

1. Word classes: nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc

A Introduction



Look at the different kinds of word in this sentence.

Pronoun	Verb	Determiner	Adjective	Noun	Preposition	Noun	Adverb
I	have	an	important	conference	at	work	tomorrow,
Linking word	Pronoun	Verb	Adverb	Adjective			
So	I	am	rather	busy.			

B What kind of word?

There are eight different kinds of word in English. They are called 'word classes' or 'parts of speech'. Here are some examples from the conversations in the cafe. The numbers after the examples tell you which units in the book give you more information. 1 Verb: **have, am, is, would, like, come, are, sitting, look** 4-75

Noun: **conference, work, coffee, party, Saturday, Jessica, friends, corner** 76-82

Adjective: **important, busy, good, cheap** 104-109

Adverb: **tomorrow, rather, really, here** 113-117

Preposition: **at, to, on, in** 118-125

Determiner: **an, this, our, the** 83-97

Pronoun: **I, it, you** 98-103

Linking word: **so, and** 150-153

C Words in sentences

Some words can belong to different classes depending on how they are used in a sentence.

VERBS

*Can I **look** at your photos? We **work** on Saturday morning.*

NOUNS

*I like the **look** of that coat. I'll be at **work** tomorrow.*

1 What kind of word? (B)

Read this paragraph and then say which word class each underlined word belongs to. To help you decide, you can look back at the examples in B.

Andrew didn't go to the cafe with the other students. Rachel told him they were going there, but he wanted to finish his work. Andrew isn't very sociable. He stays in his room and concentrates totally on his studies. He's an excellent student, but he doesn't have much fun.

7 to *preposition*

7 cafe *noun*

1 the.....

2 told.....

3 they.....

4 there.....

5 he.....

6 finish.....

7 sociable

8 in

9 and

10 totally

11 an

12 excellent

13 but

14 fun

2 What kind of word? (B)

Read this paragraph and then write the words in the spaces below. Write the first three verbs under 'Verb', and so on. Do not write the same word more than once.

Henry thinks Claire is wonderful. He loves her madly, and he dreams of marrying her, but unfortunately he is rather old for her. Today they are at a cafe with their friends Sarah and Mark, so Henry can't get romantic with Claire. But he might buy her some flowers later.

Verb

Noun

Adjective

Adverb

think

Henry

.

Preposition

Determiner

Pronoun

Linking word

3 Words in sentences (C)

Is the underlined word a verb, a noun or an adjective?

7 Shall we go for a walk? *noun*

7 Shall we walk into town? *verb*

1 Laura wanted to talk to Rita.

2 Laura wanted a talk with Rita.

3 The windows aren't very clean.

4 Doesn't anyone clean the windows?

5 We went to a fabulous show in New York.

6 Laura wanted to show Rita her photos.

7 Henry thought Claire looked beautiful.

8 A strange thought came into Emma's head.

9 Sarah is feeling quite tired now.

10 Studying all night had tired Andrew out.

AMKE AND HARRIET ARE MOVING THEIR PIANO UPSTAIRS.
FOAM, MELANIE AND DAVID ARE HELPING THEM.



Sentence structure

The parts of a sentence are the subject, verb, object, complement and adverbial. A statement begins with the subject and the verb. There are five main structures which we can use to make a simple statement.

1 SUBJECT VERB
My arms are aching.
Something happened.

2 SUBJECT VERB OBJECT
I need a rest.
Five people are moving the piano.

The subject and object can be a pronoun (e.g. *I*) or a noun phrase (e.g. *the piano*).

3 SUBJECT VERB COMPLEMENT
This piano is heavy.
It was a big problem.

The complement can be an adjective (e.g. **heavy**) or a noun phrase (e.g. **a big problem**). The complement often comes after **be**. It can also come after **appear, become, get, feel, look, seem, stay or sound**. For adjectives and word order see Unit 104B.

4 SUBJECT VERB ADVERBIAL
It is on my foot.
Their house is nearby.

An adverbial can be a prepositional phrase (e.g. *on my foot*) or an adverb (e.g. *nearby*).

5 SUBJECT VERB OBJECT OBJECT
It is giving me backache.
David bought Melanie a present.

We use two objects after verbs like **give** and **send** (see Unit 3).

B Adverbials

We can add adverbials to all the five main structures. *My arms are aching terribly. I really need a rest. Of course this piano is heavy. Fortunately their house is nearby. To everyone's surprise, David actually bought Melanie a present yesterday.*

2 Exercises

1 Parts of the sentence (A)

Mike and Harriet are on holiday. They have written a postcard to David and Melanie. Look at each underlined phrase and say what part of the sentence it is: subject, verb, object, complement or adverbial.

- We're having a great time. object
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 The weather is <u>marvellous</u> . | 4 We're <u>on a farm</u> . |
| 2 We really <u>enjoy camping</u> . | 5 We like <u>this place</u> . |
| 3 It's <u>great fun</u> . | 6 The scenery is <u>beautiful</u> . |

2 Sentence structure (A)

After moving the piano, the five friends had a rest and a cup of tea.

Look at this part of their conversation and then write the letters a)- e) in the correct place.

- a David: That was a difficult job.
b Tom: I agree.
c Mike: I'm on my deathbed.
d David: Someone should give us a medal.
e Harriet: I've made some more tea.

- Subject + verb b
- 1 Subject + verb + object
- 2 Subject + verb + complement
- 3 Subject + verb + adverbial
- 4 Subject + verb + object + object

3 Word order (A)

Put the words in the correct order and write the statements.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| ► is / Melanie / very nice | <i>Melanie is very nice.</i> |
| 1 football / likes / Tom | |
| 2 an accident / David / had | |
| 3 moved / the piano / we | |
| 4 a tall woman / Harriet / is | |
| 5 sat / on the floor / everyone | |
| 6 gave / some help / Mike's friends / him | |

4 Adverbials (B)

These sentences are from a news report. Write down the two adverbials in each sentence. Each adverbial is a prepositional phrase or an adverb.

- Prince Charles opened a new sports centre in Stoke yesterday.
- 1 He also spoke with several young people.
- 2 The sports centre was first planned in 1994.
- 3 Naturally, the local council could not finance the project without help.
- 4 Fortunately, they managed to obtain money from the National Lottery.
- in Stoke yesterday*