Understanding the Eight Parts of Speech

Solutions manual and marking guidance (for learners checking their work, and for instructors).

O1: Name the eight parts of speech and say what job each one does.

Q01 [Foundational · short answer] List the eight traditional parts of speech.

Answer: Noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, conjunction, interjection.

1. A memory aid: make a sentence using one of each.

Q02 [Foundational · multiple choice] Which part of speech names a person, place, thing or idea? (a) verb (b) noun (c) adverb (d) conjunction

Answer: (b)

1. Test: the/a/my can usually go in front of it.

Q03 [Foundational · matching] Match each part of speech to its job: adjective, conjunction, pronoun. Jobs: (i) replaces a noun (ii) describes a noun (iii) joins words or clauses.

Answer: adjective-(ii), conjunction-(iii), pronoun-(i)

1. Use the definitions in section 2 to 5 of the notes.

Q04 [Core · true/false] True or false: 'happiness' cannot be a noun because you cannot touch it.

Answer: False

1. Nouns also name ideas and feelings: 'my happiness' works.

Q05 [Core · short answer] What is the difference between a preposition and a conjunction?

Answer: A preposition links a noun or pronoun (its object) to the sentence; a conjunction joins words, phrases or clauses.

1. after lunch (preposition + noun); after we ate (conjunction + clause).

Q06 [Applied · conceptual] Why do modern grammars often add 'determiners' as a ninth word class?

Answer: Words like the, this, my and some behave differently from describing adjectives: they specify which or how many.

1. Traditional grammar groups many of them with adjectives or pronouns.

O2: Find the parts of speech in real sentences, using simple questions.

Q07 [Foundational · identification] Find the verb: 'The children laughed loudly.'

Answer: laughed

1. Test: change the time: laugh / laughed / will laugh.

Q08 [Foundational · identification] Find the adjective: 'A tall woman opened the door.'

Answer: tall

1. What kind of woman? tall.

Q09 [Core · identification] Find the adverb and the word it describes: 'The train arrived very late.'

Answer: 'very' describes 'late'; 'late' describes 'arrived' (both adverbs).

1. Adverbs can describe verbs (arrived late) and other adverbs (very late).

Q10 [Core · identification] Find the preposition and its object: 'We waited under the bridge.'

Answer: under; object: the bridge

1. A preposition is followed by a noun phrase (its object).

Q11 [Applied · analysis] Label every word: 'Oh no, the old printer has stopped again.'

Answer: Oh no (interjection), the (article/determiner), old (adjective), printer (noun), has (auxiliary verb), stopped (verb), again (adverb).

1. Apply the five-step method from the notes.

Q12 [Applied · analysis] Underline the conjunctions and say whether each is coordinating or subordinating: 'I stayed home because it rained, but my sister went out.'

Answer: because (subordinating), but (coordinating)

1. Subordinating conjunctions begin a dependent clause; coordinating ones join equal parts.

Q13 [Advanced · writing] Write one sentence that contains all eight parts of speech, and label each.

Answer: Example: 'Wow, she and I walked happily to the new park.' Wow (interjection), she, I (pronouns), and (conjunction), walked (verb), happily (adverb), to (preposition), new (adjective), park (noun).

1. Check each label with a test question.

O3: Explain how one word can change its job, and sometimes its pronunciation.

Q14 [Foundational · short answer] In 'Fruit flies like a banana', what part of speech is 'flies'?

Answer: Noun (the insects).

1. Compare 'Time flies', where it is a verb.

Q15 [Core · identification] What part of speech is 'like' in (a) 'I like rice' and (b) 'It sounds like rain'?

Answer: (a) verb, (b) preposition

1. In (b) it links 'rain' to the verb, showing comparison.

Q16 [Core · pronunciation] Mark the stressed syllable: (a) 'The shop gave me a refund.' (b) 'They will refund the money.'

Answer: (a) REfund (noun), (b) reFUND (verb)

1. Nouns usually stress the first syllable; verbs the second.

Q17 [Core · multiple choice] In 'Please record the meeting', how is 'record' pronounced? (a) REcord (b) reCORD

Answer: (b)

1. It is a verb here, so the stress moves to the second syllable.

Q18 [Applied · writing] Write two sentences using 'present', first as a noun and then as a verb, and mark the stress.

Answer: Example: 'I bought a PREsent.' / 'She will preSENT her findings.'

1. Same spelling, different job and stress.

Q19 [Advanced · analysis] Explain why 'Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana' is a famous example in grammar.

Answer: The same words change class: 'flies' is a verb then a noun, 'like' a preposition then a verb, showing that class depends on the sentence.

1. The sentence shows why we analyse jobs, not word shapes.

O4: Avoid the most common mistakes with parts of speech.

Q20 [Foundational · correction] Correct: 'He drives very careful.'

Answer: He drives very carefully.

1. The word describes how he drives (a verb), so an adverb is needed.

Q21 [Foundational · true/false] True or false: every word ending in -ly is an adverb.

Answer: False

1. friendly, lovely, lonely are adjectives: 'a lonely road'.

Q22 [Core · correction] Correct: 'Me and him went to the market.'

Answer: He and I went to the market.

1. Subject pronouns (I, he) are needed as the subject of 'went'.

Q23 [Core · correction] Correct: 'The informations you gave were very useful.'

Answer: The information you gave was very useful.

1. 'Information' is uncountable: no plural -s, singular verb.

Q24 [Applied · correction] Rewrite to remove the unclear pronoun: 'When Tom met Ravi, he was nervous.'

Answer: Example: 'Tom was nervous when he met Ravi.'

1. Make it clear which noun the pronoun refers to.

Q25 [Applied · correction] Correct: 'She did good in the test and feels well about it.'

Answer: She did well in the test and feels good about it.

1. 'did' needs the adverb 'well'; 'feels' is a linking verb, so the adjective 'good' describes 'she'.

Q26 [Advanced · editing] Find and correct three part-of-speech errors: 'Although she was tired, she worked quick and finished an useful report, and her manager was real pleased.'

Answer: quick -> quickly; an useful -> a useful; real -> really.

1. Adverb needed for 'worked'; 'a' before the 'you' sound; adverb needed to describe the adjective 'pleased'.

Marking scheme: Assignment 1: parts-of-speech detective (individual)

- Labelling accuracy (minus 1 per three errors, minimum 0): 8 marks
- Two correct change-of-job examples: 4 marks
- Three corrections with correct explanations: 6 marks
- Neat presentation: 2 marks (total 20)

Marking scheme: Assignment 2: write and analyse (individual)

- Accurate use of adjectives and adverbs: 4 marks
- Correct subordinating conjunctions: 2 marks
- Correct stress marking (if used): 2 marks
- Partner check: errors found and corrected: 4 marks (total 12)