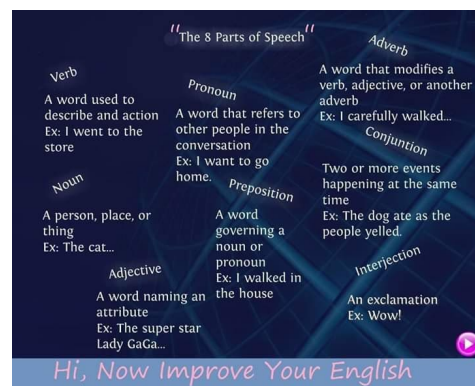


Parts of Speech

e learning training team



Lounis Maha

Légende





-  Entrée du glossaire
-  Abréviation
-  Référence Bibliographique
-  Référence générale

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Objectifs

*The students will be able to *identify* the different parts of speech used in building correct English sentences and extended pieces of writing such as paragraphs and essays.

*The students will be able to *illustrate* the learned about parts of speech

*The students will be able to *categorize* the sentence parts

Introduction



A part of speech^{p.33} is a term used in traditional grammar for one of the nine main categories into which words are classified according to their functions in sentences, such as nouns or verbs. Also known as word classes, these are the building blocks of grammar.

Every sentence you write or say in English includes a few words that fall into the nine parts of speech. These include nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, articles /determiners, and interjections. (Some sources include only eight parts of speech but leave off interjections as a category.)

Learning the names of the parts of speech probably won't make you witty, healthy, wealthy, or wise. In fact, learning just the names of the parts of speech won't even make you a better writer. However, you will gain a basic understanding of sentence structure and the English language.

"The 8 Parts of Speech"

Verb

A word used to describe and action
Ex: I went to the store

Noun

A person, place, or thing
Ex: The cat...

Adjective

A word naming an attribute
Ex: The super star Lady GaGa...

Pronoun

A word that refers to other people in the conversation
Ex: I want to go home.

Preposition

A word governing a noun or pronoun
Ex: I walked in the house

Adverb

A word that modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb
Ex: I carefully walked...

Conjunction

Two or more events happening at the same time
Ex: The dog ate as the people yelled.

Interjection

An exclamation
Ex: Wow!



Hi, Now Improve Your English

image: parts of speech

The noun

common nouns

9

In English grammar, a noun^{p.35 ↗} is a part of speech (or word class) that names or identifies a person, place, thing, quality, idea, or activity. Most nouns have both a singular and plural form, can be preceded by an article and/or one or more adjectives, and can serve as the head of a noun phrase.

A noun or noun phrase can function as a subject, direct object, indirect object, complement, appositive, or object of a preposition.

In addition, nouns sometimes modify other nouns to form compound nouns. To understand how to recognize and use nouns, it's helpful to learn about the different types of nouns in English.

1. common nouns

what is a common noun?

9

proper nouns

10

Concrete and Abstract Nouns

10

Collective nouns

11

1.1. what is a common noun?

Définition

A common noun names any person, place, thing, activity, or idea. It's a noun that is not the name of any particular person, place, thing, or idea. A common noun is one or all of the members of a class, which can be preceded by a definite article, such as *the* or *this*, or an indefinite article, such as *a* or *an*. Examples of common nouns are sprinkled throughout these two sentences:

"Plants rely on the wind, birds, bees, and butterflies — and other pollinating insects — to transfer pollen from flower to flower. Some of our 'other' pollinating insects are flies, wasps, and beetles."

- Nancy Bauer, "The California Wildlife Habitat Garden"

Note how all of the italicized words are common nouns, which make up the vast majority of nouns in English.

1.2. proper nouns

what is a proper noun?

10

1.2.1. what is a proper noun?

Définition

A proper noun names specific or unique individuals, events, or places, and may include real or fictional characters and settings. Unlike common nouns, most proper nouns, like Fred, New York, Mars, and Coca-Cola, begin with a capital letter. They may also be referred to as proper names for their function of naming specific things.

