



facultad de
estudios generales

Parts of Speech

Focus on Modifiers

Important notice



At the end of this presentation there is a link to a Microsoft Forms quiz. It is recommended that you score an 80% or higher.

Please take your time viewing and studying this material before you proceed with the quiz.

Objectives

- See the different parts of speech
- Identify the parts of speech in a sentence
- Understand and identify the role of modifiers as parts of speech

Parts of Speech

- Each **part of speech** or word class indicates how the word functions in **meaning** as well as **grammatically** within the sentence.
- Every word in a sentence belongs to one of the **9** parts of speech and serves a specific purpose within the structure of that particular sentence.

Part of Speech	Function
Noun	Names a person, place, thing, or idea
Pronoun	Substitutes a noun
Adjective	Modifies or describes a noun or pronoun
Verb	Expresses an action
Adverb	Modifies or describes a verb, an adjective, another adverb
Conjunction	Joins words, phrases, or clauses
Preposition	Forms a phrase modifying another word in a sentence
Determiner	Introduces a noun
Interjection	Expresses an emotion

Part of Speech	Some Examples
Noun	Moira, book, hope, Central Park...
Pronoun	I, you, he, she, we, they, it
Adjective	intelligent, firm, small, big, bright...
Verb	run, win, roar, read, typing...
Adverb	just, carefully, very, easily, nicely...
Conjunction	for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so
Preposition	from, against, besides, above, about, of, on...
Determiner	a, an, the
Interjection	Ouch!, Hurray!, Aw, Ugh, Boo!...

Parts of Speech

- A word can function as more than one part of speech when used in different circumstances.

Word	Well		
Part of Speech	Adjective	Adverb	Interjection
Example	Are you <u>well</u> ?	They sing <u>well</u> .	<u>Well</u> , I might go.

Identifying Each One in a Sentence

Ouch: interjection

I: pronoun

just: adverb

hit: verb

toe: noun

against: preposition

big: adjective

door: noun

and: conjunction

it: pronoun

hurts: verb

Ouch! **I** **just** **hit** **my**
toe **against** **a** **big**
door **and** **it** **hurts!**

Identifying Each One in a Sentence

These are called
modifiers.

- "My" is a possessive adjective that is modifying the noun, "toe".
- "A" is an indefinite article that modifies the noun "door".

Ouch! I just hit my
toe against a big
door and it hurts!

Let's Discuss Modifiers

Modifiers

"A **modifying word [or modifier]** changes, enhances, stirs, intensifies, makes more precise our concept of another word -- the one (or ones) it modifies" (Gordon 15).

Adjectives modify nouns or pronouns.

Descriptive adjectives

"Descriptive adjectives describe a noun or a pronoun, stating what kind of person, place, or thing either one is" (Gordon 15).

Limiting adjectives

"Limiting adjectives specify, quantify, or identify the noun presented" and they "take several forms" (Gordon 16).

Common and proper adjectives are descriptive.

Descriptive Adjectives	Examples
Common adjectives: answer questions such as <i>which one?</i> , <i>what kind?</i> , <i>how many?</i> , and <i>how much?</i>	bigger, strong, fluffy, cute, cold, interesting, red, bashful, portable, innocent, mad, sugar-coated, nice...
Proper adjectives: based on proper names .	Martian, Buddhist, Machiavellian, Darwinian, Orwellian, British, Spanish, Puerto Rican, Shakespearean, Canadian...

Examples:

I live in the **yellow** house. ← Yellow is the common adjective that describes the noun, "house".

The **Puerto Rican** student is brilliant. ← Puerto Rican is a proper noun that describes the noun, "student".

Limiting adjectives include *possessive, demonstrative, indefinite, interrogative,* and *numerical* adjectives.

Limiting Adjectives	Examples
Possessive	my, your, his, her, our, their, yours, its
Demonstrative	this, these, those, that
Indefinite	any, either, some, few...
Interrogative	what, which, whose
Numerical	one, two, three, first, second, all...

Examples:

My cousin skates. ← "My" is the possessive adjective that modifies the noun, "cousin".

I ate **some** grapes. ← "Some" is the indefinite adjective that modifies the noun, "grapes".

Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs.

They "state when, how, where, and to what extent an action is done or a state of being exists" (Gordon 21).

There are different types of **adverbs**. Notice that some of them finalize with **-ly**, but some do not.

Adverbs	Examples
Time	immediately, shortly, late, early...
Manner	silently, roundly, squeakily, roughly...
Place	here, where, nowhere, everywhere...
Degree	quite, most, very, sufficiently, enough...

Examples:

She reads **quietly**. ← The action *to read* was performed **quietly**.

The smell is **very** strong. ← **Very** describes the intensity of the adjective strong.

Determiners

"A **determiner** is a word that introduces a noun, such as **articles** (a/an, the) and **limiting adjectives** (every, this, those, or many)"

(Lexico 2021).

*We discussed limiting adjectives a few slides back.
Let's look at articles next.*

Articles are used to delimit a noun.

the	a/an
The definite article the is used to refer to something specific, unique or previously mentioned	Indefinite articles a/an are used to refer to a noun that is not specific or to a particular member of a group or class.
The can be used before singular or plural nouns.	A/an are used only for singular nouns.

Examples:

I like **the** car she bought. ← Refers to an specific car. Which car? **The** (one) car she bought.

I saw **a** car pass by. ← Refers to a non-specific car. Which car? **A** (any) car.

She bought **an** apple. ← Refers to only one apple. What did she buy? **An** (one) apple.

Let's Recap!



- A **part of speech** can serve different purposes depending on the sentence structure and its context.
- **Modifiers** and **determiners** specify, quantify, or delimit other words.
- **Articles** and **limiting adjectives** are the most common **modifiers** and **determiners**.
- Remember that there are more **parts of speech**. If you want to learn about other parts of speech, you can head to our website and look at our modules on *prepositions*, *prepositional phrases*, and *subject-verb agreement*.

After completing the module, click on the following link to take the quiz and send the report to your professor:

<https://forms.office.com/r/RQhH1XV4hR>

Thanks for using our resources!



To know more about our Center and the services we provide, visit:

<http://generales.uprrp.edu/competencias-linguisticas/>

