

# What Are Nouns?

A noun is a person, place, thing, or idea. There are six different types of nouns:

## concrete noun

a person, place, or thing that has physical shape; can touch it

rabbit museum sister

## abstract noun

an idea, quality, or emotion that has no physical shape; cannot be touched

happiness trust  
liberty

## common noun

a person, place, thing, or idea that is not specific; begins with a lower-case letter

manager ocean desk justice

## proper noun

a name of a person, place, thing, or idea; begins with a capital letter

George Montana  
Tuesday Valentine's Day

## compound noun

a noun formed when two nouns are put together to form one noun

firefly bathtub homework  
raincoat starfish videotape

## gerund

a noun formed by adding ing to a verb (verb + ing)

teaching writing eating  
Blogging is my favorite activity.

# What Are Verbs?

A verb expresses an action or a state of being. There are three different kinds:

## Action Verbs

### A physical action verb

describes an action that can be seen or heard.

run hit jump dance sing  
grunt pull feel wear

### A mental action verb

describes an action that CANNOT be seen or heard.

think worry wonder believe feel  
understand anticipate calculate

## Linking Verbs

### A linking verb

connects the subject to the word that completes the subject (the complement).

### A linking verb

shows a state of being: feel, appear, seem, etc.

### A linking verb

sometimes relates to the five senses: hearing, smell, taste, sight, touch.

Sue gets happy when she shops. I am happy that Sue is happy.  
some linking verbs: is was are were got had has

## Helping Verbs

### A helping verb

accompanies an action verb or a linking verb, and it forms a phrase showing the verb's tense.

Sue is meeting her friend.

They are going to the movies.

is am are was were

# What Are Adjectives?

An adjective is a word that modifies (describes) a noun.

## They tell what kind

Compare the monetary value of the Canadian dollar to the U.S. dollar.

Gail has a small, hairy mole which she hides from important people.

## They tell which one

She bought the red shoes because they hurt less than the green ones.

Fred's recent trip was long but more rewarding than his previous trip.

## They tell how many

It is seven minutes until the movie starts, and we have only five tickets.

I have four years of college and some time in law school.

## Articles as special adjectives

### indefinite article

refers to an unspecified noun

I would have been late if not for a man on the subway.

a man  
an anteater  
a politician

### definite article

refers to a specific person, thing, or place

Brent was told to address the president as "sir."

the woman  
the warden  
the Bahamas

# What Are Adverbs?

An adverb is a word modifying a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

Adverbs can answer:

## How

badly  
brightly  
directly  
loosely  
quickly  
quite  
very  
more  
better  
less  
worse  
most  
least

## When

again  
often  
sometimes  
once  
now  
then  
soon  
tomorrow  
yesterday  
never

## Where

here  
there  
everywhere  
nowhere  
somewhere  
anywhere  
nearby  
up  
down  
out

## adverb modifying verbs

Jessica **sings** **well**.  
(How does Jessica sing?)

She is **singing** **tomorrow** in a show.  
(When is she singing?)

She is **performing** **here** at this theater.  
(Where is she performing?)

## adverb modifying adjectives

We went for a **very** **long** car ride.  
(How long was the ride?)

It was a **really** **boring** trip.  
(How boring was the trip?)

I was **extremely** **tired** when we got home.  
(How tired was I?)

## adverb modifying adverbs

We go to the movies **quite** **often**.  
(How often do we go?)

The actress screamed **very** **loudly**.  
(How loudly did she scream?)

We left the theater **more** **quickly** than usual.  
(How quickly did we leave?)

# What Are Pronouns?

Like nouns, pronouns represent a person, place, thing, or idea. Pronouns are different from nouns because they stand in the place of a specific noun.

## Classes of Pronouns

Personal	Possessive	Demonstrative	Indefinite	Interrogative
A personal pronoun refers to people and things.	A possessive pronoun shows possession or ownership.	A demonstrative pronoun points out specific persons or things.	An indefinite pronoun does not refer to anyone or anything in particular.	Interrogative pronouns are used to ask questions.
I/me/us/we you he/she/it they/them him/her me/my/mine our/your his/hers/its their	my/mine your/yours his/hers/its our/ours their/theirs	this that these those	everything anything no one nothing something somebody anyone everyone anybody everybody someone nobody many few one	who whom whose what which

Mark likes driving. He thinks it is relaxing.

# What Are Prepositions?

A preposition shows relationship between a noun (or a pronoun) and its objects.

## Prepositions

aboard	behind	from	throughout
about	below	in	to
above	beneath	into	toward
across	beside	like	under
after	between	of	underneath
against	beyond	off	until
along	by	on	up
among	down	over	upon
around	during	past	with
at	except	since	within
before	for	through	without

## Prepositional Phrases

A prepositional phrase starts with a preposition, ends with its object (a noun or pronoun), and includes all the words in between.

aboard the blue motor boat  
in a news story  
past the top shelf  
through the streets  
like a downpour

on my window  
under the flower beds  
until dark  
without you  
since Christmas

# What Are Conjunctions?

A conjunction joins words, phrases, and clauses.

## Coordinating Conjunctions

and  
but  
or  
nor  
for  
so  
yet

A **coordinating conjunction** links two nouns, links two independent clauses, or links two phrases.

Soccer **(and)** hockey are popular sports.

Jimmy is tired, **(but)** he won't take a nap.

The monkey likes to swing from ropes **(and)** jump on tires.

## Subordinating Conjunctions

after	now that	unless
although	once	until
as	rather than	when
as if	since	whenever
as long as	so that	where
as though	than	whereas
because	that	whenever
before	though	while
even if	till	in order that
even though	if only	if

A **subordinating conjunction** joins a clause that cannot stand alone with the rest of the sentence.

**(Now)** that Autumn is here, we have to rake the leaves.

Your grades are going to suffer

**(as long as)** you continue to deprive yourself of sleep.

## Correlative Conjunctions

either; or  
neither; nor  
both, and  
not only, but also  
not, but  
whether; or

A **correlative conjunction** joins equal parts of a sentence together and must include both parts.

**(Neither)** Joe **(nor)** Bob enjoys geometry class.

**(Both)** Sue **(and)** Joan attend college.

Pam doesn't know **(whether)** she **(or)** her sister is having the party.

# What Are Interjections?

An interjection is a word or short phrase that stands alone, begins a sentence, or is inserted into a sentence to gain attention or add emphasis.

## strong

A strong interjection expresses surprise, strong emotion, or urgency and is followed by an exclamation point.

**Yikes!** The tub is overflowing.

**Ouch!** Who told you that a shot only feels like a pinch?

I said that I want the job done. **Now!**

## mild

A mild interjection is placed within a sentence with a comma or commas bracketing it.

**Well,** if you don't tell, I won't.

That shot was a painful experience, **indeed.**

I will, **certainly,** take your feelings into consideration.