

# GRAMMAR

# Parts of Speech

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**Verb:** A word denoting action, occurrence, or existence

*The President **met** with foreign diplomats on Tuesdays.*

*I **will be presenting** my research at the conference.*

**Noun:** A word that names a person, place, thing, idea, animal, quality, or action.

***Edwin**, my brother, is a professional **musician**.*

***Students** who study hard usually do well in **Biology 101**.*

**Pronoun:** A word that takes the position of a noun and functions as nouns do.

***He** attended a luncheon in **his** honor on Wednesday.*

***Who** went to lunch with **you**?*

**Adverb:** A word that modifies verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs.

*Susan **reluctantly** agreed to serve on my committee.*

*This **beautifully** illustrated manuscript is worth **nearly** \$1 million.*

**Adjective:** A word that modifies, qualifies, or describes nouns and pronouns.

*A **big brown** dog jumped at me from behind the **blue** car.*

*The painting is truly **spectacular**.*

**Article:** A type of adjective that is used before a noun: “The” (definite) and “A/An” (indefinite)

***The** bees that were on **the** flowers stung Kay.*

*A man gave us directions to **the** airport. (used with a consonant sound)*

***An** article in **the** paper caught my attention. (used with a vowel sound)*

**Preposition:** A word that establishes a relationship between its object and something else.

*Jack sat **beside** Jill **on** the bus.*

*To get **to** Grandma’s house, we have to go **over** the river and **through** the woods.*

**Conjunction:** A word that functions as a connector between words, phrases, and clauses.

*I work part-time **although** I don’t need money.*

*Alice needed to go to the dentist, **so** I drove her there.*

**Interjection:** An exclamation expressing emotion.

***Wow!** Look at all the snow.*

***Ouch!** That hurt.*

## Strategies for Identifying Parts of Speech

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**Verb:** The word is probably a verb *if*:

- You can use *will, shall, can, could, may, might, must, should, or would* in front of the word.

**Noun:** The word is probably a noun *if*:

- You can make it plural or singular
- You can make it possessive
- You can place the words *a, an, or the* in front of it
- It can follow a prepositional phrase

**Pronoun:** The word is probably a pronoun *if*:

- You can substitute the word for a noun

**Adjective:** The word is probably an adjective *if*:

- You can add *er* or *est* to the word
- You can use *more* or *most* in front of it
- You can use the words *very* or *quite* in front of it

**Adverb:** The word is probably an adverb *if*:

- There is an *ly* suffix
- The word or phrase can be logically moved to another place in the sentence

**Preposition:** The word is probably a preposition *if*:

- It is followed by a noun object

**Conjunction:** The word is probably a conjunction *if*:

- The word serves as a connector between words, phrases, or clauses