Concrete and Abstract Nouns

Concrete nouns are people, places, or things that physically exist. We can use our senses to see or hear them. *Turtle, spreadsheet,* and *Australia* are concrete nouns.

Abstract nouns are ideas, qualities, or feelings that we cannot see and that might be harder to describe. *Beauty, childhood, energy, envy, generosity, happiness, patience, pride, trust, truth,* and *victory* are abstract nouns.

Some words can be either concrete or abstract nouns. For example, the concept of *art* is abstract, but *art* that we see and touch is concrete.

- We talked about *art*. (abstract)
- She showed me the *art* she had created in class. (concrete)

- A noun is a person, place, thing, or idea.
- A noun's function in a sentence is as subject or object.
- Common nouns are general words, while proper nouns are specific names.
- Nouns can be concrete or abstract.

PRONOUNS

A pronoun is a word that takes the place of or refers to a specific noun. This lesson will cover (l) the role of pronouns in sentences and (2) the purpose of pronouns.

Pronouns and Their Role in Sentences

A pronoun takes the place of a noun or refers to a specific noun.

Subject, Object, and Possessive Pronouns

A pronoun's role in a sentence is as subject, object, or possessive.

Subject Pronouns	Object Pronouns	Possessive Pronouns
Ι	me	my, mine
you	you	your, yours
he	her	his
she	him	her, hers
it	it	its
we	us	ours
they	them	their, theirs

In simple sentences, subject pronouns come before the verb, object pronouns come after the verb, and possessive pronouns show ownership.

Look at the pronouns in these examples:

- <u>She</u> forgot <u>her</u> coat. (subject: she; possessive: her)
- <u>I</u> lent <u>her mine</u>. (subject: I; object: her; possessive: mine)
- She left it at school. (subject: she; object: it)
- \underline{I} had to go and get \underline{it} the next day. (subject: I; object: it)
- <u>I</u>will never lend <u>her</u> something of <u>mine</u> again! (subject: I; object: her; possessive: mine)

Correct	Incorrect	Why?
John and I went out.	John and me went out.	John and I is a subject. I is a subject pronoun; me is not.
Johan took <i>Sam and me</i> to the show.	Johan took <i>Sam and I</i> to the show.	Sam and me is an object. Me is an object pronoun; I is not.

BE CAREFUL!



It is easy to make a mistake when you have multiple words in the role of subject or object.

Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns connect a clause to a noun or pronoun.

These are some relative pronouns:

who, whom, whoever, whose, that, which

• Steve Jobs, who founded Apple, changed the way people use technology.

The pronoun who introduces a clause that gives more information about Steve Jobs.

• This is the movie that Emily told us to see.

The pronoun *that* introduces a clause that gives more information about the movie.

Other Pronouns

Some other pronouns are:

this, that, what, anyone, everything, something

DID YOU KNOW?

Pronouns can sometimes refer to general or unspecified things.



Look for the pronouns in these sentences.

- What is that?
- There is something over there!
- Does anyone have a pen?

Pronouns and Their Purpose

The purpose of a pronoun is to replace a noun. Note the use of the pronoun *their* in the heading of this section. If we did not have pronouns, we would have to call this section *Pronouns and Pronouns' Purpose*.

What Is an Antecedent?

A pronoun in a sentence refers to a specific noun, and this noun called the **antecedent**.

 John Hancock signed the Declaration of Independence. <u>He</u> signed <u>it</u> in 1776.

The antecedent for *he* is John Hancock. The antecedent for *it* is the Declaration of Independence.

BE CAREFUL!

Look out for unclear antecedents, such as in this sentence:

 Take the furniture out of the room and paint it.

What needs to be painted, the furniture or the room?



Find the pronouns in the following sentence. Then identify the antecedent for each pronoun.

Erin had an idea *that she* suggested to Antonio: "I'll help *you* with *your* math homework if *you* help *me* with *my* writing assignment."

Pronoun	Antecedent
that	idea
she	Erin
I	Erin
you	Antonio
your	Antonio's
you	Antonio
me	Erin
my	Erin's

What Is Antecedent Agreement?

A pronoun must agree in **gender** and **number** with the antecedent it refers to. For example:

- Singular pronouns *I*, *you*, *he*, *she*, and *it* replace singular nouns.
- Plural pronouns you, we, and they replace plural nouns.
- Pronouns *he*, *she*, and *it* replace masculine, feminine, or neutral nouns.