An example would be this famous movie line:

"Houston, we have a problem."

- "Apollo 13"

In the sentence, the word Houston is a proper noun because it names a specific place, while the word problem is a common noun, which expresses a thing or idea.

Proper nouns are not typically preceded by articles or other determiners, but there are numerous exceptions such as the Bronx or the Fourth of July. Most proper nouns are singular, but again, there are exceptions as in the United States and the Joneses.

1.3. Concrete and Abstract Nouns

what is a concrete noun?

10

1.3.1. what is a concrete noun?

Définition

A concrete noun names a material or tangible object or phenomenon — something recognizable through the senses, such as chicken or egg.

An abstract noun, by contrast, is a noun or noun phrase that names an idea, event, quality or concept — courage, freedom, progress, love, patience, excellence, and friendship. An abstract noun names something that can't be physically touched. According to "A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language", abstract nouns are "typically nonobservable and nonmeasurable."

In comparing these two types of nouns, Tom McArthur notes in "The Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language":

"... an abstract noun refers to an action, concept, event, quality, or state (love, conversation), whereas a concrete noun refers to a touchable, observable person or thing (child, tree)."

1.4. Collective nouns

what is a collective noun?

11

1.4.1. what is a collective noun?

Définition

A collective noun (such as team, committee, jury, squad, orchestra, crowd, audience, and family) refers to a group of individuals. It is also known as a group noun. In American English, collective nouns usually take singular verb forms and can be replaced by both singular and plural pronouns, depending on their meaning.

The Pronoun



Demonstrative Pronouns

12

In English grammar, a pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun, noun phrase, or noun clause. The pronoun is one of the traditional parts of speech. A pronoun can function as a subject, object, or complement in a sentence.

Unlike nouns, pronouns rarely allow modification. Pronouns are a closed word class in English: new members rarely enter the language. To understand how to recognize and correctly use pronouns, it can be helpful to review the types of pronouns that exist in English.

1. Demonstrative Pronouns

what is a demonstrative pronoun?

12

Indefinite Pronouns

14

1.1. what is a demonstrative pronoun?

A demonstrative pronoun points to a particular noun or to the noun it replaces. "These pronouns can indicate items in space or time, and they can be either singular or plural," says Ginger Software. When used to represent a thing or things, demonstrative pronouns can be either near or far in distance or time, says the online grammar, punctuation, and spelling checker, offering these examples:

Near in time or distance: this, these

Far in time or distance: that, those

There are three basic rules for using demonstrative pronouns:

They always identify nouns, such as: I can't believe this. The writer does not know what this is, but it exists.

They often describe animals, places, or things but they can also describe people, such as: This sounds like Mary singing.

They stand alone, distinguishing them from demonstrative adjectives, which qualify (or modify) nouns.

Demonstrative pronouns can be used in place of a noun, so long as the noun being replaced can be

understood from the pronoun's context:

This was my mother's ring.

These are nice shoes, but they look uncomfortable.

None of these answers is correct.



1.2. Indefinite Pronouns

what is an indefinite pronoun?

14

personal pronoun

15

1.2.1. what is an indefinite pronoun?

An indefinite pronoun refers to an unspecified or unidentified person or thing. Put another way, an indefinite pronoun doesn't have an antecedent. Indefinite pronouns include quantifiers (some, any, enough, several, many, or much); universals (all, both, every, or each); and partitives (any, anyone, anybody, either, neither, no, nobody, some, or someone). For example:

Everyone did as he pleased.

Both of us match the donation.

Some coffee is left.

Many of the indefinite pronouns can function as determiners.

1.2.2. personal pronoun

What is a personal pronoun?	15
Possessive pronouns	16
Relative pronouns	16

a) What is a personal pronoun?

