

CHAPTER 1 *The Parts of Speech*

Pronouns

A **pronoun** is a word used in place of one or of more than one noun.

EXERCISE Circle the pronouns in the following sentences.

EXAMPLE: Jane watched (her) frisbee as (it) disappeared behind the trees.

1. Ms. Gates told her to collect the tests.
2. Our ecology project proved challenging.
3. Maria exhibited her model spacecraft at the science fair.
4. The drama coach told the players they would have to rehearse five hours every day.
5. Substitute Kitt's school supplies for hers.
6. To whom is the principal pointing?
7. It was nice of Jim to invite everyone in the class to his party.
8. Whose bicycle is this? It is not mine.
9. Their car is the same color as ours.
10. Pedro is studying for his law exam; therefore, he keeps to himself.
11. One of the boys left his book report in the gymnasium.
12. The team is winning more games than the coach thought it would.
13. This is a stunning victory for our side!
14. They think so highly of themselves.
15. Who is the tennis player wearing the blue shorts and yellow shirt?
16. Did anyone give her the brochure for summer camp?
17. Since the others have arrived, anything can happen in the game.
18. I advise you to make an appointment to see your career counselor.
19. His favorite quotation is: "Ask not for whom the bells tolls. It tolls for thee."
20. Both of my parents enjoy exotic foods.

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Adjectives

An **adjective** modifies a noun or a pronoun. The most frequently used adjectives, called articles, are *a*, *an*, and *the*.

EXERCISE Underline the adjectives in the following sentences. Do not include *a*, *an*, and *the*.

EXAMPLE: Carl drives an expensive car.

1. Colorful birds are one popular attraction at the zoo.
2. I prefer the zany behavior of chimpanzees.
3. Warm weather reminds me of a soothing sauna.
4. We decided to picnic under the tall trees in a nearby park.
5. The sunset was spectacular yesterday.
6. The sparkling stars dotted the azure sky.
7. Anna has a marvelous sense of humor and a brilliant wit.
8. Dinner was successful because of the many exotic entrees.
9. Bill found some unusual artifacts.
10. Jenny writes amusing stories.
11. Diligent and scholarly, she won many awards.
12. The dormitory room was littered with unwashed dishes and unread newspapers.
13. Hector has read every book that the nature club suggested.
14. The stage clothes that the musicians wore were eye-catching.
15. The lead singer has a well-trained voice.
16. Famous personalities interest me more than unusual events.
17. Three students chose to read biographies of infamous historical figures.
18. Karen, enthusiastic and energetic, does most of the work.
19. Ms. Greer is an exceptional teacher and a talented musician.
20. I remember when life was simple.

Adjectives

Often nouns are used as adjectives. Proper nouns used as adjectives are called **proper adjectives**.

EXERCISE In the sentences below, circle the nouns used as adjectives. Draw an arrow from each noun used as an adjective to the noun it modifies.

EXAMPLE: Grandmother is already shopping for our Christmas presents.

1. The line was long for the latest horror movie.
2. Mr. Tanaka is an entertaining dinner guest.
3. I hope the weather will be better for the scout jamboree.
4. The program committee decided to cancel the dance.
5. The student association became involved in the project.
6. Graduation day is exactly one week away.
7. Maria always wins ribbons at the state fair.
8. It was a thrilling experience to ride in the police helicopter.
9. This semester my most interesting course is world history.
10. The politicians are debating their party platform.
11. The arrangements for the family reunion are getting complicated.
12. The game will be held in the new sports arena.
13. Tickets for the jazz concert are impossible to get.
14. Helen buys her tennis shoes on sale.
15. The wise consumer tries the discount stores first.
16. Juice, eggs, and bran muffins make a hearty, healthy breakfast.
17. Leslie finds her summer friends amusing.
18. Rick wants to build a resort somewhere along the New England coast.
19. Our boat trailer has a flat tire.
20. Have you read the latest suspense story by that writer?

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Determining Parts of Speech

Nouns are often used as adjectives, and adjectives may be used as pronouns. In order to determine what part of speech a word is, you must decide how it is used in the sentence.

