

# IDENTIFYING PARTS OF SPEECH

**VERB:** A word denoting action, occurrence, or existence.

**Examples:** ran, jump, shout, sweat, thinks, feels, sleeps, eat, laugh, are, is, was, has  
*The President met with foreign diplomats on Tuesday.*

**NOUN:** A word that *names* a person, place, thing, idea, animal, quality, or action. Nouns function as the subject of the sentence. They also function as objects, complements, appositives, and modifiers, as well as in direct address.

**Examples:** child, John, New York, books, pizza, love, pony, generosity  
*Edwin, my brother, is a professional musician.*

**PRONOUN:** A word that takes the position of a noun and functions as nouns do.

**Examples:** he, she, it myself, me, theirs, ours, we, you, yours  
*He attended a luncheon in his honor on Wednesday.*

**ADJECTIVE:** A word that modifies, qualifies or describes nouns and pronouns. Generally, adjectives appear immediately before the words they modify.

**Examples:** pretty girl, talented doctor, young athlete, blue book  
*The small child begged for a bedtime story.*

**ADVERB:** A word that modifies verbs, adjectives and other adverbs. An "ly" ending almost always changes an adjective to an adverb.

**Examples:** spoke quickly, ran hastily, worked frantically  
*Kelly reluctantly agreed to serve on my committee.*

Many adverbs do not end in "ly." However, all adverbs identify when, where, how, how far, how much, etc.

**Examples:** hang low, stand straight, added wrong, study hard  
*Kelly never loses her temper.*

**PREPOSITION:** A word that establishes a relationship between its object and another word in the sentence. The relationship can be one of time, space, direction, place accompaniment, cause, or manner.

**Examples:** on, between, down, in, of, since, to (not a complete list)  
*Jack sat beside Jill on the bus.*

**CONJUNCTION:** A word that functions as a connector between words, phrases, and clauses. There are coordinating, correlating, and subordinating conjunctions.\*

**Examples:** for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so (coordinating)  
when, until after, before, although (subordinating)  
*I work part-time although I don't need the money.*

**ARTICLE:** A word that is used before a noun and functions as an adjective

**Examples:** The (definite article), a and an (indefinite articles)  
*The bees that were on the flowers stung Kaye.*  
*A man gave us directions to the airport.*  
[A is used before a noun beginning with a consonant sound]  
*An article in the paper caught my attention.*  
[An is used before a noun beginning with a vowel sound]

**INTERJECTION:** An exclamation expressing emotion.

**Examples:** Wow! Help! Stop! Ouch!  
*Wow! Look at all the snow.*

## TIPS TO HELP YOU RECOGNIZE PARTS OF SPEECH