A personal pronoun refers to a particular person, group, or thing. Like all pronouns, personal pronouns can take the place of nouns and noun phrases. These are the personal pronouns in English:

First-person singular: I (subject), me (object)

First-person plural: we (subject), us (object)

Second-person singular and plural: you (subject and object)

Third-person singular: he, she, it (subject), him, her, it (object)

Third-person plural: they (subject), them (object)

Note that personal pronouns inflect for case to show whether they are serving as subjects of clauses or as objects of verbs or prepositions. All the personal pronouns except you have distinct forms indicating number, either singular or plural. Only the third-person singular pronouns have distinct forms indicating gender: masculine (he, him), feminine (she, her), and neuter (it). A personal pronoun (such as they) that can refer to both masculine and feminine entities is called a generic pronoun.

Subject pronoun	Object pronoun
I	ME
YOU	YOU
HE	HIM
SHE	HER
IT	IT
WE	US
THEY	THEM

Table 1: personal pronouns

b) Possessive pronouns

what is a possessive pronoun?

16

i what is a possessive pronoun?

A possessive pronoun can take the place of a noun phrase to show ownership, as in, "This phone is mine." The weak possessives (also called possessive determiners) function as determiners in front of nouns, as in, "My phone is broken." The weak possessives are my, your, his, her, its, our, and their.

In contrast, the strong (or absolute) possessive pronouns stand on their own: mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, and theirs. The strong possessive is a type of independent genitive. A possessive pronoun never takes an apostrophe.

Possessive pr
MY
YOUR
HIS
HER
ITS
OUR
THEIR

table 2: possessive pronouns

c) Relative pronouns

what is a relative pronoun?

16

i what is a relative pronoun?

A relative pronoun introduces an adjective clause (also called a relative clause), as in:

"Spaghetti at her table, which was offered at least three times a week, was a mysterious red, white, and brown concoction."

- Maya Angelou, "Mom & Me & Mom"

The standard relative pronouns in English are which, that, who, whom, and whose. Who and whom refer only to people. Which refers to things, qualities, and ideas—never to people. That and whose refer to people, things, qualities, and ideas.

The verb

IV

How does it function?

18

A verb is the part of speech (or word class) that describes an action or occurrence or indicates a state of being. Verbs and verb phrases usually function as predicates. Verbs can display differences in tense, mood, aspect, number, person, and voice.

There are two main classes of verbs: lexical verbs (also known as main verbs), which aren't dependent on other verbs, and auxiliary verbs (also called helping verbs). As with lexical versus auxiliary verbs, many types of verbs come in opposites, as explained below.