EXERCISE Determine how the words in italics are used in the sentences below. On the line provided, write **A** if the word is used as an adjective, **P** if it is used as a pronoun, or **N** if it is used as a noun.

EXAMPLES: *Several* contestants were selected from the audience.

Several were selected.

1. Tons of metal are floating around in *space*.
2. How much money should the government allocate to the *space* program?
3. What is she going to do with all of *these* plants?
4. *These* are the flowers that are so fragile.
5. *Green* is my favorite color.
6. Why did she dye her tennis outfit that unusual *orange* color?
7. Chris will be a *senior* next semester.
8. Something funny always happens on the trip the *senior* class takes.
9. I know I should be saving money for the *future*.
10. I am looking for a career with a secure *future*.
11. Just *one* student won a scholarship to Yale.
12. She was the *one* wearing the floppy hat.
13. *Mystery* novels fascinate me.
14. "I Love a *Mystery*" was the title of a popular radio program.
15. "To Build a *Fire*" is a famous short story by Jack London.
16. The siren on the *fire* truck was heard for miles.
17. The ranchers courageously fought the *fire*.
18. *Her* jacket is gray with black stripes.
19. Jerry cannot find *his* library card.
20. She put the package on the *kitchen* table.

Verbs — Linking Verbs

A **linking verb** is a verb that does not express action but serves as a link between two words. Linking verbs are sometimes called **state-of-being verbs**.

EXERCISE Underline the verbs in the sentences below. If the verb is a linking verb, write **LV** on the line provided. If the verb is an action verb, write **AV**.

EXAMPLES: The leader appeared angry.

He reprimanded the sergeant.

1. I felt a sharp sting on the sole of my foot.
2. The skin grew red.
3. It also appeared bumpy.
4. My throat muscles became tight.
5. Breathing was difficult.
6. John called my doctor.
7. I felt relieved.
8. For some people bee stings are dangerous.
9. They need medicine immediately after a bee sting.
10. Otherwise they become very ill quickly.
11. My doctor treats many people with allergies to bee stings.
12. Always wear shoes outdoors.
13. I ignored her advice.
14. Of course, I felt foolish.
15. Allergic reactions to bee stings are sometimes fatal.
16. My doctor scolded me a bit.
17. I looked sheepish.
18. The experience taught me a good lesson.
19. Now I am more careful.
20. I avoid bees and other stinging insects.

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Verbs — Linking Verbs

EXERCISE On the lines provided, write the linking verbs that appear in the sentences below.

EXAMPLE: I felt ill.

_____ felt

1. The food smelled good.
2. John is captain of the basketball team.
3. Carmen and Frank were champions.
4. Is that Jeannette?
5. They remained calm throughout the ordeal.
6. Why is that answer correct?
7. The winners were Sue and David.
8. Who is the author?
9. This book sounds interesting.
10. Joan was the valedictorian.
11. The prospects looked dim.
12. Cleve is the new president of the math club.
13. Is Rachel the best singer in the school?
14. Are you the tallest person in your class?
15. Wednesday, Rosalie felt unusually happy.
16. I am the luckiest person alive!
17. Juan became a highly respected judge.
18. Ramon seemed anxious about the test.
19. The room appeared clean.
20. After twenty minutes the children grew impatient.

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Verbs — Helping Verbs

Helping verbs help the main verb express action or make a statement.

EXERCISE On the lines provided, write all the helping verbs that appear in the following sentences. If a sentence has no helping verb or verbs, write **None** on the line.

EXAMPLES: I should be leaving about 7:00 P.M.

_____ should be

I hit the ball.

_____ None

Do you understand French?

