Understanding the Eight Parts of Speech

Student workbook: attempt every question before looking at the solutions manual.

O1	Name the eight parts of speech and say what job each one does.
O2	Find the parts of speech in real sentences, using simple questions.
O3	Explain how one word can change its job, and sometimes its pronunciation.
O4	Avoid the most common mistakes with parts of speech.

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.

Q02 [Foundational · multiple choice]

Which part of speech names a person, place, thing or idea? (a) verb (b) noun (c) adverb (d) conjunction

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.

Q04 [Core · true/false]

True or false: 'happiness' cannot be a noun because you cannot touch it.

Q05 [Core · short answer]

What is the difference between a preposition and a conjunction?

Q06 [Applied · conceptual]

Why do modern grammars often add 'determiners' as a ninth word class?

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

Q07 [Foundational · identification]

Find the verb: 'The children laughed loudly.'

Q08 [Foundational · identification]

Find the adjective: 'A tall woman opened the door.'

Q09 [Core · identification]

Find the adverb and the word it describes: 'The train arrived very late.'

Q10 [Core · identification]

Find the preposition and its object: 'We waited under the bridge.'

Q11 [Applied · analysis]

Label every word: 'Oh no, the old printer has stopped again.'

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.'

Q13 [Advanced · writing]

Write one sentence that contains all eight parts of speech, and label each.

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'?

Q15 [Core · identification]

What part of speech is 'like' in (a) 'I like rice' and (b) 'It sounds like rain'?

Q16 [Core · pronunciation]

Mark the stressed syllable: (a) 'The shop gave me a refund.' (b) 'They will refund the money.'

Q17 [Core · multiple choice]

In 'Please record the meeting', how is 'record' pronounced? (a) REcord (b) reCORD

Q18 [Applied · writing]

Write two sentences using 'present', first as a noun and then as a verb, and mark the stress.

Q19 [Advanced · analysis]

Explain why 'Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana' is a famous example in grammar.

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

Q20 [Foundational · correction]

Correct: 'He drives very careful.'

Q21 [Foundational · true/false]

True or false: every word ending in -ly is an adverb.

Q22 [Core · correction]

Correct: 'Me and him went to the market.'

Q23 [Core · correction]

Correct: 'The informations you gave were very useful.'

Q24 [Applied · correction]

Rewrite to remove the unclear pronoun: 'When Tom met Ravi, he was nervous.'

Q25 [Applied · correction]

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

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.'

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

Choose a short paragraph (about 80 words) from a newspaper, website or school book.

1. Label every word with its part of speech (O1, O2).
2. Find two words that could do a different job in another sentence and write those sentences (O3).
3. Find or create three common mistakes and correct them with an explanation (O4).

Assignment 2: write and analyse (individual)

Write a 120-word description of your street or a place you know well.

1. Use at least five adjectives and five adverbs, accurately (O1, O2).
2. Include at least two subordinating conjunctions (O2).
3. Underline the stressed syllable of any stress-shift word you use (O3).
4. Swap with a partner and check each other's work for the mistakes listed in section O4.