Correct	Incorrect	Why?
Students should do their homework every night.	A student should do their homework every night.	The pronoun <i>their</i> is plural, so it must refer to a plural noun such as <i>students</i> .
When an employee is sick, he or she should call the office.	When an employee is sick, they should call the office.	The pronoun <i>they</i> is plural, so it must refer to a plural noun. <i>Employee</i> is not a plural noun.

- A pronoun takes the place of or refers to a noun.
- The role of pronouns in sentences is as subject, object, or possessive.
- A pronoun must agree in number and gender with the noun it refers to.

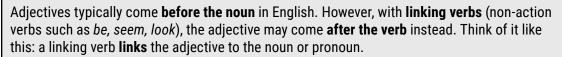
ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

An **adjective** is a word that describes a noun or a pronoun. An **adverb** is a word that describes a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

Adjectives

An **adjective** describes, modifies, or tells us more about a **noun** or a **pronoun**. Colors, numbers, and descriptive words such as *healthy*, *good*, and *sharp* are adjectives.

KEEP IN MIND...





Look for the adjectives in the following sentences:

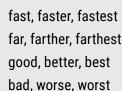
	Adjective	Noun or pronoun it describes
I rode the blue bike.	blue	bike
It was a long trip.	long	trip
Bring two pencils for the exam.	two	pencils
The box is brown.	brown	box
She looked beautiful.	beautiful	she
That's great!	great	that

Multiple adjectives can be used in a sentence, as can multiple nouns. Look at these examples:

	Adjectives	Noun or pronoun it describes
The six girls were happy, healthy, and rested after their long beach vacation.	six, happy, healthy, rested; long, beach	girls; vacation
Leo has a good job, but he is applying for a better one.	good; better	job; one

KEEP IN MIND...

Note comparative and superlative forms of adjectives, such as:





Articles: A, An, The

Articles are a unique part of speech, but they work like adjectives. An article tells more about a noun. *A* and *an* are **indefinite** articles. Use *a* before a singular **general** noun. Use *an* before a singular general noun that begins with a vowel.

The is a definite article. Use the before a singular or plural specific noun.

Look at how articles are used in the following sentences:

- I need a pencil to take the exam. (any pencil; specific exam)
- Is there a zoo in town? (any zoo)
- Let's go to the zoo today. (specific zoo)
- Can you get me a glass of milk? (any glass)
- Would you bring me the glass that's over there? (specific glass)

Adverbs

An **adverb** describes, modifies, or tells us more about a **verb**, an **adjective**, or another **adverb**. Many adverbs end in *-ly*. Often, adverbs tell when, where, or how something happened. Words such as *slowly*, *very*, and *yesterday* are adverbs.

Adverbs that Describe Verbs

Adverbs that describe verbs tell something more about the action.

Look for the adverbs in these sentences:

	Adverb	Verb it describes
They walked quickly.	quickly	walked
She disapproved somewhat of his actions, but she completely understood them.	somewhat; completely	disapproved; understood
The boys will go inside if it rains heavily.	inside; heavily	go; rains

Adverbs that Describe Adjectives

Adverbs that describe adjectives often add intensity to the adjective. Words like *quite*, *more*, and *always* are adverbs.

Look for the adverbs in these sentences:

	Adverb	Adjective it describes
The giraffe is very tall.	very	tall
Do you think that you are more intelligent than them?	more	intelligent
If it's really loud, we can make the volume slightly lower.	really; slightly	loud; lower

Adverbs that Describe Other Adverbs

Adverbs that describe adverbs often add intensity to the adverb.

Look for the adverbs in these sentences:

	Adverb	Adverb it describes
The mouse moved too quickly for us to catch it.	too	quickly
This store is almost never open.	almost	never
Those women are quite fashionably dressed.	quite	fashionably

Adjectives vs. Adverbs

Not sure whether a word is an adjective or an adverb? Look at these examples.

