



THE RMH GUIDE TO GRAMMAR

The 8 Parts of Speech



NOUNS

A noun is a person, place, animal, thing or idea - often described as a naming word, e.g. Lee, London, monkey, table, knowledge. The subject of a sentence is always a noun. The object of the sentence is also a noun. Nouns can be singular or plural. Nouns are often made from other words (appear is a verb but appearance is a noun).

Nouns can be split into sub-categories, some of which are:

- (a) Common Noun - table, teacher, school.
- (b) Concrete Noun - sweets, tv, piano (physical things you can see, touch, taste, smell or hear).
- (c) Abstract Noun - knowledge, intelligence, kindness (without physical form).
- (d) Proper Noun - London, July, Sarah (specific and requiring capital letter).
- (e) Collective Noun - A flock of sheep, a choir of singers, a cup of tea.



ADJECTIVES

An adjective is a word that describes a noun - often called a describing word, e.g. pretty, kind, angry, large, red, square, furry, foggy. They tell us more about the noun and usually come before the noun. You can use more than one adjective. Adjectives can be positive, negative or factual. Adjectives can describe size, colour, shape, number, sound, texture, taste, smell and weather. The following is the desired order for adjectives.

1

OPINION

brilliant, amazing,
fantastic, awful,
dreadful, wonderful,
terrible

2

SIZE: LENGTH, HEIGHT
big, large, huge, tall,
enormous, small, tiny,
little, massive

3

PHYSICAL QUALITY
thick, thin, blunt, sharp,
smooth, soft, rough,
hard, solid, sqidgy

4

AGE

young, old, ancient,
modern, mature,
teenage, immature

5

SHAPE

square, round,
rectangular, circular,
triangular,

6

COLOUR

red, orange, yellow,
green, blue, purple,
pink

7

ORIGIN

English, Spanish,
American, French,
Russian, Swiss

8

MATERIAL

plastic, wooden, glass,
metallic, gold, silver,
cotton, woolly

9

PURPOSE

cleaning, brushing,
washing, cooking,
boiling, drying

VERBS

A verb is a word used to describe an action and forms the main part of a sentence - often called an action or doing word, e.g. dream, dance, crawl, build, eat. Every sentence must have a verb. Verbs tell us what people or things are doing or being. Two verbs are sometimes put together like can, should, must. The verb may change in different sentences and can be made up of one or more words. These are known as different tenses of the verb depending on whether you are talking about the past, present or the future.

e.g. know, knew, known.
sing, sang, sung.
choose, chose, chosen.
was, am, will be.
made, make, will make.

- She enjoys cycling. (now)
- She enjoyed cycling. (in the past)
- She will enjoy cycling. (in the future)



ADVERBS

An adverb gives more meaning to a verb. Many adverbs say how something happened and many end in -ly. Using adverbs makes your sentences more interesting and are often created from adjectives.

- Read carefully (Carefully is the adverb)
- Happily smile (Happily is the adverb)
- Rain heavily (Heavily is the adverb)
- Endlessly chatter (endlessly is the adverb)

There are three places in a sentence where adverbs can go:

At the beginning of a sentence:

- Suddenly I had a headache.
- Recently I had a headache.

In the middle of a sentence:

- I suddenly had a headache.
- I recently had a headache.

At the end of a sentence:

- I had a headache suddenly.
- I had a headache recently but it's fine now.

