

[MUSIC PLAYING]

INSTRUCTOR: Parts of speech.

There are seven basic parts of speech in English nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, and conjunctions.

Nouns are words for people, places, things, or ideas. Most nouns are common nouns, which do not refer to a specific person, place, or thing and are not capitalized. Girl, city, car, honesty, these are all common nouns.

Nouns that do refer to a specific person, place, or thing are called proper nouns and are capitalized. Elena, Seattle, Toyota, these are all proper nouns.

Pronouns take the place of nouns in a sentence. They usually refer to a nearby noun or pronoun known as the antecedent. Corey could not answer the phone before it stopped ringing. And he was annoyed that the caller did not leave him a message. The pronoun, "it" takes the place of phone. "He" takes the place of Corey. And "him" refers to he.

Verbs describe an action or a state of being. There are a few types of verbs. Action verbs show the subject doing something. Jill eats her lunch. The verb in this sentence is "eats," which tells what the subject, Jill, is doing.

Linking verbs connect the subject to words that describe its state of being. Jill is sick. The verb in this sentence is "is," which connects the subject, Jill, to the word sick, an adjective that describes her condition.

The most common linking verb is be, which may take the form am, are, is, was, or were. Other common linking verbs include become, appear, and feel.

Helping verbs are used along with the main verb form to create tenses other than the simple past and present. Helping verbs include forms of have and be as well as words that do not change form, such as will and might. I have talked to the

neighbors about their dog. I am talking right now. I might talk to you next week.

Adjectives are words that describe nouns and pronouns. In the sentence, the loud music interrupted my studying, the adjective "loud" describes the noun "music."

An adverb describes an adjective, a verb, or another adverb. Many adverbs end in "ly." The extremely agile skater very gracefully glided across the ice. In this sentence the adverb, "extremely" describes the adjective, "agile." The adverb, "gracefully" describes the verb, "glided." And the adverb, "very" describes the adverb, "gracefully."

Prepositions are words such as onto, of, with, under, and from that connect a noun or pronoun with another part of a sentence. The noun or pronoun introduced by the preposition is called the object of the preposition. The old tree fell onto the parked car. "Onto" is a preposition that relates its object, the parked car, to the rest of the sentence helping to explain where the tree fell. The entire word group, "onto the parked car" is called a prepositional phrase.

Coordinating conjunctions join equivalent words or word groups. There are seven coordinating conjunctions in English. And you can remember them with the acronym FANBOYS for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so. Do you prefer apples or oranges? The conjunction, "or" joins the two nouns. The sleigh went over the river and through the woods. The conjunction, "and" joins the two prepositional phrases.

Subordinating conjunctions make one independent clause subordinate to, or dependent on, another. Some examples of subordinating conjunctions include if, after, although, and unless. Although she prefers singing, Lauren received a speaking role. The subordinating conjunction, "although" subordinates the clause that follows, "she prefers singing," making that clause less important than the one that follows, "Lauren received a speaking role."

Most of the parts of speech are covered in greater detail in separate video modules. For now remember understanding the basic parts of speech will help you improve your writing.