	Adjective	Adverb	Explanation
fast	You're a <i>fast</i> driver.	You drove fast.	The adjective <i>fast</i> describes <i>driver</i> (noun); the adverb <i>fast</i> describes <i>drove</i> (verb).
early	I don't like <i>early</i> mornings!	Try to arrive early.	The adjective <i>early</i> describes <i>mornings</i> (noun); the adverb <i>early</i> describes <i>arrive</i> (verb).
good/well	They did <i>good</i> work together.	They worked <i>well</i> together.	The adjective <i>good</i> describes <i>work</i> (noun); the adverb <i>well</i> describes <i>worked</i> (verb).
bad/badly	The dog is bad.	The dog behaves badly.	The adjective <i>bad</i> describes <i>dog</i> (noun); the adverb <i>badly</i> describes <i>behaves</i> (verb).

Let's Review!

- An adjective describes, modifies, or tells us more about a noun or a pronoun.
- An adverb describes, modifies, or tells us more about a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

BE CAREFUL!

When an adverb ends in -ly, add more or most to make comparisons.

Correct: The car moved *more slowly*.

Incorrect: The car moved *slower*.



CONJUNCTIONS AND PREPOSITIONS

A **conjunction** is a connector word; it connects words, phrases, or clauses in a sentence. A **preposition** is a relationship word; it shows the relationship between two nearby words.

Conjunctions

A conjunction connects words, phrases, or clauses.

And, so, and or are conjunctions.

Types of Conjunctions

- Coordinating conjunctions connect two words, phrases, or independent clauses. The full list of coordinating conjunctions is: and, or, but, so, for, nor, yet.
- **Subordinating** conjunctions connect a main (independent) clause and a dependent clause. The conjunction may show a relationship or time order for the two clauses. Some subordinating conjunctions are: *after, as soon as, once, if, even though, unless.*
- Correlative conjunctions are pairs of conjunctions that work together to connect two words or phrases. Some correlative conjunctions are: either/or, neither/nor, as/as.

Example	Conjunction	What it is connecting
Verdi, Mozart, and Wagner are famous opera composers.	and	three nouns
Would you like angel food cake, chocolate lava cake, or banana cream pie for dessert?	or	three noun phrases
I took the bus to work, but I walked home.	but	two independent clauses
It was noisy at home, so we went to the library.	so	two independent clauses
They have to clean the house before the realtor shows it.	before	a main clause and a dependent clause
Use either hers or mine.	either/or	two pronouns
After everyone leaves, make sure you lock up.	after	a main clause and a dependent clause
I'd rather fly than take the train.	rather/than	two verb phrases
As soon as they announced the winning number, she looked at her ticket and shouted, "Whoopee!"	as soon as	a main clause and a dependent clause

DID YOU KNOW?

In the last example above, "Whoopee!" is an interjection. An **interjection** is a short phrase or clause that communicates emotion.

Some other interjections are:

- Way to go!
- Yuck.
- Hooray!

A clause is a phrase that has a subject and a verb.

KEEP IN MIND...

Some clauses are **independent**. An independent clause can stand alone.

Some clauses are **dependent**. A dependent clause relies on another clause in order to make sense.



Holy cow!

Oops!

Prepositions

A **preposition** shows the relationship between two nearby words. Prepositions help to tell information such as direction, location, and time. *To, for,* and *with* are prepositions.

KEEP IN MIND...

Some prepositions are more than one word. *On top of* and *instead of* are prepositions.



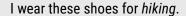
Example	Preposition	What it tells us
The desk is in the classroom.	in	location
We'll meet you at 6:00.	at	time
We'll meet you at the museum.	at	place
The book is on top of the desk.	on top of	location

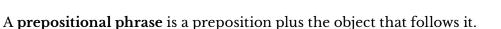
Prepositional Phrases

A preposition must be followed by an **object of the preposition**. This can be a noun or something that serves as a noun, such as a pronoun or a gerund.

DID YOU KNOW?

A gerund is the *-ing* form a verb that serves as a noun. *Hiking* is a gerund in this sentence:





Look for the prepositional phrases in the following examples. Note that a sentence can have more than one prepositional phrase.

Example	Preposition	Object of the preposition
The tiny country won the war against all odds.	against	all odds
Look at us!	at	us
Why don't we go swimming instead of sweating in this heat?	instead of;	sweating; this heat
Aunt Tea kept the trophy on a shelf of the cabinet between the sofas in the living room.	on; of; between; in	a shelf; the cabinet; the sofas; the living room



Conjunctions and Prepositions

BE CAREFUL!



