

Definitions of parts of speech

Noun

A noun is a word for a person, place, thing or idea. Nouns can be common (e.g. dog), proper (e.g. Mike), concrete (e.g. window), abstract (e.g. happiness) or collective (e.g. team).

The **frog** jumped into the **pond** with **glee**.

Pronoun

A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun. The replaced noun is referred to as the **antecedent**. Personal pronouns refer to specific people or things, while possessive pronouns indicate ownership.

The teacher gave **us** ten worksheets to complete at home.

Adjective

An adjective is a word used to modify or describe a noun or a pronoun.

I saw a **large** grizzly bear at the **local** zoo today.

Verb

A verb is a word that expresses an action or a state of being. Verbs can take different forms to express tense (e.g. ate, eat, will eat). Every sentence requires a verb.

My cousin **plays** the violin every morning.

Adverb

An adverb modifies or describes a verb, an adjective or another adverb. Adverbs usually provide additional information in relation to questions of when, where, how, why or to what degree. Adverbs often (but not always) end in the suffix **-ly**.

Yesterday, we saw a performer who sang **beautifully**.

Preposition

A preposition is a word placed before a noun or a pronoun to add meaning. Prepositions provide information about when, where or how something happens. The preposition and the noun or pronoun it modifies is referred to as a **prepositional phrase**.

I read **on** the bus and **in** bed.

Conjunction

A conjunction is a joining word. It joins other words, phrases or clauses.

Eat the apple **or** give it back.

Definitions of punctuation

Full stop

This punctuation mark is used to end a statement or command.

Our favourite day of the week is Thursday.

Question mark

This punctuation mark is used to indicate that a question has been asked.

How old are you?

Exclamation mark

This punctuation mark is used to indicate an emotion (e.g. surprise, alarm) or to add emphasis.

That house is on fire!

Comma

This punctuation mark is used to show separation between ideas or elements in a sentence, and to separate dialogue from surrounding text.

'I ordered chicken, rice and beans for dinner,' she said.

Apostrophe

This punctuation mark is used to indicate that a letter has been left out (e.g. in contractions) or that someone owns something (i.e. possession).

It's lucky that there weren't any mice in my cousin's kitchen.

Quotation marks

This punctuation mark is used to indicate that someone is speaking or that a word comes from a different source.

'Your essay is very well written,' the teacher said.