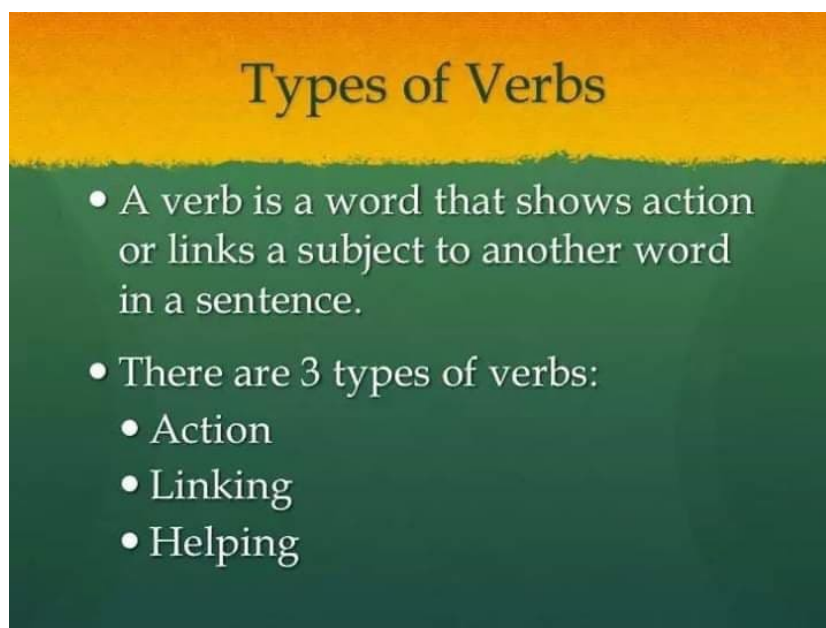


image: The verb

Gallery: the verb

PRESENT PERFECT PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Present Perfect	Present Perfect Continuous
S + have/has + V3	S + have/has + been + V-ing
Finished actions E.g. The kids have played for 2 hours	Unfinished actions E.g. The kids have been playing since morning.
Permanent actions E.g. I have taught English for 12 years.	Temporary actions E.g. I have been teaching this class for one hour.
Emphasize the result of the action E.g. He has repaired the car.	Emphasize the duration of the action E.g. He has been repairing the car for 2 hours.
Indicate how much/how many E.g. It has taken six years to write this book.	Indicate how much/how many in an ongoing process E.g. He has been studying English for two months.

ESL.COM

PRESENT SIMPLE

TO BE	VERBS
S + am/is/are + predicate...	S + verb + object...
S + am/is/are + not + predicate...	S + don't/doesn't + verb + object...
Am/Is/ Are + S + predicate?	Do/ Does + S + verb + object?
Usage	Example
Express general truth The sun rises in the east.	
Habits I play badminton every Tuesday.	
Future timetables Our train leaves at 9 am.	
Future after "when", "until"...	I won't go out until it stops raining.
Permanent situations	He works in a bank.
For newspaper headlines	Man enters space.
With non-progressive	I believe that you are innocent.
When telling stories	Suddenly, the window opens and a masked man enters.
For giving directions and instructions	First of all, you break the eggs and whisk with sugar.

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Subject Verb Agreement Rules

- The subject and verb must agree in number.
He goes to work by bus. They visit an energy expert.
- The words and phrases "with", "as well as", "together with", "along with" are not part of the subject and the verb agrees with the subject.
The politician, along with the newsmen, is expected shortly.
- Two subjects joined by "and" are plural.
Nobody gets rich from writing novels.
The work is placed if the subject is a plural indefinite pronoun such as several, few, both, many. Several allegations have been initiated by the heavy accused.
- With collective nouns, the verb might be singular or plural (S), depending on meaning.
The audience was clearly enthralled by her performance.
The audience are strongly subdivided, clapping politely after each song.
- Two subjects joined by "either...or", "neither...nor", "not only...but also" take the verb that agrees with the subject closest to it.
Neither my mother nor my father goes to university.
In sentences beginning with "there" or "here", the true subject follows the verb.
There is a bus near the school playground.
- The verb is singular if the subject is a singular indefinite pronoun such as each, either, no one, every one, etc.
Nobody gets rich from writing novels.
- The verb is plural if the subject is a plural indefinite pronoun such as several, few, both, many. Several allegations have been initiated by the heavy accused.
- Some indefinite pronouns may be either singular or plural, depending upon their use in a sentence.
Some of the books are out of place. Please put them in the right order. (Books are countable.)
Some of the music was weird. (Music is uncountable.)
- Use a singular verb for expressions of measurement, time, money and weight when the amount is considered as one unit.
Fifty dollars seems a reasonable price.
Five dollars were scattered on the ground.
- Plural noun subjects with a singular meaning take a singular verb such asumps, measles, influenza, statistics, etc., etc.
- Communication is the Director's sport.
- Titles of single entities (books, organizations, countries, etc.) are always singular.
Henry Ford is an interesting man.

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1. How does it function?

Verbs function as predicators in the sentence. They are used to make statements, ask questions, to give command or to show direction.

Eg : He plays Tennis very well, where is my pen ?

Shut the door! Go straight ahead then turn left.

The adjective

V

what are its types?

19

An adjective is a part of speech (or word class) that modifies a noun or a pronoun. In addition to their basic (or positive) forms (for example, big and beautiful), most adjectives have two other forms: comparative (bigger and more beautiful) and superlative (biggest and most beautiful). Adjectives often—but not always—serve as modifiers, providing additional information about another word or word group, such as a noun or noun phrase. But adjectives can also themselves act as nouns in a sentence.

