

ENGLISH GRAMMAR

Grammar is the system of a language. People sometimes describe grammar as the "rules" of a language; but in fact no language has rules. To speak in your own native language, one needn't be proficient in the grammatical correctness, but if you are learning a foreign language, definitely you must learn what is known as "grammar" as such.

English grammar is the way in which meanings are encoded into wordings in the English language. This includes the structure of words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and the structure of whole texts.

PARTS OF SPEECH

We can categorize English words into 9 basic types called "**parts of speech**" or "word classes". It's quite important to recognize parts of speech. This helps you to analyze sentences and understand them. It also helps you to construct good sentences.

The following are the parts of speech in English: noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, conjunction, and interjection.

1. What are nouns?

A noun is the name of a person, place, thing, or idea.

A **common noun** is the generic name for a person, place, or thing in a class or group. Eg. cow, man, girl, school, teacher, church, apple, etc.

Proper nouns always start with a capital letter; common nouns do not. Eg. John, Elizabeth, Pinky, Delhi etc.

Unlike proper nouns, a common noun is not capitalized unless it either begins a sentence or appears in a title.

A **collective noun** is a collection of things taken as a whole. It is a term used to show a group of things which are of the same kind. Eg. A **stack** of books, a **pride** of lions, a **bunch** of keys, a **bouquet** of flowers, a **flock** of geese, etc.

Abstract nouns are nouns that express a quality or an idea such as integrity and honesty. These nouns are not capitalized unless they appear as the first word in a sentence or as a word in a title. Eg. Anger, hope, happiness, love, liberty, freedom etc.

2. What are pronouns?

A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun.

Eg- He, She, It, They, You



Pronouns are further defined by type: **personal pronouns** refer to specific persons or things for eg. I, he, she, you, it etc.; **possessive pronouns** indicate ownership for eg. His, her, your, mine etc; **reflexive pronouns** are used to emphasize another noun or pronoun for eg. Yourself, myself, themselves, himself etc.; **relative pronouns** introduce a subordinate clause for eg. who, that, whose, where etc ; and **demonstrative pronouns** identify, point to, or refer to nouns for eg. this, that, these, those etc..

3. What are verbs?

The verb in a sentence expresses action or being. There is a main verb and sometimes one or more helping verbs. A verb must agree with its subject in number (both are singular or both are plural). Verbs also take different forms to express tense.

Eg. run - ran, dance – danced, eat -- ate, write – writing etc.

Main verbs --- talk, jump, dream, walk etc.

Helping verbs --- is, are, was, were, have, has etc.

4. What are adverbs?

An adverb describes or modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb, but never a noun. It usually answers the questions of when, where, how, why, under what conditions, or to what degree. Adverbs often end in -ly.

Eg. The young girl brought me a **very** long letter from the teacher, and **then** she **quickly** disappeared.

Slowly, fastly, gently, extremely, carefully, well

Adverbs of time indicate time or frequency of the action. Eg. always, never, often, eventually, now, frequently, seldom, before, Monday, 10am, 12pm etc.

Adverbs of degree express the importance or degree of the action in the sentence. Eg. completely, nearly, somewhat, mildly, most, thoroughly etc.

Adverbs of manner express the manner, approach or process of the action in the sentence. Eg. beautifully, equally, coldly, nicely, hotly, thankfully etc.

Adverbs of quantity give the reader information about the quantity. Eg. purely, even, only, also etc.

Adverbs of place describe where an action takes place. Eg. indoors, still, everywhere, downstairs, down, up, outside etc.

5. What are adjectives?

An adjective is a word used to modify or describe a noun or a pronoun. It usually answers the question of which one, what kind, or how many.

Descriptive adjectives are used to describe nouns and pronouns.

Words like beautiful, cute, silly, tall, annoying, loud and nice are all descriptive adjectives. These adjectives add information and qualities to the words they're modifying.

Quantitative adjectives describe the quantity of something.

In other words, they answer the question "how much?" or "how many?" Numbers like one and thirty are this type of adjective. So are more general words like many, half and a lot.

Demonstrative adjective describes "which" noun or pronoun you're referring to. These adjectives include the words – this, these, those, that etc.

Possessive adjectives show *possession*. They describe to whom a thing belongs. Some of the most common possessive adjectives include: my, his, her, your, our etc.

Interrogative adjectives interrogate, meaning that they ask a question. These adjectives are always followed by a noun or a pronoun, and are used to form questions. The interrogative adjectives are: which, what, whose etc.

Distributive adjectives describe specific members out of a group. These adjectives are used to single out one or more individual items or people. Some of the most common distributive adjectives include: each, every, either,
