

Notes on Basic Parts of Speech

These notes contain information that Mrs. Hayes will teach in the first weeks of school. Students who have studied the Shurley English Method will be familiar with most of these concepts. Other students might want to begin familiarizing themselves with these concepts over the summer.

Complete Sentence = has a subject, a predicate, and a complete thought. A complete sentence also begins with a capital letter and ends with an end mark (period, question mark, or exclamation point).

Fragment = a group of words that has a capitalized first letter and an end mark but lacks one or more of the other basic items necessary for it to be a complete sentence (a subject, a predicate, and/or a complete thought). Examples: An important message. If it rains. Reading a book. Because Mary left.

Subject = a noun or pronoun that names whom or what the sentence is about. Example: Sue won a prize. (Note: The subject of an imperative sentence is often an “implied you.” Example: (You) Come here!)

Noun = a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea Examples: student, school, book, education

Pronoun = a word that takes the place of one or more nouns. Examples: it, he, they, you, us, we, them

Proper Noun = names a particular person, place, thing, or idea. The first word and all other important words in a proper noun are capitalized. Examples: Betty, The Statue of Liberty, Cleveland

Predicate = the part of a sentence that contains a verb and tells what the subject does, has, or is. Examples: Sue won a prize. John is reading very quickly. Bill owns a yacht. Amy is a good athlete.

Three types of **Main Verbs**:

1. Intransitive Verb = an action verb without a direct object. e.g., Sue laughed. Bob ran.

2. Transitive Verb = an action verb that transfers action to a direct object, e.g., Tom cut the grass.

Direct Object = a noun or pronoun that follows the TV and receives the action of the TV. The DO answers “what?” or “who?” after a TV. (Examples: Bob gave a speech. Ed asked Ann.)

Indirect Object = a noun or pronoun between the TV and the DO that answers “to whom/what” or “for whom/what” an action is done, e.g., Mary baked Jake a cake. Joe gave the dog a treat. HINT: To test if a word is an indirect object, try moving it into a prepositional phrase introduced by *to* or *for*. For instance, Mary baked a cake for Jake. Joe gave a treat to the dog

3. Linking Verb = a verb that expresses a state of being by connecting the subject with either a predicate noun or predicate adjective.

Predicate Noun – follows a LV and **renames the subject**. e.g., Ann is my doctor.

(Note: The PrN can be interchanged with the subject and mean the same thing, e.g., My doctor is Ann.)

Predicate Adjective – follows a LV and **describes the subject**. e.g., The dog seems friendly.

Adverb = a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. Adverbs answer how? when? where? why? Examples: I ran quickly. I ran home. An extremely pretty cat arrived today. I ran very fast.

Helping Verb = a verb placed in front of the main verb. There are 23 HVs: be, being, been, is, am, are, was, were, has, have, had, do, does, did, can, could, will, would, should, may, might, must, shall

Note! The above words are not **always** helping verbs. They are only helping verbs if they are followed by a main verb (transitive, intransitive, or linking).

Verb Phrase = a main verb preceded by one or more helping verbs.

Adjective = a word that modifies a noun or pronoun. Answers what kind? which one? how many?
Examples: a red car, the last story, several pencils, six dogs

Article Adjectives = a, an, the

7 Possessive Pronoun Adjectives = my, our, his, her, your, their, its

Possessive Noun Adjectives = nouns that indicate possession and act as adjectives.
Examples: the dog's bowl, Tom's car, my parents' room

Coordinating Conjunctions = words that join two words or groups of words of equal importance.

7 CCs: for and nor but or yet so (FANBOYS) Note: *for* can also be a preposition, *yet* and *so* can also act as adverbs

Prepositions = A word that introduces a noun or pronoun called the **object of the preposition** to create a “prepositional phrase.” Examples: *about, after, before, behind, by, down, from, in, near, of, off, outside, over, up, with*. (NOTE -- Some words, such as *on* or *inside*, can simply be acting as adverbs if they are not followed by an “object of the preposition.” Examples: The light is turned on. Tom went inside.)

Prepositional Phrase = a group of words acting as an adjective or adverb that begins with a preposition and ends with an object of the preposition.

Examples: Bob placed the book on the table. (*On the table* is acting as an adverb, telling you *where*.)
A man with an orange shirt ran inside the bank. (*With an orange shirt* is acting as an adjective describing the man; *inside the bank* is acting as an adverb telling you *where* the man ran.)

REMEMBER! An “**object**” (e.g., an OP, DO, or IO) is always a noun or pronoun.

Strategy: When searching for the simple subject and predicate of a sentence, place the prepositional phrases in parentheses because prepositional phrases always act as modifiers (they are extras).

Abbreviations you'll need for labeling the words in sentences:

A = article adjective (*a, an, the*)

PrN = predicate noun

CC = coordinating conjunction (the FANBOYS)

PrA = predicate adjective

SN = subject noun

HV = helping verb

SP = subject pronoun

Adj = adjective

IV = intransitive verb

Adv = adverb

TV = transitive verb

PPA = possessive pronoun adjective (e.g., *my, his*)

DO = direct object

PNA = possessive noun adjective (e.g., *Ed's car*)

IO = indirect object

P = preposition

LV = linking verb

OP = object of the preposition