How?

angrily	joyously
anxiously	loudly
cautiously	madly
cheerfully	merrily
courageously	nervously
crossly	quickly
cruelly	sadly
defiantly	safely
doubtfully	shyly
elegantly	solemnly
enthusiastically	vivaciously
foolishly	weakly
frantically	well
gently	wildly

When?

afterwards
again
before
beforehand
early
late
never
now
often
punctually
recently
soon
then
today

How often?

always
annually
constantly
daily
hourly
monthly
never
occasionally
often
once
regularly
repeatedly
sometimes
usually

Where?

above
around
away
below
down
downstairs
everywhere
here
inside
outside
there
up
wherever

How much?

almost
completely
entirely
little
much
rather
totally
very

PRONOUNS

A pronoun is a word that replaces a noun, e.g. Lee is a postman. Lee wears a smart uniform. We would not repeatedly use the word Lee, we would replace this for a pronoun which in this case would be “he”. Using ‘I’ or ‘me’ are often used in the wrong place. They should be used as follows:

- (a) Lee and I are going there.
- (b) Please give the money to me.

PRONOUNS			
Subject pronouns	Object pronouns	Possessive Adjectives	Possessive pronouns
I	me	my	mine
you	you	your	yours
he	him	his	his
she	her	her	hers
it	it	its	its

PREPOSITIONS

A preposition shows the relationship between a noun or pronoun and other words in the sentence. A preposition tells you where or when something is in relation to something else. They often indicate position or time, e.g. the cat slept in the box ('in' is the preposition), he's been there since this morning ('since' is the preposition).

Common English Prepositions				
About	Around	By	In	Through
Above	At	Down	Near	To
Across	Before	During	Of	Toward
After	Behind	Except	Off	Under
Against	Beside	For	On	Up
Among	Between	From	Over	With

INTERJECTIONS

An interjection is a part of speech that shows the emotion or feeling of the author. These words or phrases can stand alone, or placed before or after a sentence. Many are followed by an exclamation mark.

- “Oh! What a nice view.”
- “Wow! Never knew that.”
- “Ahh, now I see what you mean.”
- “Ouch! That hurts!”

Aah <i>Exclamation of fear</i>		Hmph <i>To indicate displeasure</i>	
	Aww <i>Something sweet or cute</i>		Oops <i>Making a mistake</i>
Bingo <i>Acknowledge something as right</i>		Ouch <i>Exclamation of pain</i>	
	Eww <i>Something disgusting</i>		Wow <i>Expressing surprise or admiration</i>

CONJUNCTIONS

A conjunction joins part of a sentence. There are three different types of conjunction: coordinating, subordinating, correlative.

(a) Coordinating conjunctions - They can join two verbs, two nouns, two adjectives, two phrases or two independent clauses. The three main ones are 'and', 'but' and 'or'.

(b) Subordinating conjunctions - A subordinating conjunction is simply the word/words that is used to join a subordinating clause to another clause or sentence, e.g. He was annoyed because the train had stopped." By adding 'because' we are linking the subordinating clause "the train had stopped" with the main clause "He was annoyed".

(c) Correlative conjunctions - The correlative conjunctions join similar words. They are always used in pairs, e.g. She played both tennis and darts when she was a student; I will eat either broccoli or sweetcorn for dinner; Do you mind whether we have chips or mash for dinner?

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

For, and ,nor, but, or ,yet, so

An easy way to remember these six conjunctions is to think of the word **FANBOYS**. Each of the letters in this somewhat unlikely word is the first letter of one of the coordinating conjunctions. Remember, when using a conjunction to join two sentences, use a comma before the conjunction.

Subordinate Conjunctions		
after	once	until
although	provided that	when
as	rather than	whenever
because	since	where
before	so that	whereas
even if	than	wherever
even though	that	whether
if	though	while
in order that	unless	why

Correlative conjunctions	Examples
either... or	You either do your work or prepare for a trip to the office
not only... but also	Not only is he handsome, but he is also brilliant
neither... nor	Neither the basketball team nor the football team is doing well
both... and	Both the cross country team and the swimming team are doing well
whether... or	Whether you stay or go is your decision
just as... so	Just as many Italians love football, so many Welsh love rugby

EXERCISE

Choose the appropriate options to complete the sentences correctly:

