Parts of Speech

Practice pack: 3 levels, with full answers

The golden rule

A word's part of speech depends on the job it does in the sentence, not on the word itself. The word "light" is a noun in "the light is on", a verb in "light the lamp" and an adjective in "a light bag". To label a word, ask: what is this word doing here?

Part	Its job	Examples
Noun	Names a person, place, thing or idea	teacher, Delhi, table, honesty
Pronoun	Takes the place of a noun	he, they, it, who, mine
Verb	Shows an action or a state	run, think, is, have
Adjective	Describes a noun or pronoun	tall, red, three, happy
Adverb	Describes a verb, adjective or adverb	quickly, very, tomorrow, well
Preposition	Shows how a noun relates to another word	in, on, under, between
Conjunction	Joins words, phrases or clauses	and, but, because, although
Interjection	Shows a sudden feeling	Wow! Alas! Oh! Hurray!

Quick tips

Articles (a, an, the) are usually counted as a kind of adjective.
If a word answers how, when, where or how much, it is probably an adverb.
A preposition is always followed by a noun or pronoun (in the box, with him).
Words ending in -ly are often adverbs, but "friendly" and "lovely" are adjectives.

Level 1: Spot the Word

Find one part of speech at a time

1. Name the nouns in: The teacher walked into the classroom.

2. Pick the verb in: Meera sings beautifully.

3. Identify the adjective in: She wore a red scarf.

4. Find the adverb in: He ran quickly.

5. Find the pronoun in: Rohan said that he was tired.

6. Find the preposition in: The cat is under the table.

7. Find the conjunction in: I wanted to play, but it rained.

8. Find the interjection in: Wow! That was a great goal.

9. What part of speech is the word "happiness"?

10. Name the part of speech of each word: quickly, they, between, honesty.

Level 2: Job Detectives

Same word, different jobs

1. Label every word in: The brave soldier fought bravely.

2. What part of speech is "light" in (a) She will light the lamp and (b) The light is bright?

3. What part of speech is "fast" in (a) He is a fast runner and (b) He runs fast?

4. Find the conjunctions in "I like tea and coffee, but she likes juice." Which joins words and which joins clauses?

5. Pick out the prepositions: The book on the shelf belongs to the girl beside me.

6. Underline all the pronouns: They told us that it was theirs.

7. Change the noun "beauty" into an adjective and into an adverb.

8. Write one sentence using "well" as an adverb and one using "well" as a noun.

Level 3: Challenge

Tricky words and sentence building

1. What part of speech is "before" in (a) I met him before, (b) Come before noon and (c) Wash your hands before you eat?

2. In the sentence "The old man the boats", which word is the verb, and what is "old" doing?

3. Classify "that" in (a) That book is mine, (b) I know that he is honest and (c) The book that I read was long.

4. What does "running" do in (a) Running is good exercise, (b) The running water was cold and (c) He is running fast?

5. Join into one sentence with a conjunction: He was tired. He kept working.

6. Correct the error: She sings good and dances beautiful.

Stuck? Cover the rest of the sentence and ask: what job is this word doing here? A word that is a noun in one sentence can be a verb or adjective in another.

Worked Examples

Ask: what job is the word doing?

Level 1: Identify the parts of speech in: Priya quickly opened the heavy door.

Given	The sentence: Priya quickly opened the heavy door.
Find	The part of speech of each word
Method	Ask what each word does in the sentence
Solve	Priya = noun. quickly = adverb. opened = verb. the = article. heavy = adjective. door = noun.
Check	Each content word has a job: a name, an action, a describing word.

Level 2: What part of speech is "round" in each sentence?

Given	(a) The round table (b) They sat round the table (c) He will round the corner (d) A round of applause
Method	Check what each use of "round" is doing
Solve	(a) adjective: describes table. (b) preposition: links they sat to table. (c) verb: an action. (d) noun: the thing that is named.
Check	One word, four different jobs.

Level 3: Combine with a relative pronoun: The girl won the prize. She sits beside me.

Given	Two short sentences about the same person
Find	One sentence joining them
Method	Replace "She" with the relative pronoun "who" and join
Solve	The girl who sits beside me won the prize.
Check	"Who" replaces the noun and also joins the clause to the main sentence.

Mistakes to avoid

1. Labelling a word by how it looks. Always check its job in the sentence.
2. Treating every -ly word as an adverb. "Friendly" is an adjective.
3. Forgetting that adverbs can describe adjectives and other adverbs (very tall).
4. Confusing prepositions and conjunctions. "Before noon" and "before you eat" differ.
5. Using an adjective where an adverb is needed: "sings good" should be "sings well".

Answer Key

Check your work

Level 1

1. teacher, classroom
2. sings
3. red
4. quickly
5. he
6. under
7. but
8. Wow
9. Noun (an abstract noun)
10. quickly = adverb, they = pronoun, between = preposition, honesty = noun

Level 2

1. The = article (adjective), brave = adjective, soldier = noun, fought = verb, bravely = adverb
2. (a) verb (b) noun
3. (a) adjective (b) adverb
4. "and" joins the words tea and coffee. "but" joins two clauses
5. on, to, beside
6. They, us, it, theirs
7. beautiful (adjective), beautifully (adverb)
8. Example: She sings well. We drew water from the well.

Level 3

1. (a) adverb (b) preposition (c) conjunction
2. "man" is the verb (to crew). "old" is a noun: the old, meaning old people
3. (a) demonstrative adjective (b) conjunction (c) relative pronoun
4. (a) noun (gerund) (b) adjective (participle) (c) verb
5. Example: Although he was tired, he kept working.
6. She sings well and dances beautifully.

Pin it on the noticeboard

Page 7 is a one-page poster. Print it and pin it up in your classroom.

Scan for a free quiz.

The Practise Ground

Class 6-8 English

Parts of Speech

The eight word types

1 Noun

Names a person, place, thing or idea

teacher, Delhi, happiness

2 Pronoun

Takes the place of a noun

she, they, it, us

3 Verb

Shows an action or a state

run, is, think

4 Adjective

Describes a noun

tall, blue, three

The other four

Adverb: how, when or where (quickly, today).

Preposition: position or link (in, on, under).

Conjunction: joins (and, but, because).

Interjection: sudden feeling (Wow! Oops!).

Spot them

The tall teacher quickly read the book.

tall = adjective, teacher = noun

quickly = adverb, read = verb

Think you've got it? Test yourself.

Scan for a free English quiz.

thepractiseground.in

Free for every class. Print and display it anywhere.