

The Eight Parts of Speech

Noun

- names a person, place, thing, or idea
- functions as a subject, predicate noun, direct object, indirect object, object of the preposition, objective complement, or appositive
- can usually be made plural and possessive

Pronoun

- takes the place of a noun
- functions as a noun functions (see above)
- often shows person, number, case, and gender

Adjective

- modifies (describes) a noun or pronoun
- answers the question "what kind?" "which one(s)?" "how many?" "how much?" or "whose?"
- can often have positive, comparative, and superlative forms

Verb

- expresses action or state of being
- can have auxiliaries (helping verbs) preceding the main verb
- can show number (singular, plural), tense (past, present, future, etc.), voice (active, passive), mood (indicative, imperative, subjunctive), and form (progressive, emphatic)

Adverb

- modifies (describes) a verb, an adjective, or another adverb
- answers the question "where?" "when?" "why?" "how?" or "to what extent?"
- can often have positive, comparative, and superlative forms

Preposition

- shows the relationship between its object (a noun or a pronoun) and another word in the sentence
- with its object (and any modifiers of the object) forms a prepositional phrase; the prepositional phrase functions as a modifier (either adjectival or adverbial)

Conjunction

- connects words, phrases, or clauses
- can be coordinating, correlative, or subordinating

Interjection

- has no grammatical relation to the rest of the sentence
- expresses strong emotion or mild interruption
- is usually followed by an exclamation point or a comma that separates it from the rest of the sentence

