

PARTS OF SPEECH

PS-6

In each of the following lessons, read the definition of the part of speech, check the examples for understanding, and complete the exercises. The answers are included in the packet. If you do not understand any part of the learning packet, discuss it with an adviser in the Communications Lab..

- I. NOUN:** **A noun names something.**
- Persons -- George, man, people
 - Animals -- cat, fish, dog
 - Places -- Jacksonville, city, park
 - Things -- paper, spoon, eraser
 - Ideas -- happiness, horror, thought

EXERCISE 1: Underline the nouns in each of the following sentences:

1. Jason enjoyed the movie about France.
2. The musicians play marching songs.
3. Music layovers thrill to the sound of trumpets.
4. Boys and girls are often eager to listen.
5. The conductor moves his baton vigorously.
6. There is no death penalty for criminals in Puerto Rico.
7. The "Explorer," crammed with scientific instruments, was launched on January 31, 1958.
8. New Mexico was admitted as a state in the twentieth century.
9. Chester Arthur was nominated for vice-president by the Republican Party in 1880.
10. Winston Churchill was the man whose courage led the nation from defeat to victory.

II. PRONOUN: **A pronoun is a word that is used in place of a noun.**

Examples: I, it, you, he, she, we, him, them, whom, someone, everyone, none, anybody, that, who

EXERCISE 2: Underline the pronouns in each of the following sentences:

1. You and John are the boys who will have to pay for the damage.
2. Mr. Gunsher gave us the record which was just played.
3. She cried loudly, and each of us heard her.
4. They felt flattered by our attention to them.
5. Everyone followed the directions the faculty members had given each to them.
6. She sent them to him as a birthday gift.
7. They collided near the school.
8. Solving the traffic problems taxes the imagination of those who have the responsibility.

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9. He says anyone who enjoys driving under today's traffic conditions must be crazy.
10. Some take up a hobby because it is fun.

III. ADJECTIVE: **An adjective modifies the meaning of a noun or pronoun. It answers**

“Which one?” his daughter, that man
“What kind?” Dark suit, beautiful lady
“How many?” Ten children, both people

An adjective may describe or limit!

EXERCISE 3: Underline the adjectives in each of the following sentences.

1. The interior plateau of the Union of South Africa is called its veldt.
2. There are countless millions of gaseous bodies called stars.
3. Baseball, enjoyed by many fans today, was played here and in merry England before 1839.
4. Sir Walter Raleigh was a famous statesman and a bold explorer.
5. His many projects to settle America were unsuccessful.
6. He even made a long voyage to the Hot Lands below the Equator in search of gold.
7. After the death of his beloved queen, he was arrested for being a disloyal citizen.
8. His adventurous career came to an abrupt end when he was executed for piracy in 1618.
9. As college admission standards continue to rise, tension and anxiety build to a ridiculous point in college preparatory seniors.
10. Twenty-five students attended reading class during the first term.

IV. VERBS: **Often the verb is the action word in the sentence. It defines the action or helps to join (link) parts of the sentence. The verb may consist of one word or the main verb may be assisted by one or more helping verbs. Some helping verbs are has, am, were, might, should, must, are, be**

Examples: The man screamed loudly. (What did the man do?)
Yes, he screamed.

All the men have been screaming! (What were the men doing?)
Yes, they have been screaming!

EXERCISE 4: Underline the verb (or verb phrase) in the following sentences.

1. A micron is a unit of length.
2. There are over a thousand millimeters in a yard.
3. Freva was the Saxon Goddess of Beauty
4. Gold melts at 1,063 degrees Centigrade.
5. Egypt measures about one and one-half the size of Texas.
6. The George Washington Bridge is located between New York and New Jersey.
7. It can be seen spanning the mighty Hudson River.
8. Automobiles have been crossing it since 1931.
9. It is ranked as the second largest bridge in the world.
10. It is constantly being painted.
11. West Point, which is located in the Hudson Valley, houses the United States Military Academy.
12. It is over 150 years old since it was established in 1802.
13. It was established by an Act of Congress and opened with twelve cadets.
14. Many visitors go to West Point and watch the dress parade on Saturdays.
15. The officers trained there are taught to live democratically in order that they may better protect our democratic way of life.

V. ADVERBS: An adverb is a word that is used to modify or limit the meaning of a verb, and adjective, or another adverb.

Examples Go slowly. Look carefully. Walk there.
(The underlined words modify the verbs: go, look, and walk.)
The answer is not too accurate.
(The underlined word modifies the adjective: accurate.)
Watch very closely.
(The underlined word modifies the adverb: closely.)

