

Learning the Parts of Speech

In this lesson you will:



- recognize which part of speech each word in a sentence is
- classify the forms and meanings of the vocabulary in the passage correctly
- write sentences using appropriate words



Introduction




When you read a sentence, you may often need to look up the meaning of an unknown word in the dictionary. In so doing, you need to look into the context in which the word is embedded so that you will be able to decide what the function of the word is and it will lead to understanding the correct form (i.e. parts of speech: noun, verb, adjective, adverb, pronoun, conjunction, preposition, determiner) and the correct meaning of the word. In other words, **when you see a number of definitions of the word in the dictionary, you should be able to find the one that best fits the relevant context** (i.e. contextual meaning) **in which the word is embedded**. Remember that what part of speech a word is depends on how it is used in the sentence.

The Parts of Speech

There are eight parts of speech in English (Noun, Verb, Adjective, Adverb, Pronoun, Preposition, Conjunction and Determiner).

(1) Noun = Names a person, place, thing, idea, animal, quality, or action.

Examples	Examples of how it is used in a sentence
manager, business, computer, cats, effectiveness, communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multimedia combines text with sound, video, animation and graphics, which greatly enhance the interaction between user and machine. • Computers store sound as digital information. 

(2) **Pronoun** = Takes a place of noun

Subject pronoun:	I, we, you, he, she, they, it
Object Pronoun:	me, us, you, him, her, them, it
Possessive pronoun:	mine, ours, yours, his, hers, theirs, its
Reflexive pronoun:	myself, ourselves, yourself/yourselves, himself, herself, themselves, itself
Indefinite pronoun:	everyone, anyone, someone, no one, everything, anything, something, nothing, each, either, both, few, some



Examples of how it is used in a sentence

- **Computers** can deal with any kinds of problems if **they** are given the right instructions.
- **Computers** have a way of communicating with the person(s) using **them**.
- My **computer** operates faster than **theirs**.
- **Computer viruses** can hide **themselves** in a computer system.
- Networks can link computers across the world, so you can share information with **someone** on the other side of the world easily.


(3) **Adjective** = Describes a noun or pronoun, telling which, whose, what kind and how many

Examples	Examples of how it is used in a sentence
effective, slow, excellent, advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cable television is one of the world's most popular media and carries many different entertainment channels and clear pictures. • The difficult thing was to determine how the website would look.

(4) **Verb** = Expresses action or state of being

Examples	Examples of how it is used in a sentence
communicate, transmit, receive	Smart cards prevent unauthorized users from accessing systems and permit authorized users to have access to a wide range of facilities. Some computers have smart card readers which allow you to buy things on the Web easily and safely with digital cash.

(5) Adverb = Describes verbs, adjectives, adverbs and tells where, when, how, how often, how much, or to what extent (degree)

Examples	Examples of how it is used in a sentence
effectively, slowly, late, very	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today, robots are used in all sorts of places, from factories to space exploration. • Robots contain software that runs automatically without the intervention of a person. • I usually receive SMS messages on my mobile phone. • Optical fibre cables have improved the telephone system immensely. • DVD media is extremely easy to use and affordable. 

(6) Preposition = Links and relates a noun or pronoun to another word in the sentence

about, above, across, after, against, along, among, around, at, before, behind, below, beside, between, beyond, but, by, for, from, in, inside, into, near, of, off, on, onto, out, outside, over, past, since, through, throughout, till, to, toward, under, until, up, upon, with, within, without

Examples of how it is used in a sentence

- The microchip technology which made the PC possible has put chips not only **into** computers, but also **into** washing-machines and cars.
- Networks **of** computers are already being used **to** make information available **on** a world-wide scale.
- Engineers developed optical fibre cables **in** the 1980s.

(7) Conjunction = Connects words, phrases, and clauses

and, but, or, for, nor, so, yet, both-and, either-or, neither-nor, not only-but also, whether-or, because, if, since, until, when, where, while

Examples of how it is used in a sentence

- Some telephone companies add LCDs which *display* dialed numbers **and** *indicate* the duration of calls.
- Optical fibre cable is widely used **because** it is light, flexible, and cheap.

(8) Determiner = Comes before a noun

- Article: a, an, the
- Possessive adjectives: my, our, your, his, her, their, its
- Demonstrative pronoun: this, that, these, those



Examples of how it is used in a sentence

- System errors affect **the** computer or **its** peripherals.
- Computers have become **a** part of all **our** lives.
- Everyone using **a** public-key system has **a** public key and **a** private key. Messages are encrypted and decrypted with **these** keys.

Practice-1

Read each of the following sentences. Then, identify the part of speech of each **bold** word and its contextual meaning, choosing from the dictionary entries given.

1. A lot of organizations use long-distance computer communications to **exchange** information.

Word	Part of Speech	Dictionary Entries
exchange		Noun 1. an act of giving sth to sb 2. a conversation 3. the process of changing an amount of one currency for an equal value of another
		Verb 1. to give sth to sb and at the same time receive the same type of thing from them 2. to sign a contract with the person that you are buying sth from

2. Understanding the relationship between the supplier and service provider is important to understanding how the industry **functions**.

Word	Part of Speech	Dictionary Entries
function		Noun 1. a special activity of a person or a thing 2. a part of a computer program 3. a social event
		Verb - operate

3. Technology is constantly changing and evolving and change is therefore a **component** of the computer business.

Word	Part of Speech	Dictionary Entries
component		Noun - one of several parts of which sth is made
		Adjective - to break sth down into its component parts

4. The new network is fast and **reliable**, allowing users' **access** to many other communications services.

Word	Part of Speech	Dictionary Entries
reliable		Adjective
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> that you can rely on that is likely to be correct or true

Word	Part of Speech	Dictionary Entries
access		Noun
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a way of entering or reaching a place the opportunity or right to use sth
		Verb
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> to open a computer file in order to get or add information to reach, enter, or use sth

Practice-2:

Read the following passage. Then, identify the part of speech of each **bold** word.



For many people today, it's difficult to **imagine** life without a cellular phone. Once the **preserve** of the rich, they have now become an **indispensable** part of modern day life.

The technology for cellular phones was **patented** in 1975, but **it** wasn't until 1982 that the first commercial cell phone network was established in the United States. Since that time, the cellular phone has changed from a **bulky** machine, to something that can fit into the palm of your hand.

The functions available in modern-day cell phones are increasing **rapidly**. E-mail access is now standard. Cellular phone cameras, which were once little more than a gimmick, now rival stand-alone digital cameras in terms of quality. With 'Third Generation' telephones, broadband access offers the **possibility** of video phones, television and full Internet access. All this comes at a cost, however. Many people bemoan a society where people seem glued to **their** phone, **but** oblivious to all that is going on around them.

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|------------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| 1. imagine | _____ | 6. bulky | _____ |
| 2. preserve | _____ | 7. rapidly | _____ |
| 3. indispensable | _____ | 8. possibility | _____ |
| 4. patented | _____ | 9. their | _____ |
| 5. it | _____ | 10. but | _____ |

Practice -3:

Write the derivative words of the vocabulary in the spaces provided. Then use each word to form a sentence.

Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
technology	-	technological	technologically
	compute		
		programming	-
	operate		
communication		-	-
	upgrade		

- There are two **technologies** involved in a clipboard PC.
- The computer is the greatest **technological** invention of the twentieth century.
- This company sells **technologically** advanced cell phones, digital cameras, MP3 players, and video game gadgets.

1. _____

2.

3.

4.

5.