Sometimes a word looks like a preposition but is actually part of the verb. In this case, the verb is called a phrasal verb, and the preposition-like word is called a particle. Here is an example:

- Turn on the light. (Turn on has a meaning of its own; it is a phrasal verb. On is a particle here, rather than a preposition.)
- Turn on that street. (On that street shows location; it is a prepositional phrase. On is a preposition here.)

- A **conjunction** connects words, phrases, or clauses. *And*, *so*, and *or* are conjunctions.
- A **preposition** shows the relationship between two nearby words. *To, for,* and *with* are prepositions.
- A prepositional phrase includes a preposition plus the object of the preposition.

VERBS AND VERB TENSES

A **verb** is a word that describes a **physical or mental action** or a **state of being**. This lesson will cover the role of verbs in sentences, verb forms and tenses, and helping verbs.

The Role of Verbs in Sentences

A verb describes an action or a state of being. A complete sentence must have at least one verb.

Verbs have different tenses, which show time.

Verb Forms

Each verb has three primary forms. The **base form** is used for simple present tense, and the **past form** is used for simple past tense. The **participle form** is used for more complicated time situations. Participle form verbs are accompanied by a helping verb.

Base Form	Past Form	Participle Form
end	ended	ended
jump	jumped	jumped
explain	explained	explained
eat	ate	eaten
take	took	taken
go	went	gone
come	came	come

Some verbs are **regular**. To make the **past** or **participle** form of a regular verb, we just add *-ed*. However, many verbs that we commonly use are **irregular**. We need to memorize the forms for these verbs.

In the chart above, end, jump, and explain are regular verbs. Eat, take, go, and come are irregular.

Using Verbs

A simple sentence has a **subject** and a **verb**. The subject tells us who or what, and the verb tells us the action or state.

Example	Subject	Verb	Explanation/Time
They ate breakfast together yesterday.	They	ate	happened yesterday
I walk to school.	I	walk	happens regularly
We went to California last year.	We	went	happened last year
She seems really tired.	She	seems	how she seems right now
The teacher is sad.	teacher	is	her state right now

You can see from the examples in this chart that **past tense verbs** are used for a time in the past, and **present tense verbs** are used for something that happens regularly or for a state or condition right now.

Often a sentence has more than one verb. If it has a connector word or more than one subject, it can have more than one verb.

- The two cousins <u>live</u>, <u>work</u>, and <u>vacation</u> together. (3 verbs)
- The girls <u>planned</u> by phone, and then they met at the movies. (2 verbs)

BE CAREFUL!

When you have more than one verb in a sentence, make sure both verb tenses are correct.



Helping Verbs and Progressive and Perfect Tenses

Helping Verbs

A helping verb is a supporting verb that accompanies a main verb.

Questions, negative sentences, and certain time situations require helping verbs.

forms of helping verb	forms of helping verb	forms of helping verb	some modals (used
"to be"	"to have"	"to do"	like helping verbs)
am, are, is, was, were, be, being, been	have, has, had, having	do, does, did, doing	will, would, can, could, must, might, should

Here are examples of helping verbs in questions and negatives.

- Where *is* he *going*?
- *Did* they win?
- I don't want that.
- The boys *can*'t go.

Progressive and Perfect Tenses

Helping verbs accompany main verbs in certain time situations, such as when an action is or was ongoing, or when two actions overlap in time. To form these tenses, we use a **helping verb** with the **base form plus** -*ing* or with the **participle form** of the main verb.

The **progressive tense** is used for an action that is or was ongoing. It takes base form of the main verb plus *-ing*.

Example sentence	Tense	Explanation/Time
I <u>am taking</u> French this semester.	Present progressive	happening now, over a continuous period of time
I was working when you stopped by.	Past progressive	happened over a continuous period of time in the past

The **perfect tense** is used to cover two time periods. It takes the *participle* form of the main verb.

Example sentence	Tense	Explanation/Time
I <u>have lived</u> here for three years.	Present perfect	started in the past and continues to present
I <u>had finished</u> half of my homework when my computer stopped working.	Past perfect	started and finished in the past, overlapping in time with another action

Sometimes we use both the **progressive** and **perfect** tenses together.