EXERCISE 5: Underline the adverbs in the following sentences.

1. The name “sirocco” is often given to warm wind.
2. It is usually given to warm wind blowing over large areas of hot, dry land.
3. Such winds now occur over the area of our Great Plains.
4. Originally “sirocco” was a name used by people of North Africa.
5. It was not used for ordinary wind.
6. It described the very hot, dusty wind that comes from the South.

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7. It comes quickly from the scorching Sahara Desert.
8. This extremely hot wind is a menace to life.
9. Its coming always fills the natives with fear.
10. The biting bits of sand dig deeply into the eyes and skin of those caught in its fury.

VI. PREPOSITION:

A preposition is a word that shows the relation between two or more things. Some prepositions are to, at, by on, in, into. Prepositions are positional words. Think about these phrases:

“The knife is on the table.”

“The knife is under the table.”

“The knife is beside the table.”

“The knife is into the table.”

EXERCISE 6:

1. There are sixty-four mountain peaks in the United States over 14,000 feet high.
2. The state of Colorado claims forty-eight of these tall mountains.
3. The highest of them all, Mount Whitney, is in California.
4. Mount Whitney rises to the height of 14,495 feet.
5. Colorado claims the possession of the second highest mountain.
6. Mount Elbert is located in Colorado.
7. It reaches the height of 14,431.
8. Have you ever had the desire to climb to the top of one of these peaks?
9. Mount Evans in Colorado has an automobile road which you can take to the top.
10. Riding in a car is the easiest way of reaching the summit of one of these awesome immensities.

VIII. CONJUNCTION: A conjunction is a word that joins words or groups of words.

Coordinating conjunctions join words or groups of words of equal value.

Lucy and Ed left the door open. (Joins two nouns.)

He is going to school, but I am going to work. (Joins two independent clauses.)

Walking to school and chasing the baby are my only exercise. (Joins two phrases.)

Subordinating conjunctions are words that make one group of words dependent upon another group of words.

When I came in, he left.

He left **because he was late.**

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EXERCISE 7: Underline the conjunctions in the following sentences.

1. Janet and Joan are twins, but they are different in many ways.
2. While basalt is one of the heaviest rocks, pumice floats in water.
3. If you have used a piece of pumice stone to rid ringers of grime, you know of its other qualities.
4. Pumice forms when boiling rock pours out of a fuming volcano.
5. It is a mixture of basalt and air bubbles.
6. He had lots to do; therefore, he went home.
7. Although it is spring, the air temperature remains chilly.
8. The time is passing quickly, yet I have not completed the assignment.
9. The names and the number are relevant, for they must be used to find data.
10. It is time for us to locate those passages, so the instructor will know we're serious.

If you have checked your work after each exercise and feel that you understand the parts of speech, you are ready for the "check up."

CHECK UP ON PARTS OF SPEECH

Directions: Identify the underlined words as noun (N), pronoun (PN), verb (V), adjective (ADJ), adverb (ADV), preposition (P), or conjunction (C).

1. Paul Anderson was proclaimed the world-champion weight-lifter.
2. He established this record by lifting 1175 pounds.
3. The records indicate that the first fight with boxing gloves was fought in 1818 in France.
4. No man alive today could have been present at that time.
5. He had so much to do that he went home early.
6. Not wanting to be rude, he made his apologies to his host.
7. "Ordinarily, I would not leave so soon, but I have so much to do," he told his host.
8. The understanding was between the guest and his host.
9. In 1876, R. Barnes of Chicago lead the National League with an average of .403.
10. In the 1957 World Series, Lew Burdette won three games, two of which were shutouts.

ANSWERS TO PARTS OF SPEECH EXERCISES

I. EXERCISE 1: Nouns

1. Jason, movie, France.
2. Musicians, songs.
3. Lovers, sound, trumpets.
4. Boys, girls.
5. Conductor, baton.
6. Penalty, criminals, Puerto Rico.
7. Explorer, instruments, January 31, 1958.
8. New Mexico, state, century.
9. Chester Arthur, vice-president, Republican Party, 1880.
10. Winston Churchill, man, courage, nation, defeat, victory.