_____ Do

1. Jamie had been waiting for his turn to play the piano. _____
2. His fluttering stomach had distracted him for nearly an hour. _____
3. Nervously, he played his piece over and over again in his mind. _____
4. The conductor finally beckoned. _____
5. How would he do in this important competition? _____
6. Jamie could not even guess. _____
7. He knew that he must not lose his confidence completely. _____
8. Falling apart under pressure would be very embarrassing for his parents and his teacher. _____
9. How could he rid himself of this stage fright? _____
10. Sighing, Jamie sat down at the piano. _____
11. Suddenly, the nervousness had disappeared. _____
12. Jamie, alone with his music, played calmly through the piece. _____
13. There might have been no one else in the concert hall. _____
14. Never had he played so well. _____
15. Would the judges award him the medal? _____
16. Jamie awaited the verdict eagerly along with all his competitors. _____

EXERCISE 2. Identifying Prepositions and Their Objects.

In the following sentences there are twenty prepositions. Write each preposition and its object. Indicate the number of the sentence as shown in the example.

EXAMPLE 1. Lady Jane Grey was England's most unfortunate queen; she reigned over the country for only nine days.

1. *over—country*
for—days

1. This bright and lovely young girl was caught up in intrigue and a bloody struggle for power.
2. When Henry VIII died, his young son Edward succeeded him as king.
3. Only a boy, Edward was used by the cunning Duke of Northumberland for his own purposes.
4. Northumberland wanted the power of the throne for himself and his family.
5. Jane had no claim to the throne, for Edward had two sisters, Mary and Elizabeth.
6. Nevertheless, Northumberland forced her into marriage with his own son.
7. The evil duke persuaded the young king that he should name Lady Jane as the heir to the throne.
8. Therefore, when Edward died at fifteen of tuberculosis, Jane Grey was proclaimed queen.
9. After only nine days, the throne was restored to Mary, the rightful heir.
10. Sixteen-year-old Jane was imprisoned and executed on charges of high treason against the crown.

EXERCISE 4. Identifying Adverb Phrases and the Words They Modify. Number your paper 1–10. Write the prepositional phrases used as adverbs in each sentence. There may be more than one in a sentence. After each adverb phrase, write the word it modifies.

1. Yesterday, many residents of Chicago suffered from the heat.
2. In the morning, my friends and I drove to Lincoln Park.
3. At noon, we ate our big picnic lunch with gusto.
4. Later in the day, we walked around the park.
5. An unusual monument stands near the picnic grounds.
6. This monument shows humanity as it marches through time.
7. In Rockefeller Center I once saw another artist's concept of time.
8. Three figures are painted on the ceiling; they represent Past, Present, and Future.
9. Wherever you stand in the room, Past's eyes are turned away from you; Future's eyes look outward and upward.
10. The eyes of Present, however, look straight at you.

REVIEW EXERCISE A. Identifying and Classifying Prepositional Phrases. There are twenty-five prepositional phrases in the following sentences. Number your paper 1–10. List the prepositional phrases in each sentence, and after each, write how the phrase is used—as an adjective or an adverb.

EXAMPLE 1. Theories about the universe have changed over the years.

1. *about the universe*—adj.
over the years—adv.

1. For over a thousand years people believed that the earth was at the center of the universe.
2. Astronomers thought the sun, the planets, and all the stars revolved around the earth.
3. During the early sixteenth century, however, Nicolaus Copernicus revised this popular theory about the earth's stationary position in the universe.
4. Copernicus studied the movements of the planets and the stars and published his radical view that the earth actually orbits around the sun.
5. He also explained the alternation of day and night by the earth's rotation on its axis.
6. For the next 400 years scientists believed that the universe was bounded by the edges of the earth's galaxy, the Milky Way.
7. About a half century ago at California's Mount Wilson Observatory, Edwin Hubble discovered that many other galaxies existed outside the Milky Way.
8. Now we know that there are perhaps a million galaxies inside the bowl of the Big Dipper alone.
9. Our galaxy is only one among billions throughout the universe!
10. Would Copernicus be amazed at the extent of space exploration in our time?

Prepositional Phrases — Adjective Phrases

An **adjective phrase** is a prepositional phrase that modifies a noun or a pronoun.

EXERCISE Draw parentheses around the adjective phrases in the sentences below.