1 Nowadays, it that the Vikings the Americas about 500 years before Columbus' arrival there in 1492:

- ☐ has believed / has reached
- ☐ is believed / had reached
- ☐ believed / had been reaching
- ☐ has been believed / reached
- ☐ will believe / had reached

2 moment I have ever experienced was when I saw my 1-year old son sitting on the windowsill of our flat on the third floor:

- ☐ As terrified as
- ☐ Too terrifying
- ☐ A more terrified
- ☐ The most terrifying
- ☐ Such a terrifying

3 Sandy got married when she was 16, and now, at the of 36, she is a grandmother:

- ☐ still / anymore
- ☐ however / as
- ☐ despite / no longer
- ☐ barely / already
- ☐ although / even

4 John failed his exams because he was always out with his friends when he:

- ☐ should have been studying
- ☐ used to study
- ☐ must have been studying
- ☐ will have studied
- ☐ could be studying

5 Before she got that new job, Eda lots of good books, but she now doesn't have the time:

- ☐ ought to be reading
- ☐ had better read
- ☐ used to read
- ☐ can read
- ☐ will have read

6 The man briefcase is currently on fire is the same man I argued with at the post office last week:

- ☐ whom / when
- ☐ that / which
- ☐ what / whose
- ☐ whose / who
- ☐ which / whom

7 on a chair every day, I am not used, and so my leg muscles get sore when I do:

- ☐ Sitting / to be stood
- ☐ Having been sitting / to standing
- ☐ To have sat / to stand
- ☐ Sat / have been standing
- ☐ To have sat / to stand

8 £100 for my US Visa application, I was upset that I'd been rejected for unspecified reasons:

- ☐ Paying / being discovered
- ☐ To be paid / discovering
- ☐ Having paid / to discover
- ☐ To pay / having discovered
- ☐ Being paid / to be discovered

9 Mr Berry feels that the world today is not it was during his childhood:

- ☐ too safe for
- ☐ so safe that
- ☐ the safest that
- ☐ as safe as
- ☐ much safer

10 As she watched get in the car and drive away, Miranda knew that life would never be the same again:

- ☐ he / herself
- ☐ it / hers
- ☐ their / her own
- ☐ his / she
- ☐ him / her

11 What is the exact definition of a collective noun?

- ☐ A person place thing or idea
- ☐ A name for materials that can either be measured or weighed
- ☐ A word for a capital letter
- ☐ A word that refers to general things, people or animals
- ☐ The name of a group of persons or objects of the same kind considered as a unit

12 At night we could hear the of wolves howling.

- ☐ Troop
- ☐ Pod
- ☐ Gaggle
- ☐ Pride
- ☐ Pack

13 The of lions slept all day on the African plains.

☐ Class

☐ Fleet

☐ Pride

☐ Drove

☐ Posse

14 Have you got bread?

☐ Any

☐ A

☐ An

☐ Some

☐ Much

15 What are the four questions that adverbs can answer?

☐ Who? When? Where? Why?

☐ When? Where? How? Why?

☐ When? Where? To what extent/degree? What?

☐ To what extent/degree? When? Where? How?

☐ When? Where? To what extent/degree? Why?

16 How many adjectives are in the following sentence? The red car roared around the sharp corner and hit an old oak tree.

☐ 4

☐ 5

☐ 6

☐ 7

☐ 8

17 What part of speech connects words or groups of words? Examples are: for, and, nor, but, or, yet and so?

☐ Preposition

☐ Adverb

☐ Interjection

☐ Conjunction

☐ Pronoun

18 The of soldiers marched over the hill.

☐ Troop

☐ Line

☐ Regiment

☐ Pack

☐ Tribe

19 A of policemen attended the burglary.

☐

Force

☐

Regiment

☐

Convoy

☐

Patrol

☐

Squad

20 Identify the adverb in this sentence: The dog seemed friendly and wagged its tail happily.

☐

Seemed

☐

Friendly

☐

Wagged

☐

Tail

☐

Happily