II EXERCISE 2: Pronouns

1. you, who.
2. Us, which.
3. She, each, us, her.
4. They, our, them.
5. Everyone, them, each.
6. She, them, him.
7. They.
8. Those, who.
9. He, anyone, who.
10. Some, it.

III EXERCISE 3: Adjectives

1. Interior, its (a pronoun acting like an adjective).
2. Countless, gaseous.
3. Many, merry.
4. Famous, bold.
5. His (a pronoun acting like an adjective), unsuccessful
6. long.
7. His, beloved, disloyal.
8. His, adventurous, abrupt.
9. College, admission, ridiculous, college, preparatory.
10. Twenty-five, reading, first.

IV. EXERCISE 4: Verbs.

1. Is
2. Are
3. Was
4. Melts
5. Measures
6. Is located
7. Can be seen
8. Have been crossing
9. Is ranked
10. Is being painted
11. Is located, houses
12. Is, was established
13. Was established, opened
14. Go, watch
15. Are taught, may protect

V. EXERCISE 5: Adverbs

1. Often
2. Usually
3. Now
4. Originally
5. Not
6. Very
7. Quickly
8. Extremely
9. Always
10. Deeply

VI. EXERCISE 6: Prepositions

1. in, over
2. of, of
3. of, in
4. to, of
5. of
6. in
7. of
8. to, of, of

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9. in, to
10. in, of, of, of

VII. EXERCISE 7: Conjunctions

1. and, but
2. while
3. if
4. when
5. and
6. therefore
7. although
8. yet
9. and, for
10. so

CHECK UP

1. Paul Anderson was proclaimed the world-champion weight-lifter.
VERB NOUN
VERB ADJ
2. He established this record by lifting 1175 pounds.
ADJ ADJ PREP
3. The records indicate that the first fight with boxing gloves was fought in 1818 in France.
NOUN NOUN ADJ
4. No man alive today could have been present at that time.
ADV CONJ VERB ADV
5. He had so much to do that he went home early.
VERB NOUN PREP
6. Not wanting to be rude, he made his apologies to his host.
ADV CONJ PN
7. "Ordinarily, I would not leave so soon, but I have so much to do," he told his host.
NOUN PREP PN
8. The understanding was between the guest and his host.
NOUN VERB
9. In 1876, R. Barnes of Chicago lead the National League with an average of .403.
VERB ADJ NOUN
10. In the 1957 World Series, Lew Burdette won three games, two of which were shortouts.

Websites for Parts of Speech

<http://web2.uvcs.uvic.ca/elc/studyzone/330/grammar/parts.htm>

This website from the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada gives important information, as well as interactive exercises concerning parts of speech.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/eduweb/grammar/course/speech.htm>

This website contains grammar tutorials from the English Department at the University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada. It gives information on the individual parts of speech, ability to practice sentence elements, as well as information on how to organize your writing.

<http://www.quia.com/jg/65832.html>

This website is composed of games one can play in order to learn and identify the parts of speech. You will particularly enjoy the Matching game, Concentration game, and the Word Search.

<http://www.uottawa.ca/academic/arts/writcent/hypergrammar/partsp.html>

This website contains material on each of the individual parts of speech as well as a Review of the parts of speech.

<http://www.uottawa.ca/academic/arts/writcent/hypergrammar/rvpartsp.html>

Interactive quiz on parts of speech.

<http://www.uvsc.edu/owl/tests/parts/partsofs.html>

Interactive quiz on Parts of Speech (50 questions).

<http://www.arts.uottawa.ca/writcent/hypergrammar/rvpartsp.html>

University of Ottawa, Canada has outstanding interactive Review of Parts of Speech.

<http://www.grammarstation.com/servlet/quiz.PosQuiz>

Grammar Station quiz on Parts of Speech. Take this quiz and print out your score!

<http://www.uvsc.edu/owl/tests/parts/partsofs.html>

Utah Valley State College interactive quiz on Parts of Speech. This will enable you to check your knowledge of the various parts of speech. In this quiz, you will be able to see the explanation of each answer.

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/ppt/parts.pps>

Capital Community College has this wonderful power point presentation on Parts of Speech. We will do this as a class!

<http://eslus.com/LESSONS/GRAMMAR/POS/pos.htm>

Interlink Language Center information and Quizzes on both individual parts of speech as well as an overall quiz on all the parts of speech.

<http://depts.gallaudet.edu/englishworks/exercises/exgrammar/partofspeech.htm>

Gallaudet University (Washington, DC) website on parts of speech. Quite helpful!