Learning a few basic grammatical rules and recognizing the various types of adjectives will have you correctly using these important parts of speech in no time.

1. what are its types?

Absolute Adjectives

An absolute adjective—such as supreme or infinite—is an adjective with a meaning that cannot be intensified or compared. It is also known as an incomparable, ultimate, or absolute modifier. English Language Centres gives this example of an absolute adjective:

He is dead.

In the sentence, the word dead is an absolute adjective. The person is either dead or he is not, says the firm that offers online and in-person English language courses. You cannot be deader than someone else and you cannot be the deadest among a group. According to some style guides, absolute adjectives are always in the superlative degree. However, some absolute adjectives can be quantified by the addition of the word almost, nearly, or virtually.

Attributive and Predicative Adjectives

An attributiveadj.^{p.34 AA} usually comes before the noun it modifies without a linking verb. For example, take this sentence from Maya Angelou's work "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings":

"In those tender mornings, the Store was full of laughing, joking, boasting, and bragging."

The word tender is an attributive adjective because it precedes and modifies the noun mornings.

what are its types?

Attributive adjectives are direct modifiers of nominals.

By contrast, a predicative adjective usually comes after a linking verb rather than before a noun. Another term for a predicative adjective is a subject complement. The Oxford Online Living Dictionaries gives this example:

The cat is black.

In general, when adjectives are used after a verb such as be, become, grow, look, or seem, they're called predicative adjectives, says the dictionary.

Appositive Adjectives

An appositive adj.^{p.34 AA} is a traditional grammatical term for an adjective (or a series of adjectives) that follows a noun and, like a nonrestrictive appositive, is set off by commas or dashes. For example:

"Arthur was a big boy, tall, strong, and broad-shouldered."

– Janet B. Pascal, "Arthur Conan Doyle: Beyond Baker Street"

As the example shows, appositive adjectives often appear in pairs or groups of three, called tricolons.

Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

The comparative adj.^{p.34 AA} is the form of an adjective involving the comparisons of more or less as well as greater or lesser.

Comparative adjectives in English are either marked by the suffix -er (as in "the faster bike") or identified by the word more or less ("the more difficult job"). Almost all one-syllable adjectives, along with some two-syllable adjectives, add -er to the base to form the comparative. In most adjectives of two or more syllables, the comparative is identified by the word more or less.

The superlative adj.^{p.34 AA}, by comparison, is the form or degree of an adjective that indicates the most or the least of something. Superlatives are either marked by the suffix -est (as in "the fastest bike") or identified by the word most or least ("the most difficult job"). Similar to comparative adjectives, almost all one-syllable adjectives, along with some two-syllable adjectives, add -est to the base to form the superlative. In most adjectives of two or more syllables, the superlative is identified by the word most or least. Not all adjectives have superlative forms.

After a superlative, in or of plus a noun phrase can be used to indicate what is being compared (as in "the tallest building in the world" and "the best time of my life").

Compound Adjectives

A compound adjective is made up of two or more words (such as part-time and high-speed) that act as a single idea to modify a noun (a part-time employee, a high-speed chase). Compound adjectives are also called phrasal adjectives or compound modifiers.

As a general rule, the words in a compound adjective are hyphenated when they come before a noun (a well-known actor) but not when they come after (The actor is well known). Compound adjectives formed with an adverb ending in -ly (such as rapidly changing) are usually not hyphenated.

Demonstrative Adjectives

A demonstrative adjective is a determiner that comes before and points to a particular noun. Indeed, a demonstrative adjective is sometimes called a demonstrative determiner. For example:

Son, take this bat and hit that ball out of the park.

There are four demonstratives in English:

The "near" demonstratives: this and these

The "far" demonstratives: that and those

The singular demonstratives: this and that

The plural demonstratives: these and those

Denominal Adjectives

A denominal adjective is formed from a noun, usually with the addition of a suffix—such as hopeless, earthen, cowardly, childish, and Reaganesque. An example would be:

Our new neighborhood seemed romantic, somehow, and very San Franciscoish, especially to a couple of young people who hailed from Idaho.

