**Lesson One Parts of Speech**



In English words can be grouped into **9 basic types** called "parts of speech". It's quite important to recognize parts of speech. This helps you to analyze sentences and understand them. It also helps you to construct good sentences.



**Parts of Speech Table**

This is a summary of the 9 parts of speech\*. You can find more detail if you click on each part of speech.

| **part of speech** | **function or "job"** | **example words** | **example sentences** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [**Verb**](https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/verbs.htm) | action or state | (to) be, have, do, like, work, sing, can, must | EnglishClub **is** a web site. I **like** EnglishClub. |
| [**Noun**](https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/nouns.htm) | thing or person | pen, dog, work, music, town, London, teacher, John | This is my **dog**. He lives in my **house**. We live in **London**. |
| [**Adjective**](https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/adjectives.htm) | describes a noun | good, big, red, well, interesting | My dogs are **big**. I like **big** dogs. |
| [**Determiner**](https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/determiners.htm) | limits or "determines" a noun | a/an, the, 2, some, many | I have **two** dogs and **some** rabbits. |
| [**Adverb**](https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/adverbs.htm) | describes a verb, adjective or adverb | quickly, silently, well, badly, very, really | My dog eats **quickly**. When he is **very** hungry, he eats **really** quickly. |
| [**Pronoun**](https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/pronouns.htm) | replaces a noun | I, you, he, she, some | Tara is Indian. **She** is beautiful. |
| [**Preposition**](https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/prepositions.htm) | links a noun to another word | to, at, after, on, but | We went **to** school **on** Monday. |
| [**Conjunction**](https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/conjunctions.htm) | joins clauses or sentences or words | and, but, when | I like dogs **and** I like cats. I like cats **and** dogs. I like dogs **but** I don't like cats. |
| [**Interjection**](https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/interjections.htm) | short exclamation, sometimes inserted into a sentence | oh!, ouch!, hi!, well | **Ouch**! That hurts! **Hi**! How are you? **Well**, I don't know. |

**Parts of Speech Examples**

Here are some examples of sentences made with different English parts of speech:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **pronoun** | **verb** | **preposition** | **determiner** | **noun** | **adverb** |
| She | ran | to | the | station | quickly. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **pron.** | **verb** | **adj.** | **noun** | **conjunction** | **pron.** | **verb** | **pron.** |
| She | likes | big | snakes | but | I | hate | them. |

Here is a sentence that contains every part of speech:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **interjection** | **pron.** | **conj.** | **det.** | **adj.** | **noun** | **verb** | **prep.** | **noun** | **adverb** |
| Well, | she | and | my | young | John | walk | to | school | slowly. |

In the table below you can see a few examples. Of course, there are more, even for some of the words in the table. In fact, if you look in a good dictionary you will see that the word "**but**" has six jobs to do:

* verb, noun, adverb, pronoun, preposition and conjunction!

| **word** | **part of speech** | **example** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| work | noun | My **work** is easy. |
| verb | I **work** in London. |
| but | conjunction | John came **but** Mary didn't come. |
| preposition | Everyone came **but** Mary. |
| well | adjective | Are you **well**? |
| adverb | She speaks **well**. |
| interjection | **Well**! That's expensive! |
| afternoon | noun | We ate in the **afternoon**. |
| noun acting as adjective | We had **afternoon** tea. |