

# PARTS OF SPEECH

## Adjectives

Adjectives describe a noun.

**crooked** politician, **large** airport, **broken** truck

## Adverbs

Adverbs describe a verb

run **quickly**, agree **strongly**, feel **well**.

or an adjective.

**very** small, **hot** pink, **mostly** finished.

## Articles

Articles precede a noun. There are only three: **a**, **an**, and **the**

**a** computer, **an** airplane, **the** Congress.

## Prepositions

Prepositions come shortly before a noun or pronoun and show that noun's relationship to another part of the sentence

**under** the bed, **until** noon, **throughout** America,  
**except** the mustard, **of** the people, **in** the end.

## Conjunctions

Conjunctions connect parts of the sentence together.

Only seven "coordinating conjunctions": **and**, **or**, **so**, **but**, **yet**, **for**, and **nor**, join equal elements:

Amy **and** Rob arrived ("Amy" and "Rob" are both, equally, subjects)  
I'll walk **or** I'll drive. (I'll walk" and "I'll drive" are equally sentences)

Other "subordinating" conjunctions turn the words after them in to a fragment that can't stand alone and connect them to another sentence that can stand independently.

although	now that	when
as	once	where
because	since	whereas
before	than	wherever
even though	that	while
how	until	whether
if	unless	

**Until** Sue cried, Kelly slept.

(Until Sue cried (fragment)+ Kelly slept (independent))

I'll go **if** you pay me

(I'll go (independent)+ if you pay me (fragment))

## Nouns

Nouns identify a person, place, thing or idea. You can put an article (a, an, or the) in front of a noun, or replace it with a pronoun.

**nurse** (a nurse, the nurse, him, her)

**garden** (a garden, the garden, it),

**democracy** (a democracy, it)

## Proper Nouns

Proper nouns identify the capitalized name of a person, place, thing, or idea.

President Bush, China, Dodge Caravan, Monroe Doctrine

## Pronouns

A pronoun refers to a noun and takes its place. Some refer to people or show that something is owned.

**I, me, we, us, you, he, she, him, her, they, them  
my, our, your, his, her, its, their.**

Some pronouns refer back to specific things or ideas.

**these, this, that**

Others refer to much less definite nouns.

**everyone, anyone, someone, somebody, everything, no one.**

## Verbs

Verbs express **doing** or **being** or **having**. They can often be changed into -ed and/or -ing forms: talk, talked, talking. If you're not sure what the main verb is in a sentence, ask yourself what's happening: what is someone or something doing?

They **disagree** with him (What do they do? They disagree)  
They **are** outraged (What do they do? They are)  
They **have** no choice (What do they do? They have)

A verb can be one word or a string of words:

They **are** surprised.  
You **will have returned** by Monday.

The verb **be** is more common than any other and takes many forms:

**am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been**

As a main verb, it may look like this:

**am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been  
will be, will have been, could be being  
I'm, I'll be, I've been, you're, it's, we'd be**

It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood  
I **could have been** a contender.  
She's very brave

As a helping verb, it comes before another verb in a string of words:

**are** going, **will be** talking, **had been** failing

She'll **be coming** round the mountain.  
They **will have been** fasting since dawn.