In this sentence, the proper noun San Francisco is altered with the suffix -ish to form the denominal adjective. These kinds of adjectives can heighten the drama and descriptiveness of a sentence, as in this example:

"The president's oration was...Lincolnian in its cadences, and in some ways, was the final, impassioned, heart-felt rebuke to all those, including his opponent, who tried to portray him as somehow un-American."

– Andrew Sullivan, "The American President." *The Daily Beast*, Nov. 7, 2012

Nominal Adjectives

The term nominal adjective refers to an adjective or group of adjectives that function as a noun. "The Complete English Grammar Rules" by Farlex International notes that nominal adjectives are generally preceded by the word *the* and can be found as the subject or the object of a sentence or clause. For example:

The elderly are a great source of wisdom.

The word *elderly* generally acts as a true adjective—an elderly gentleman—but in the previous sentence, it functions as a collective noun and as the subject of the sentence. Nominal adjectives are also known as substantive adjectives.

Participial Adjectives

A participial adjective is an adjective that has the same form as the participle (a verb ending in -ing or -ed/-en) and usually exhibits the ordinary properties of an adjective. For example:

"What kind of a man was he to fall in love with a lying thief?"

what are its types?

– Janet Dailey, "The Hostage Bride"

In the sentence, the verb lie is altered by adding the ending -ing to form the participial adjective lying, which then describes the noun thief. Also, the comparative and superlative forms of participial adjectives are formed with more and most and less and least—not with the endings -er and -est

The adverb

VI

types

23

An adverb is a part of speech (or word class) that's primarily used to modify a verb, adjective, or other adverbs and can additionally modify prepositional phrases, subordinate clauses, and complete sentences. Put another way, adverbs are content words that provide information about how, when, or where something happens. Adverbs are also called intensifiers because they intensify the meaning of the word or words they are modifying, notes Your Dictionary.

An adverb that modifies an adjective—as in quite sad—or another adverb—as in very carelessly—appears immediately in front of the word it modifies, but one that modifies a verb is generally more flexible: It may appear before or after—as in softly sang or sang softly—or at the beginning of the sentence—Softly she sang to the baby—with the position of an adverb typically affecting the meaning of the sentence. Adverbs can modify a verb or adjective in several ways, by providing information about emphasis, manner, time, place, and frequency.

1. types

Exemple

He will surely win.

He sings joyfully.

She speaks fluently.

The Preposition

VII

what is a preposition?

24

1. what is a preposition?

a preposition is a word that shows the relationship between a noun or pronoun and other words in a sentence. Prepositions are words like in and out, above and below, and to and from, and they're words we use all the time.

How useful are prepositions? Just look at how many prepositions are italicized in this simple sentence from E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web*: "For the first few days of his life, *Wilbur* was allowed to live in a box near the stove in the kitchen."

Exemple

The books are *on* the table.

John is *in* his room.

Breakfast is *at* 8 o'clock

The conjunction

VIII

types

25

A conjunction is the part of speech (or word class) that serves to connect words, phrases, clauses, or sentences. The common conjunctions (and, but, for, or, nor, so, and yet) join the elements of a coordinate structure and are thus called coordinating conjunctions. They connect words, phrases, and clauses of equal rank. In contrast, subordinating conjunctions connect clauses of unequal rank. Correlative conjunctions (such as neither...nor) pair things together as subjects or objects in a sentence, which is why they're also called pairing conjunctions.

1. types

a- Coordinating conjunctions : (and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet) They are used to connect words and clauses of equal rank.

Eg : Bed and breakfast.

Nobody but you.

b- Subordinating conjunctions : (after, because, if, when, while, where...) They are used to connect subordinate clauses to main clauses.

Eg : He was working when she came in. While he was sleeping, somebody stole his wallet.

