

Language Awareness for Key Stage 3

4: Parts of Speech — Part II

Key Terms	Optional Terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pronoun• Adjective• Adverb	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Singular• Plural

- Introduction: Parts of Speech
 - In the last lesson, we began to look at the parts of speech by considering nouns and verbs
 - Now you will see some more parts of speech: pronouns, adjectives and adverbs
- Pronouns
 - Previously, we learned that you can identify nouns according to where they appear in a sentence:
 - *People like bikes*
 - *People like dreams*
 - However, other parts of speech can also occur in the same places as nouns:
 - *They like them*
 - These words that can be used instead of nouns are *pronouns*
 - In English, pronouns include words such as *I, me, we, us, you, he, him, she, her, it, they, them, who, and whom*
 - An important difference between nouns and pronouns is that nouns have a constant meaning
 - A noun like *tree* can only refer to a *tree*
 - A pronoun like *it* can refer to any thing, depending on what you're talking about
 - A pronoun like *I* always refers to the person speaking, so when a different person speaks *I* refers to someone different
 - Even in a single sentence, the same pronoun form, such as *he*, can refer to different people:
 - John was hungry, so he ate some cake, and Bill was thirsty, so he drank some water
 - Sometimes, additional information is needed in order to identify the person referred to by a pronoun
 - John was talking to Bill and he said that he was going out with Anna
 - To understand this sentence you would have to guess who was more likely to be going out with Anna, which means you would need to know more about Anna and John and Bill

Activity 1:

Read this passage of text, and underline all the pronouns in it:

They told me you had been to her
And mentioned me to him:
She gave me a good character
But said I could not swim.
He sent them word I had not gone
(We know it to be true):
If she should push the matter on,
What would become of you?

I gave her one, they gave him two,
You gave us three or more;
They all returned from him to you,
Though they were mine before.
If I or she should chance to be
Involved in this affair,
He trusts to you to set them free,
Exactly as we were.

- Adjectives
 - Adjectives are another part of speech
 - Adjectives modify nouns and pronouns
 - A *tall* tree
 - A *fast* bike
 - *Poor* you!
 - Adjectives have many of the same properties as nouns
 - In many languages, including French, there are singular and plural adjectives in the same way that there are singular and plural nouns
 - *Un bon livre*
'One good book'
 - *Deux bons livres*
'Two good books'
 - In English, the adjective almost always comes before the noun
 - Some other languages use the same order as English, but others put the noun first
 - *black* cat (English)
 - *czarny kot* (Polish)
 - *kuroi neko* (Japanese)
 - cat *dubh* (Irish)
 - There are also languages like French, where adjectives can occur in different positions with different meanings:
 - Un *grand* homme
'A *great* man'
 - Un homme *grand*
'A *tall* man'
 - Sometimes it is possible to use an adjective in the same way as a noun

○ I saw a <i>rich</i> man	We discussed the <i>rich</i>
○ I saw a <i>poor</i> man	We discussed the <i>poor</i>
○ I saw a <i>French</i> woman	We discussed the <i>French</i>
○ I saw a <i>Swiss</i> woman	We discussed the <i>Swiss</i>
 - In English it is only possible to use adjectives this way in certain situations, usually when referring to groups of people
 - There are some languages that allow this with almost any adjective
 - Un *méchant* (French)
'A *naughty* (person)'
 - Tò *alēthés* (Greek)
'The *true* (thing)' [= the truth]
- Adverbs
 - Adverbs are a very diverse group of words, both in form and function
 - Some adverbs express location in space or time:
 - Come *here*!
 - Some adverbs are used to modify adjectives:
 - It was *very* good
 - Some adverbs are used to modify verbs, or even other adverbs:
 - They run *quite fast*
 - Some adverbs can modify entire sentences:
 - *Unfortunately*, they were late

Activity 2:

Read this passage of text, and underline all the adverbs in it:

The chief difficulty Alice found at first was in managing her flamingo. She succeeded in getting its body tucked away comfortably enough, under her arm, with its legs hanging down, but generally, just as she had got its neck nicely straightened out, and was going to give the hedgehog a blow with its head, it would twist itself round and look up in her face

- Many adverbs are formed from adjectives
- In English, the usual way to do this is by adding *-ly*
 - They are *quick* thinkers
 - They think *quickly*
- Some adjectives have adverbs of other types
 - They are *good* singers
 - They sing *well*
- In languages like German, there is no special way of forming adverbs; instead, adverbs look just the same as adjectives
 - Diese Sänger sind *gut*
'These singers are good'
 - Sie singen *gut*
'They sing well'
- This is also true of some adverbs in English
 - They are *fast* drivers
 - They drive *fast*
- There is much more choice about where to put adverbs in a sentence than for most other parts of speech
 - *Often*, this would happen
 - This would *often* happen
 - This would happen *often*
- However, sometimes changing the position of an adverb can change the meaning of a sentence
 - We want to go skiing *often*
(We want to do a lot of skiing)
 - We *often* want to go skiing
(We feel this way a lot)
 - He told me everything *frankly*
(He was being frank)
 - *Frankly*, he told me everything
(I am being frank)

Activity 3:

- Go back to the text at the top of the page, and see if you can find any adverbs that you missed
- Conclusion
 - Pronouns can be used in place of nouns
 - The meaning of pronouns can change, depending on what they represent
 - Adjectives modify nouns and pronouns
 - Adjectives can sometimes be used like nouns
 - Adverbs modify adjectives, verbs and other adverbs
 - There is a lot of variety in how adverbs are formed and used