UNDERSTANDING PARTS OF SPEECH: Nouns

A noun is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea.
A common noun names any person, place, thing, or idea.
A proper noun names a specific person, place, thing, or idea.

EXAMPLES:
Common Nouns: student, forest, pencil, confusion
Proper Nouns: Howard, Everglades, Statue of Liberty

A. First underline all the nouns in the following sentences. Then write CN above each common noun and PN above each proper noun.

1. Emily was training herself to become a spy.
2. The teenager anxiously prepared to complete her first mission.
3. Emily took off her shoes and tiptoed across the carpet.
4. The young spy quietly opened the door and peeked into the bedroom.
5. “Margo isn’t doing her homework!” Emily yelled to her mother.
6. “I hate sneakiness!” Margo shouted at her sister.

B. Rewrite each sentence. Replace the boldface common noun with a specific proper noun. The first sentence has been done for you.

1. The seashore is my favorite vacation spot.
   Waikiki Beach is my favorite vacation spot.
2. The teacher carefully explained the rules.
3. Passengers were upset when the airline canceled flights.
4. The store offered a refund to every unhappy customer.

CHALLENGE: Select one of the proper nouns from Part B. On the back of this sheet, write three sentences telling about that person, place, or thing. For example, you might write three sentences about Waikiki Beach. Circle each noun you use.
Verbs are words that express an action or a state of being. Action verbs (run, talked, went) tell what people do. Other verbs (is, am, are) express a state of being.

A. Add a verb to complete each sentence. Then, on the line before the sentence, tell what the verb expresses. Write A for action or S for state of being.

1. _____ Many people ______________ the taste of chocolate.
2. _____ Montezuma, a ruler of the ancient Aztecs, ________________ 50 cups of hot chocolate a day.
3. _____ Hot chocolate _________________ still a favorite drink.
4. _____ Chocolate, however, _________________ quite high in calories.
5. _____ Do you _________________ chocolate or vanilla?

Most verbs change form to show the time something is happening. The form of a verb shows whether something is happening now, has happened in the past, or will happen in the future.

EXAMPLES: The car needs a tune-up. (present)
            The car needed a tune-up last month. (past)
            The car will need a tune-up in three months. (future)

B. The action in the following paragraph takes place in the present. First underline each verb. Then rewrite the paragraph on the back of this sheet. Replace each present-tense verb with a past-tense verb. The first one has been done for you.

In my grandma’s living room __________ a portrait of Elvis Presley on black velvet. Everyone in the family voices an opinion about the picture. Uncle Leo calls it hideous. Aunt Sally groans when she looks at it. When I look at the picture, I feel happy. I believe it is the most beautiful thing in Grandma’s house.
**UNDERSTANDING PARTS OF SPEECH: Verb Phrases**

One or more helping verbs are often used along with the main verb in a sentence. Together, the helping verb or verbs and main verb make up a verb phrase. A helping verb can show time or add meaning to the main verb.

**EXAMPLES:**

The mechanic will check the tires before we leave.

The mechanic should check the fluid levels too.

The mechanic has been working for an hour.

Sometimes the words in verb phrases are separated by other words.

**EXAMPLES:**

You should not pay your bill until the work is completed.

I had never seen such a big repair bill!

Find the complete verb phrase in each sentence. Write it on the line. *Hint: The number in parentheses tells how many words are in the verb phrase.*

1. During World War II, a homing pigeon named Beachcomber would carry messages across enemy lines. (2) ____________________

2. In all, 32 homing pigeons were used in the war. (2) ____________________

3. Homing pigeons have been used for service and for sport. (3) ____________________

4. Their owners will often release them far from home. (2) ____________________

5. The birds will cleverly find their way across many miles. (2) ____________________

6. A racing pigeon must reach its home loft as quickly as possible. (2) ____________________

7. That weary bird over there must have been flying all day! (4) ____________________

**CHALLENGE:** On the back of this sheet, write three sentences about a race or contest. Use a verb phrase in each sentence. Circle the main verb and underline the helping verb in each verb phrase.
UNDERSTANDING PARTS OF SPEECH: IRREGULAR VERB FORMS

Add -ed or -d to form the past tense of a regular verb. To form the past tense of an irregular verb, you will usually change the spelling.

EXAMPLES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regular Verb:</th>
<th>Irregular Verb:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>look</td>
<td>looked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sing</td>
<td>sang</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Read the irregular past-tense verb forms in the box. Then complete the puzzle by matching each one to a present-tense form listed as a clue.

ACROSS
1. catch
2. swim
5. run
6. grow
7. tear

DOWN
1. sent
2. sink
3. froze
4. send

ran, swam, caught, grew, froze

tore

B. Fill in each blank with the past-tense form of the verb in parentheses. The verb you write should rhyme with the words in italics. The first one has been done for you.

