

## Parts of Speech – Definitions and Examples

Each part of speech explains not what the word "is", but what the word "does".

### Nouns

A noun is a word that is used to describe a person, place, or thing. The nouns are bolded in the example:

Late last **year** our **neighbors** bought a **goat**.  
**Portia White** was an **opera singer**.

### Verbs

Verbs express actions, events, or state of being. The verbs are bolded in the example:

My goldfish **died** last night.  
 I **sat** and **cried** when I **went** home.

### Pronouns

Pronouns simply replace nouns or another pronoun. You can use words like "he", "she", "it", and "they" to make your sentences more concise. For example, if the noun in your sentence is "Mister Major-General Jack Swifington, Jr. III", and you do not want to repeat such a long name over and over again, you can use "him" instead. The pronouns are bolded in the example:

**I** was glad to find the bus pass in the bottom of the green knapsack.  
**He** stole the selkie's skin and forced **her** to live with **him**.

### Adjectives

An adjective modifies a noun or pronoun by describing it. The adjectives are bolded in the example:

The **truck-shaped** balloon floated over the treetops.  
 Mrs. Morrison papered her **kitchen** walls with **hideous** wall paper.

## Adverbs

An adverb modifies a verb, an adjective, another adverb, a phrase or a clause. The adverb answers the questions "how", "when", "where", "how much".

(hint: most adverbs can be identified by their "ly" suffix)

The adjectives are bolded in the example:

I **hastily** stuffed the dead body out of sight.

She **passionately** hated penguins because of their waddle.

## Prepositions

Prepositions are linkers. They link nouns, pronouns, and phrases to other words in a sentence. A preposition usually describes a logical or spatial relationship. A preposition can also create a **prepositional phrase**.

(hint: a preposition is anything you can do with a cloud. You can go "under", "over", "above", "through", "on", etc.)

The prepositions are bolded in the example:

I climbed the roller coaster track **without** fear.

There was sadness **throughout** the college when sociology was cancelled.