

Language Awareness for Key Stage 3

5: Parts of Speech — Part III

Key Terms	Optional Terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determiner• Article• Demonstrative• Possessive• Preposition• Conjunction• Complementizer• Auxiliary• Interjection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Function word• Postposition

- Introduction: Parts of Speech
 - So far, we have looked at several parts of speech, including, nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, and adverbs
 - These parts of speech often refer to objects and activities in the real world (e.g. trees, running)
 - In addition to these, there also several other parts of speech, which are sometimes called function words
 - These are geared toward indicating relationships among other parts of a sentence
 - Today we will look at determiners, prepositions, conjunctions, auxiliaries, and interjections
- Determiners
 - There are several different types of determiner, including
 - Articles (*a, the...*)
 - Demonstratives (*this, that...*)
 - Possessives (*my, your...*)
 - We can say that all these different words belong to a single category because it is only possible to use one of them at a time
 - ~~*a my friend*~~
 - ~~*your this house*~~
 - If we want to express these ideas, we have to find a different way of saying them
 - *a friend of mine*
 - *this house of yours*
 - Determiners provide different ways of classifying nouns:
 - New/old information
 - Do you have *a* cat? Where is *the* cat?
 - Location (near/far)
 - *This* box is here, but *that* box is over there
 - Person
 - *My* coat is blue; *your* coat is black
 - Determiners can vary from language to language
 - Some of the greatest variation is in the articles that different languages have
 - English has both a definite and an indefinite article
 - I saw *a* cat
 - Where is *the* cat?
 - Some languages, like Irish, have only a definite article
 - Chonaic mé *an* cat
 - Cá bhfuil *an* cat?

Activity 2:

There are some words that can function either as adverbs or as prepositions. For example, *down* in *climb down* is an adverb, because it modifies the verb on its own, but *down* in *climb down the ladder* is a preposition, because it relates a noun to the verb. Read the following passage of text; try to underline all the adverbs and circle all the prepositions (including the ones with just a single function).

So the boat was left to drift down the stream as it would, till it glided gently in among the waving rushes. And then the little sleeves were carefully rolled up, and the little arms were plunged in elbow-deep to get the rushes a good long way down before breaking them off — and for a while Alice forgot all about the Sheep and the knitting, as she bent over the side of the boat, with just the ends of her tangled hair dipping into the water

- Conjunctions
 - Conjunctions are words that combine separate, independent sentences into a single, larger sentence
 - The sky is blue
 - The grass is green
 - The sky is blue *and* the grass is green
 - Some conjunctions (e.g. *and*, *or*) are coordinating conjunctions
 - They simply link sentences without saying that there is any relation between them
 - The sky is blue *and* there are no clouds
 - The sky is blue *and* the grass is green
 - Other conjunctions (e.g. *because*, *while*) are subordinating conjunctions
 - They make the meaning of one sentence dependent on the other in some way
 - The sky is blue *because* there are no clouds
 - ~~The sky is blue *because* the grass is green~~
 - One type of word used to combine sentences is sometimes called a complementizer
 - Complementizers allow what was originally a separate sentence to become the complement of a noun or a verb
 - There is a possibility that it might rain
 - John asked whether you were coming
- Auxiliaries
 - Auxiliaries are another type of function word
 - Auxiliaries are special verbs used to modify the meaning of other verbs
 - In English, without auxiliaries all you would have is a present tense and a past tense
 - They swim
 - They swam
 - Auxiliaries let you make additional distinctions in terms of time and possibility
 - They *are* swimming
 - They *have* swum
 - They *will* swim
 - They *may* swim
 - Many auxiliaries can also be used as ordinary verbs
 - Their meaning will change depending on how they are used
 - John *has* a hat
(Here *have* is an ordinary verb, used with a noun. It means that John owns a hat)
 - John *has* swum
(Here *have* is an auxiliary, used with another verb. It doesn't mean that John owns swimming; instead, it locates John's swimming in time)

- Concepts expressed in English with an auxiliary can be expressed with a simple verb in many other languages
 - Ciceáilíodh mé (Irish)
‘I *got* kicked’
 - Ils nageaient (French)
‘They *were* swimming’
 - Marcus cecidit (Latin)
‘Marcus *has* fallen’
 - Héktōr aeídoi (Greek)
‘Hector *may* sing’
- Interjections
 - Another part of speech, which we will mention briefly, is interjections
 - Interjections are words like *oh* and *ah*, which sit outside the main structure of the sentence
 - They have little effect on meaning
 - Mary arrived yesterday
 - *Oh*, Mary arrived yesterday
 - You can see that if the first sentence is true, the second will always be true, and vice versa
 - However, there is a subtle distinction in terms of the speaker’s attitude
- Conclusion
 - We have now looked at many parts of speech: nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, determiners, prepositions, conjunctions, auxiliaries, and interjections
 - Some of these, such as nouns and verbs, exist in all languages
 - Others, such as articles and auxiliaries, do not
 - The sentences that you have seen show how it is possible to express the **same meaning** across languages in very **different ways**