Parts of Speech Notes

**Nouns:**
A noun is the name of a person, place, thing or idea.

People- Abraham Lincoln, teacher, student, dog
Places- school, house, New York, Olympic Peninsula
Things- whale, music, table, book, shoes
Ideas- language, communism, defeat, love

**Collective nouns**- a noun that names a group of individual people or things

**Compound nouns**- a noun made up of two or more words
Separate words- mail service, United States, U.S. Postal Service,
Hyphenated words- self-supporting
Combined words- postmaster, horseback, stagecoach

**Common nouns**- names any one of a class of people, places or things
**Proper nouns**- names a specific person, place or thing

**Abstract**- nouns that cannot be identified using one’s senses. (freedom, trust, loyalty)
**Concrete**- nouns that can be easily identified with one or more senses. (dog, tree, candle)

**Pronouns:** take the place of a noun

**Antecedent**- the noun (or group of words) for which a pronoun stands
**Personal pronouns**- refer to:
  - The person speaking (I, me, my, mine, we, us, our, ours)
  - The person spoken to (You, your, yours)
  - The person, place or thing spoken about
    (He, him, his she, her, hers, it, its, they, them, their, theirs)
**Demonstrative pronouns**- points out a specific person, place or thing
  this, that, these, those
**Relative pronoun**- used to introduce adjective clauses
  that, which, who, whom, whose
**Interrogative pronoun**- used to begin a question
  what, which, who, whom, whose
**Indefinite pronoun** – refer to people, places and things, often without specifying which ones
  anybody, something, both, all, neither, everybody

**Verbs:** show action or link the subject to the rest of the sentence

**Action verbs** – tell what action someone or something is performing
  Painting, share, drive, dropping, fighting, argue, cook, explore, swallow
Transitive verbs – an action verb is transitive if the receiver of the action is named in the sentence
Example: Bob painted the canvass.
Mark shared his popcorn with Emma.

Intransitive verbs – an action verb is intransitive if no receiver of the action is named in the sentence
Example: Bob painted.
Mark shared.

Linking verbs – a verb that connects a subject with a word that describes or identifies it
Example: He is a general from the North.
The winners were Tony and I.
He looks tired from all the fighting.
Do you have a pencil?

Helping verbs – verbs placed before other verbs to form verb phrases
Example: Someone is opening the door.
Mark is eating.

Adjective – used to describe a noun or a pronoun
What kind?
Which one?
How many?
How much?

Articles – the, a, an
Nouns can be used as adjectives when they describe another noun.
Public laws, bread crusts, citizen rights, Caribbean waters

Compound adjectives – can be hyphenated or combined
so-called, one-sided, 100-yard, off-shore
heartbreaking, nearsighted, outspoken

Pronouns can be used as adjectives when they answer the question “Which one?”
her country, this scenario, their party, our friends

Demonstrative adjectives – The pronouns this, that, these, and those can be used as adjectives.

Pronoun: I saw this.
Adjective: I will vote on this bill tomorrow.
**Interrogative adjectives** – The pronouns which, what and whose can be used as adjectives.

Pronoun: What did he want?
Adjective: What sentence did he give?

**Indefinite adjectives** – Several indefinite pronouns can be used as adjectives. Some of these are: both, few, many, each, most, all.

Pronoun: I bought one of each.
Adjective: Each judge writes an opinion.

(Notice that each time a pronoun is used as an adjective, it is giving more information about the noun that follows.)

**Adverbs** – modify a verb, an adjective or another adverb

Adverbs answer the questions:
- How?
- Where?
- When?
- Condition?
- Reason?

Adverbs modify verbs:
- stay nearby, walk quietly, nearly won, barely escaped

Adverbs modify adjectives:
- not sad, very peaceful, unusually rich, brightly colored

Adverbs modify other adverbs:
- Moved very cautiously, quite contentedly, lost too easily

**Interjections**— express feeling or emotion and functions independently from the rest of the sentence.

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

- Hey! That hurts.
- Well, I’m not sure.
- I, uh, think we should leave now.

**Conjunction**—connects words or phrases or clauses

Coordinating conjunctions: connect words of the same kind, such as two nouns or verbs. They can also connect larger groups of words, such as prepositional phrases or complete sentences.

*And, for, or, yet, but, nor, so*
**Correlative conjunctions:** connect the same kinds of words or groups of words as do coordinating conjunctions, but correlative conjunctions are used in pairs.

- both...and
- neither...nor
- whether...or
- either...or
- not only...but also

**Subordinating Conjunctions:** connect two ideas by making one idea dependent on the other.

- after, as though, since, until, although, because, so that, when, as, before, than, whenever, as if, even though, though, where, as long as,

**Preposition**—relates the noun or pronoun following it to another word in the sentence

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**compound prepositions**

- according to
- in addition to
- next to
- in spite of
- on top of
- by means of
- in view of
- aside from
- because of
- out of
- instead of
- apart from
- in front of
- in place of
- ahead of
- in back of
- on account of
Some words can be either preposition or adverbs, depending on how they are used. To be a preposition, a word must have an object and be part of a prepositional phrase.