EXAMPLES: The blue car (of Sarah's) is new.
Three members (of the team) won medals (of gold).

1. The boy in the red shirt kept tapping his pencil.
2. The heat of the July day sapped the energy of the entire summer-school class.
3. A girl in a flowered sundress fanned herself lazily.
4. The tow-headed student in the back of the room shifted restlessly in his seat.
5. The lesson on the prepositional phrase was the subject of the day.
6. The students had already learned the definitions of nouns and pronouns.
7. They had also been taught the rules governing various uses of the adverb and adjective.
8. They knew the definition of a phrase.
9. The summer's heat in the classroom, however, interfered with their concentration on grammar.
10. The breeze from the fans blew their materials about, but it did little more.
11. Opening the windows on the east wall of the room only brought the noise of traffic into classroom.
12. What is the reason for grammar, anyway?
13. Grammar and usage provide guidelines for writing and speaking standard English.
14. What is the exact nature of the prepositional phrase?
15. How can anyone tell the difference between an adjective phrase and an adverb phrase?
16. Does position in the sentence determine whether a phrase is an adjective phrase or an adverb phrase?
17. The details of the prepositional phrase are not very difficult, but they do take concentration.
18. In the heat of summer, however, grammar seemed harder.
19. Nevertheless, both the students and the teacher in that classroom plugged on.
20. They conquered the mysteries of the prepositional phrase.

Prepositional Phrases — Adverb Phrases

An **adverb phrase** is a prepositional phrase that modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb.

EXERCISE Underline all adverb phrases in the sentences below.

EXAMPLE: Call me early in the morning.

1. Nat “King” Cole was famous for his singing.
2. Look under the car seat.
3. Throw the ball into the basket.
4. Soon Roberto will be back from Europe.
5. In Alabama flowers bloom early in the spring.
6. At home in the fall, football games are played every Friday night.
7. The dogwood trees flower late in April.
8. Kuni is famous for her paintings.
9. You’ll be late for school if you don’t hurry.
10. We searched the forest for seven hours.
11. During the afternoon we will go swimming.
12. At the corner store you can buy green peppers.
13. I saw the President on television.
14. When the game was over, we danced in the streets.
15. The movie star filmed that sequence on location.
16. When we arrived at noon, all the bargains were gone.
17. While Rita worked in the kitchen, Tony vacuumed the living room.
18. After Mahlon had delivered his papers on Thirtieth Street, he crossed to Acorn Lane.
19. In this high school, academic excellence is stressed.

Conjunctions

A **conjunction** joins words or groups of words. **Coordinating conjunctions** always join single words or groups of words of the same kind. **Correlative conjunctions**, which also connect items of the same kind, are always used in pairs.

EXERCISE On the lines provided, write the coordinating and correlative conjunctions found in the following sentences.

EXAMPLE: Either Bill or Joanie will pick you up at eight, and you will go with them. _____ e

1. In the winter we ski at Windom, New York, but in the summer we fish off Ramona Beach on Lake Ontario. _____
2. Both Chuck and Jo Anne drove to the airport to meet Jim, Kay, and Greg. _____
3. We go to the corner grocery not only for fresh vegetables but also for homemade bread. _____
4. We wanted to see the movie, but the line was too long. _____
5. José had studied hard for the biology final, and he did well on the exam. _____
6. Holly's tooth was very loose on Sunday, yet it didn't fall out until Friday night. _____
7. The large-hoofed animals, like the yaks and oxen, had to be moved. _____
8. Both the Preakness and the Kentucky Derby drew record crowds this year. _____
9. Grammar can be hard, but it helps the student write better. _____
10. I liked both prose and poetry, for I was fascinated by words. _____
11. Both Ted Williams and Babe Ruth played Major League baseball. _____
12. Neither John nor Tony had the answer to the principal's question. _____
13. Kristen jumped off the back porch and landed in a pile of leaves. _____
14. Neither good nor bad luck should be a factor in the outcome of the election. _____
15. At home or abroad Americans should be polite to the people they meet. _____