

# Language Awareness for Key Stage 3

## 6: Parts of Speech — Part III

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

- 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?

- Other languages, like Latin, have no articles at all
  - Vidi \_ felem
  - Ubi est \_ felis?
- In languages like English and Irish, articles are separate words
- In some languages, such as Swedish, articles are attached to the noun
  - Var är katten?
  - (The *-en* is the definite article, ‘the’)
- Most languages have demonstratives, but languages can differ in how these work
- In English, *this* and *that* are single words
  - *This* man
  - *That* woman
- In other languages, like French and Irish, the same meaning may be expressed by combining separate words
  - *Cet homme-ci*    *An fear seo*
  - *Ce femme-là*     *An bhean sin*
- Prepositions
  - Prepositions can express a relationship between a noun and another noun, or between a noun and a verb
    - The letter *from* John fell *under* the table
  - In this example, the preposition *from* expresses the relationship between the noun *letter* and the noun *John*
  - The preposition *under* expresses the relationship between the verb *fell* and the noun *table*
  - Many prepositions refer to relationships in space (*in, over, under*)
    - The plane flew *over* the mountains
  - Prepositions can also refer to relationships in time (*before, after*)
    - We left *before* noon
  - Some prepositions describe more abstract relationships (*despite, except*)
    - They stayed *despite* the weather
  - Most prepositions can express more than one type of relationship
    - She said it *in* class    (space)
    - She said it *in* the morning    (time)
    - She said it *in* perfect seriousness    (manner — abstract)
  - These words are called prepositions because they are placed before the noun
  - In some languages, such as Japanese, words with the same meaning are placed after the noun
    - nihon *ni*
    - ‘*in* Japan’
  - When they are placed after the noun, these words are called postpositions
- 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 complementiser
- Complementisers 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**