

Parts of Speech Cheat Sheet

Nouns identify people, places, things, or ideas.

Tom and his friend took their books to the library to study history.

Nouns can be **common** (cat, brother, city) or **proper** (Felix, Salt Lake City). They can also appear in **plural** (boys, dogs) or **possessive** forms (boy's, boys', dog's).

Pronouns substitute for nouns, so we don't have to keep repeating the nouns.

Tom's hair is so long it touches his knees. (As opposed to: Tom's hair is so long Tom's hair touches Tom's knees.)

Pronouns can be **personal** (I, you, me, us, him, it, etc.), **demonstrative** (this, that, these, those), **relative** (that, which, who, whom, whose), **interrogative** (who, whose, whom, which, that—used to ask a question), **indefinite** (anyone, everyone, nobody, something), **possessive** (my, mine, his, hers, ours, etc.), **reflexive** (myself, yourself, itself, etc.), and **reciprocal** (each other, one another). The previously stated noun that the pronoun refers to is called the *antecedent*.

Verbs show action or a state of existence.

Tonya jogs every day. She feels sad. He is hungry. This stinks.

Verbs come in many **forms** (-ing, -ed, to+) and show **time** (called *tense*), **number** (singular or plural) and **person** (first, second, or third).

Adjectives describe, modify, or limit nouns and pronouns.

The big dog scratched its hairy head. (*Big* and *hairy* are modifying the nouns *dog* and *head*).

They were so loud! (*Loud* is modifying the pronoun *they*).

A, *an*, and *the* are articles that precede nouns. We generally classify them as adjectives.

Adverbs describe, modify, or limit verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs.

The really beautiful ballerina leaped very gracefully across the stage.

(*Really* is modifying the adjective *beautiful*; *very* is modifying the adverb *gracefully*; and *gracefully* is modifying the verb *leaped*).

Well is most common as an adverb (e.g. I did well on the exam), but *well* is an adjective when it refers to good health (e.g. Despite her surgery, she looks well).

Prepositions connect and show relationships between nouns and pronouns to other words in a sentence.

They will leave in the morning. (The preposition *in* shows the relationship between *morning* and *leave*).

She stood on the table. (The preposition *on* shows the relationship between *stood* and *table*).

Some common prepositions are

about	above	across	after	along	among
between	below	behind	beside	before	during
except	from	in	inside	into	near
next	of	off	on	onto	out
outside	over	up	to	toward	with

Conjunctions connect words, phrases, or clauses.

I'd like a hamburger and fries, but I don't want a drink.

She is crying because she stubbed her toe.

Coffee or tea?

Coordinating conjunctions (and, but, for, nor, or, so, yet) connect independent clauses or equal ideas. **Subordinating** conjunctions (such as after, although, because, if, since, while, until) connect dependent or subordinating clauses with independent or main clauses .

Interjections express surprise or pause.

Man, I love grammar.

Ouch! That hurt!

Of course, that's not what he said.

Interjections are set off from the rest of the sentence by a comma or an exclamation point.