Example sentence	Tense	Explanation/Time
I have been walking for hours!	Present perfect progressive	started in the past, took place for a period of time, and continues to present
She <u>had</u> been asking for a raise for months before she finally received one.	Past perfect progressive	started in the past, took place for a period of time, and ended

- A verb describes an action or state of being.
- Each verb has three primary forms: base form, past form, and participle form.
- Verbs have different tenses, which are used to show time.
- Helping verbs are used in questions, negative sentences, and to form progressive and perfect tenses.

CHAPTER 5 PARTS OF SPEECH PRACTICE QUIZ 1

1.	Select the part of speech of the underlined word in the following		
	sentence.		
	She did <u>quite</u> well on the exam.		
	A Name C Adinati		

- A. Noun
- C. Adjective
- B. Adverb
- D. Preposition

2. Select the noun that the underlined adjectives describe.

Two weeks after his surgery, Henry felt strong and healthy.

- A. weeks
- C. surgery

B. his

D. Henry

3. Which word is an adverb that describes the underlined verb?

The man spoke to us wisely.

- A. man
- C. us

B. to

D. wisely

4. Identify the conjunction in the following sentence.

He is sick, yet he came to work.

A. is

C. came

B. yet

D. to

5. Which is not a prepositional phrase?

Keep me informed about the status of the problem throughout the day.

- A. Keep me informed
- B. about the status
- C. of the problem
- D. throughout the day

6. How many prepositions are in the following sentence?

The athletes traveled from Boston to Dallas for the competition.

A. 0

C. 2

B. 1

D. 3

7. Which words in the following sentence are proper nouns?

Matthew had a meeting with his supervisor on Tuesday.

- A. Matthew, meeting
- B. Matthew, Tuesday
- C. meeting, supervisor
- D. supervisor, Tuesday

8. How many plural nouns are in the following sentence?

Marie's father's appendix was taken out.

A. 0

C. 2

B. 1

D. 3

9. Which of the following words is an abstract noun?

- A. Car
- C. Ruler
- B. Tent
- D. Health

10. Which word in the following sentence is a pronoun?

To whom should the applicant address the letter?

A. To

C. whom

B. the

D. should

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11.	Which pronoun correfollowing sentence?	ectly completes the	14. Which word i a helping verb	n the following sentence is
	Nigel introduced Van administrator.		They did not a	ask for our help. C. for
12.	A. I B. me Select the noun to wh pronoun refers. Greta Garbo, who per silent and talking pict actress.	formed in both ures, is my favorite	the following	t think he would enjoy the
13.	A. actress B. pictures How many verbs are sentence?	C. performed D. Greta Garbo in the following		
	They toured the art monoservatory. A. 0 B. 1	nuseum and saw the C. 2 D. 3		

CHAPTER 5 PARTS OF SPEECH PRACTICE QUIZ 1 – ANSWER KEY

- 1. B. Quite is an adverb that describes the adverb well. See Lesson: Adjectives and Adverbs.
- 2. D. These adjectives describe *Henry*. See Lesson: Adjectives and Adverbs.
- 3. D. Wisely is an adverb that describes the verb spoke. See Lesson: Adjectives and Adverbs.
- 4. B. Yet is a conjunction. See Lesson: Conjunctions and Prepositions.
- 5. A. Keep me informed does not contain a preposition. About, of, and throughout are prepositions. See Lesson: Conjunctions and Prepositions.
- 6. D. From, to, and for are prepositions. See Lesson: Conjunctions and Prepositions.
- 7. B. Matthew and Tuesday are proper nouns. See Lesson: Nouns.
- **8.** A. *Marie's* and *father's* are possessive; neither is plural. *Appendix* is a singular noun. **See** Lesson: Nouns.
- 9. D. Health is an abstract noun; it does not physically exist. See Lesson: Nouns.
- 10. C. Whom is a pronoun. See Lesson: Pronouns.
- 11. B. An object pronoun must be used here. See Lesson: Pronouns.
- 12. D. Who is a relative pronoun that refers to the subject Greta Garbo. See Lesson: Pronouns.
- 13. C. Toured and saw are verbs. See Lesson: Verbs and Verb Tenses.
- 14. A. Did is a helping verb; ask is the main verb. See Lesson: Verbs and Verb Tenses.
- 15. B. *Did* can be used here, for a shortened form of *did enjoy it*. See Lesson: Verbs and Verb Tenses.