

Parts of speech are categories of words that indicate how the words function grammatically in a sentence. English has eight main parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.

<i>Parts of Speech</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Example</i>
Nouns	Nouns are words that name people, places, things, or ideas.	Students who attend college usually take a course in psychology .
Pronouns	Pronouns are words that substitute for nouns.	John works in the library, even when he is tired and it is noisy.
Adjectives	Adjectives are words that describe nouns and pronouns. Articles (such as a, an, and the) are considered adjectives and identify the nouns they precede.	John studies in the library with his smartest classmate Jane because she is diligent and helpful .
Verbs	Verbs are words that name an action or a state of being.	John studies whenever he is in the library.
Adverbs	Adverbs are words that describe verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs.	John studies diligently , and even when he is extremely tired, he tries very hard to stay awake.
Prepositions	Prepositions are words that precede a noun or pronoun and indicate its relationship, often in terms of time or place, to another word in the sentence.	After dinner, John and Jane sat on a bench near the library before they went inside .
Conjunctions	Conjunctions connect words, phrases, or clauses in the same sentence.	When John and Jane finish studying, they like to have coffee or go for pizza so that they can unwind together.
Interjections	Interjections are exclamations or words that express emotion. (Interjections are not usually found in formal academic writing but are sometimes used in creative writing assignments or informal papers.)	Oh no! John left all of his books at the library.

Note

For a complete understanding of the parts of speech, which take many forms and have multiple functions in a sentence, see the following online sources.

- Purdue Online Writing Lab (owl.english.purdue.edu)
- Grammar Girl (quickanddirtytips.com)
- Grammar Bytes (chompchomp.com)