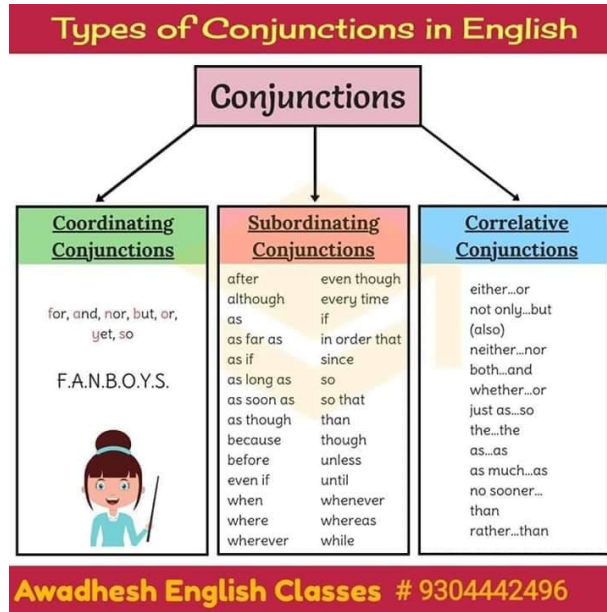


image: Conjunctions

The interjection

IX

types

27

An interjection, also known as an ejaculation or an exclamation, is a word, phrase, or sound used to convey an emotion such as surprise, excitement, happiness, or anger. Put another way, an interjection is a short utterance that usually expresses emotion and is capable of standing alone.

Though interjections are one of the traditional parts of speech, they are grammatically unrelated to any other part of a sentence. Interjections are very common in spoken English, but they appear in written English as well. The most widely used interjections in English include hey, oops, ouch, gee, oh, ah, ooh, eh, ugh, aw, yo, wow, brr, sh, and yippee. In writing, an interjection is typically followed by an exclamation point, but it can also be followed by a comma if it is part of a sentence. Knowing the different kinds of interjections, and understanding how to punctuate them, will help you use them correctly.

1. types

8.1. Primary interjections

27

8.2. Secondary interjections

27

1.1. 8.1. Primary interjections

They are single words (such as ah, brr, eww, hmm, ooh, and yowza) that are not derived from any other word class, are used only as interjections, and don't enter into syntactic constructions. According to linguist Martina Drescher, in her article "The Expressive Function of Language: Towards a Cognitive Semantic Approach," which was published in "The Language of Emotions: Conceptualization, Expression, and Theoretical Foundation," primary interjections generally serve to "lubricate" conversations in a ritualized manner.

1.2. 8.2. Secondary interjections

(such as bless you, congratulations, good grief, hey, hi, oh my, oh my God, oh well, rats, and shoot) also belong to other word classes. These expressions are often exclamatory and tend to mix with

oaths, swear words, and greeting formulas. Drescher describes secondary interjections as "derivative uses of other words or locutions, which have lost their original conceptual meanings"—a process known as semantic bleaching

Exercice



[solution n°2 p.32]

object pronoun

adverb

noun

adjective

verb



Exercise



[solution n°3 p.32]

astronomy her hardly well hard friendly nice hardly friendly

noun	adverb	adjective

Conclusion



XI

A sentence is an independent unit of expression. It is composed of different word categories such as : nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, and conjunctions. Certain of these parts of speech may have different functions in the sentence. They may function as : subject, verb, object, predicate.

Solutions des exercices



> Solution n°1

Exercice p. 29

verb noun object pronoun adverb adjective

reorder these parts of speech as they would appear in a sentence. There are more than one possibility

> Solution n°2

Exercice p. 30

noun	adverb	adjective
hardly	hard	friendly
her	hardly	well
astronomy	friendly	nice

Glossaire



part of speech

one of the nine main categories into which words are classified according to their functions in sentences, such as nouns or verbs. Also known as word classes, these are the building blocks of grammar.



Références



wikipedia

reference



