

# Parts of Speech<sup>1</sup>

A **NOUN** names a person, place, thing, or idea.

N                                  N                  N

*Repetition* does not transform a *lie* into *truth*.

A **PRONOUN** substitutes for a noun.

PN   PN                  PN

When the gods wish to punish *us*, *they* heed *our* prayers.

*Personal pronouns*: I, me, you, he, him, she, her, it, we, us, they, them

*Possessive pronouns*: my, mine, your, yours, her, hers, his, its, our, ours, their, theirs

*Intensive and reflexive pronouns*: myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves

*Relative pronouns*: that, which, who, whom, whose

*Interrogative pronouns*: who, whom, whose, which, that

*Demonstrative pronouns*: this, that, these, those

*Indefinite pronouns*: all, another, any, anybody, anyone, anything, both, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, few, many, neither, nobody, none, no one, nothing, one, several, some, somebody, someone, something

*Reciprocal pronouns*: each other, one another

A **HELPING VERB** comes before a main verb.

*Modals*: can, could, may, might, must, shall, should, will, would, (also ought to)

*Forms of be*: be, am, is, are, was, were, being, been

*Forms of have*: have, has, had

*Forms of do*: do, does, did

(The forms of *be*, *have*, and *do* may also function as main verbs.)

A **MAIN VERB** asserts action, being, or state of being.

MV                                  HV                  MV

Charity *begins* at home but *should* not *end* there.

A main verb will always change form when put into these positions in sentences:

Usually I \_\_\_\_\_. (walk, ride)

Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_. (walked, rode)

I have \_\_\_\_\_ many times before. (walked, ridden)

I am \_\_\_\_\_ right now. (walking, riding)

Usually he \_\_\_\_\_. (walks, rides)

There are eight forms of the highly irregular verb *be*: be, am, is, are, was, were, being, been.

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<sup>1</sup> Taken from Hacker, Diana. (2002). *The Bedford Handbook*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins.

An **ADJECTIVE** modifies a noun or pronoun, usually answering one of these questions:  
Which one? What kind of? How many? The articles a, an, and the are also adjectives.

ADJ                      ADJ  
*Useless* laws weaken *necessary* ones.

An **ADVERB** modifies a verb, usually answering one of these questions:  
When? Where? Why? How? Under what conditions? To what degree? Adverbs can also modify adjectives and other adverbs.

ADV    ADV  
People think *too historically*.

A **PREPOSITION** indicates the relationship between the noun or pronoun that follows it and another word in the sentence.

P                                      P  
A journey *of* a thousand miles begins *with* a single step.

*Common prepositions:* about, across, after, against, along, among, around, as, at, before, behind, below, beside, besides, between, beyond, but, by, concerning, considering, despite, down, during, except, for, from, in, inside, into, like, near, next, of, off, on, onto, opposite, out, outside, over, past, plus, regarding, respecting, round, since, than, through, throughout, till, to, toward, under, underneath, unlike, until, unto, up, upon, with, within, without

A **CONJUNCTION** connects words or word groups.  
*Coordinating conjunctions:* and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet

*Subordinating conjunctions:* after, although, as if, because, before, even though, how, if, in order that, once, rather than, since, so that, than, that, though, unless, until, when, where, whether, while, why

*Correlative conjunctions:* either...or, neither...nor, not only...but also, both...and, whether...or

*Conjunctive adverbs:* accordingly, also, anyway, besides, certainly, consequently, conversely, finally, furthermore, hence, however, incidentally, indeed, instead, likewise, meanwhile, moreover, nevertheless, next, nonetheless, otherwise, similarly, specifically, still, subsequently, then, therefore, thus

An **INTERJECTION** expresses surprise or emotion. (Oh! Wow! Hey! Hooray!)