1. With a bong and a clang, the steeple bell (ring) ____________.

2. The baby eagle grew and grew; then from its nest it bravely (fly) ________________.

3. Into the shady, peaceful cove, my little boat I slowly (drive) ____________.

4. The list of promises each candidate (write) ____________, should help us decide just how to vote.

CHALLENGE: On the back of this sheet, write five sentences using the past-tense form of the following verbs: steal, catch, dive, do, buy.
UNDERSTANDING PARTS OF SPEECH: INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

Indefinite pronouns can cause writers problems. These pronouns include words like all, each, either, few, and none. As with other pronouns, writers must make sure that every indefinite pronoun agrees with its verb.

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>MAY BE SINGULAR OR PLURAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>either</td>
<td>any</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neither</td>
<td>more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anyone</td>
<td>some</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no one</td>
<td>all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>each</td>
<td>most</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Read each sentence. Then circle the indefinite pronoun and underline its verb. Finally, write S if the pronoun is singular or P if it is plural. The first one has been done for you.

1. P All of the party guests have been given a list of items for the scavenger hunt.

2. _____ Each of the party guests has been given a list of items for the scavenger hunt.

3. _____ Everybody in the group is expected to participate.

4. _____ Some of the guests don’t want to join the hunt.

5. _____ A few feel silly going door to door asking for unusual objects.

6. _____ Most think it sounds like great fun!

7. _____ I’ll bet that nobody will be able to find a wooden clothespin.

B. Complete the two sentences below. Make sure to use a verb that agrees with the boldface indefinite pronoun.

1. All of the job applicants ____________________________________________.

2. Both Hector and Neil ______________________________________________.

CHALLENGE: Indefinite pronouns are often the subject of a sentence. In fact, one indefinite pronoun and one verb can make a complete sentence!


On the back of this sheet, write three two-word sentences containing an indefinite pronoun and a verb.
UNDERSTANDING PARTS OF SPEECH: SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

A verb must agree with its subject. A single subject requires a single verb, and a plural subject takes a plural verb.

EXAMPLES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>PLURAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The girl is playing tennis.</td>
<td>The girls are playing tennis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He has been to the court.</td>
<td>They have been to the court.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jolie likes the show.</td>
<td>Jolie and Todd like the show.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The team goes to meets.</td>
<td>The teams go to meets.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Use a verb from the box or a verb of your own to correctly complete each sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>think</th>
<th>enjoys</th>
<th>became</th>
<th>are</th>
<th>eat</th>
<th>drink</th>
<th>take</th>
<th>time</th>
<th>rides</th>
<th>believe</th>
<th>consume</th>
<th>pace</th>
<th>is</th>
<th>does</th>
<th>plays</th>
<th>run</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. Gloria Jackson ________________ ball each Saturday morning.
2. Marilyn and Sandra ________________ two miles after school.
3. The team ________________ the bus to the baseball game.
4. Many athletes ________________ that concentration is hard to master.

B. First, circle the agreement error in each sentence. Then rewrite each sentence correctly on the line.

1. Percy play in the basketball tournament tomorrow.
   ________________________________________________________________________

2. When does the teams celebrate their victories?
   ________________________________________________________________________

3. Some people likes to play sports, and others prefer to watch.
   ________________________________________________________________________

4. To build strength, Marlene use weights in her training.
   ________________________________________________________________________

CHALLENGE: On the back of this sheet, write four sentences about a sport that you enjoy watching or playing. Underline the subject and circle the verb in each sentence.
UNDERSTANDING PARTS OF SPEECH: CHOOSING APPROPRIATE ADJECTIVES

Writers use adjectives to make their writing more interesting. Selecting appropriate adjectives creates a stronger, clearer picture for the reader.

A. Circle the stronger adjective in each sentence.

1. A (large / huge) dinosaur discovered in South Dakota was named “Sue.”
2. (Rocky / Hard) material surrounded the fossilized bones.
3. Fossil hunters were excited about their (interesting / fascinating) find.
4. Sue was a carnivorous dinosaur with very (adequate / strong) teeth.
5. Sue’s (big / massive) bones weighed more than 3,000 pounds.
6. Sue’s (strong / powerful) arms were about the length of human arms.
7. Many students have the (fine / golden) opportunity to see Sue.
8. Sue is now a (good / magnificent) exhibit in a big museum.
9. You can also see (some / colorful) pictures of Sue on the Internet.

B. Add -y, -ly, -ful, -ous, or -ive on the line to complete the boldface adjectives. You will need to drop a final e in one word before adding the suffix.

