

PARTS OF SPEECH

NOUNS: *The noun test—If you can **have** it, it's a noun!*

Proper Nouns: Names of People, places, events, businesses, works of art, and other things

Common Nouns: All other things not specifically named

Concrete Nouns: Things that are tangible.

Abstract Nouns: Things that are not tangible, such as ideas or emotions: solace, love, joy, community, hatred, courage, belligerence, captivity, beauty, aggravation, elation, exuberance, depletion, insurrection, development, aspiration, faith, hope, charity, temperance, prudence, fortitude, justice.

Look for –ness, –ment, and –tion endings.

Since nouns can all be possessed and described, you can use nouns in sentences by preceding them with possessive pronouns, adjectives or articles.

PRONOUNS: Pronouns stand in for nouns in sentences. (Separate unit coming!)

Personal Pronouns: Subject, Object, Possessive Cases: I, You, He, She, It.../ We, you, they me him her

Demonstrative: this, that, these, those

Interrogative: what, which, who, whom, whose, whoever, whomever

Indefinite: any, some, every, someone, anyone, everyone, no one, all, each, another, both, many, few several, either, neither....

Relative: that, what, which, who, whom, whose – when introducing a sub. clause

(The dog that you've been following is rabid.)

Reciprocal and Reflexive: each other, one another, himself, etc. themselves ourselves yourself yourselves

VERBS: *The Verb test—If you can **do** it, it's a verb!* (Separate unit coming!)

Verbs also describe a state of being and they link you to your description or your doppelganger noun: She is lovely. She is a brute. He feels sick. He feels like a crab. (To play)

Action Verbs: Things you DO: to give; to have; to hold

To love. To dream. To hold. To dance. To sing. To freak out, and other *combination verbs*: farm out, work out, throw up, calm down. (The verb is paired up with an adverb) to go

Linking Verbs or State of Being: At one time these were called *copulative verbs*!

To Be. To Taste. To Smell. To Feel. To Become. To Grow. To Look. To Get. Note: These are linking in the sense of “being” or “becoming.” Not as action, followed by an adjective or noun.

To Be / **Am Are Is ... Was Were ... Been... Being** I am beautiful. I sing beautifully.

ADJECTIVES: *They only modify nouns! They do nothing at all else!*

They describe quality, quantity, condition, size, shape, and colors.

The **three articles** are often considered adjectives. The three **articles** are: **A, AN, THE**.

Adjectives exist in the **positive, comparative, and superlative degree**:

beautiful, more beautiful, most beautiful /stupid, stupider, stupidest

He is a lovely boy. She sang lovingly in the rain.

Other Types of Adjectives (These are pronouns when they stand alone.)

demonstrative: this, that, these, those

interrogative: whose, which

indefinite: some, other, any.... **(These words are adjectives when they modify a noun!)**

--ful endings are often adjectives. Adjectives can often be switched into adverbs by adding an -ly.

ADVERBS: These tricky devils do all sorts of cool stuff: They modify verbs, adjectives, other adverbs. They answer the questions how, when, how long, where, in what degree, and in what direction. Some are also used for emphasis: *He is mostly a fool.*

How: The most common, adverbs—with “ly” endings. **Carefully, securely, confidently, boldly.**

When: once, again, now, today, yesterday,

How Long: forever, soon, never, sometimes, often, awhile (Note: use “a while” after prepositions)

Where: here, there, everywhere, inside, outside, nowhere, underneath

In What Direction: The insect went *down* in its lair. She flew *up* in the sky.

Degree: too, very, quite, just, must, only, much, more, most, no, yes, not, also

Emphasis: indeed, truly, actually, really

Adverbs are *most happily functional* when they modify adjectives: That roach is massively hideous!

Adverbs also exist in the **positive, comparative, and superlative degree:**

She sang more pleasantly after her lesson. She eats most heartily after bungee-jumping

(*Much, more, most, less, and least* can also be adjectives!—How?)

CONJUNCTIONS: They join two independent clauses, and also items in a list: **I go, and I eat.**

Coordinating conjunctions join independent clauses: *and, so, but, for, or, nor, yet* **FANBOYS**

Subordinating conjunctions join *dependent* clauses to *independent* clauses: *because, unless, while, when, whether, as, until, since, yet, so, however, therefore, consequently*

Conjunctions repair run-on sentences and cure sentence fragments, and many are adverbs, too.

PREPOSITIONS: “Pointing” words used to link nouns or noun-like things to the rest of the sentence.

Prepositional phrases often function as adjectives or adverbs, but may also be a noun: *In the room* was evil. She ate food *from the fridge*. (adj.) She sat *next to him*. (adv.) Some prepositions: to, in, with, of, between, without, for, except, over, under, from, near, among, after, before, on...

INTERJECTIONS: Words of passion that have no outside meaning: Oh, Wow, Yah, D’oh, Yeah, Phooey, Darn, Drat, Shucks, Heck, Yikes, Hoorah, Hooray, Yippee, Gee. Ow! Ay! (Including onomatopoeic words.)

Expletives: These are dirty words without a definition. **Invectives:** Words that express negative feelings, but have definitions and aren’t vulgar. **vulgarisms:** Dirty words with a definition. It is uncivilized to use expletives or vulgarisms—except when absolutely necessary. You only look ignorant, and never cool, when you do. You are also being linguistically wasteful! That said, check out [Why We Curse](#) and [why cursing might help alleviate pain](#).
Also: [James Baldwin](#) and [Lupe Fiasco](#).

Name

Parts of Speech Test

Proper Nouns

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Common Concrete Nouns

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Abstract Nouns

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Pronouns

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Action Verbs

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

State of Being Verb

- 1

Adjectives

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Adverbs

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Conjunctions

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Prepositions

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Interjections (PG-13 Only!)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Why do people curse? Is it ever OK to use curses? Explain.