1. Archeologists work careful____ so they don’t destroy a specimen.
2. Today, Sue’s mass____ skeleton stands in the Field Museum.
3. The fame____ dinosaur from South Dakota is nearly 45 feet long.
4. The master____ reconstruction of the dinosaur took several years to complete.

CHALLENGE: On the back of this sheet, write two sentences about dinosaurs. Use at least one strong adjective in each sentence.
UNDERSTANDING PARTS OF SPEECH: Adverbs

Adverbs describe verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. Writers use adverbs to give more information about an action. Sometimes a group of words serves as an adverb. Adverbs answer these questions:

EXAMPLES: How? When? Where? To what degree?
quickly today everywhere totally

A. Read the following sentence. Then use an adverb to answer each question.

Today the raft nearly capsized as it swiftly approached the rapids.

1. How did the raft move? _________________________________
2. When did the rafting take place? _________________________________
3. To what degree did the raft capsize? _________________________________

B. Circle the adverb in each sentence. Then underline the verb each adverb describes. Next, tell whether the adverb answers the question how, when, where, or to what degree.

1. When the storm broke, the guide rowed furiously. ___________________
2. The rain completely drenched her. ___________________
3. We rafted everywhere we could maneuver our craft. ___________________
4. Yesterday Felix took his first whitewater trip. ___________________

C. Add an adverb to complete each of the following sentences. Notice the how, when, or where clue given in parentheses.

1. (when) __________________ Felix and Anna ate a picnic lunch before they went rafting.
2. There were ants (where) __________________, crawling on the picnic food.
3. Felix and Anna ate (how) __________________ so they could start their rafting trip.
4. They were (to what degree) __________________ eager to begin their river adventure.

CHALLENGE: On the back of this sheet write three sentences about a recreational activity you enjoy. Use at least one adverb in each sentence. Remember that adverbs tell how, when, where, or to what degree.
UNDERSTANDING PARTS OF SPEECH: PREPOSITIONS

A preposition shows the relationship of a noun or pronoun to another word in the sentence. Prepositions can show direction, position, time, or cause.

EXAMPLES: above the house (direction)    in the street (position)
          during the storm (time)          sick with fear (cause)

A. Write the preposition from the box that best completes each sentence.

| against | 1. Arnie looked ____________ at the stormy sky. |
| under   | 2. The rain beat ____________ the windows.       |
| up      | 3. When the lights went ____________, the room was dark. |
| out     | 4. A lightning bolt hit ____________ the house. |
| near    | 5. Arnie snuggled ____________ the blankets.    |

A prepositional phrase always begins with a preposition. It ends with a noun or pronoun called the objective of the preposition.

EXAMPLE: The storm came before we went to school.

B. Underline the prepositional phrase in each sentence below. Then decide whether the prepositional phrase indicates direction, position, time, or cause. Write your choice on the line.

1. The hurricane demolished almost every house on the beach. ____________
2. Marla and Oscar went down to the storm cellar. ____________
3. Evacuation centers were set up during the hurricane. ____________
4. After the storm, neighbors helped each other rebuild. ____________
5. One region in the Midwest is called the Tornado Belt. ____________
6. The damage from high winds can be devastating. ____________

CHALLENGE: On the back of this sheet, write a four-sentence paragraph about a big storm. Include at least one preposition in each sentence.
UNDERSTANDING PARTS OF SPEECH: INTERJECTIONS

Interjections are words used to express emotion. A strong interjection is followed by an exclamation point. A mild interjection is followed by a comma.

EXAMPLES:  Wow! What a great concert.
            Oh, we’ll go another time.

A. Put either a comma or an exclamation point on the line after each interjection.
   1. Super___ We got the tickets before they sold out.
   2. Oh___ you mean we have to sit in the balcony?
   3. Hooray___ Everyone in the group can go.
   4. Well___ at least the concert wasn’t canceled.

B. Complete each sentence with an appropriate interjection.
   1. ____________________, I sure wish I could go to the concert.
   2. ____________________! That loud music hurts my ears.
   3. ____________________! I’m not ready to go yet.
   4. ____________________, that show was way too long.

C. Rewrite the following sentences, using the correct punctuation after each interjection.
   1. My goodness I didn’t expect to have so much fun.

   _______________________________________________________

   2. Hey You’re sitting in my seat.

   _______________________________________________________

   3. Whew We barely made it to the show on time.

   _______________________________________________________

   4. Well maybe we should have left earlier.

   _______________________________________________________

CHALLENGE: On the back of this sheet, write two sentences about a musical event. In one sentence use a strong interjection. In the other use a mild interjection. Remember to punctuate correctly.