Identifying Parts Of Speech

Once you have learned about nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs, you will be able to identify them in sentences and tell them apart from each other. Some words can be used as more than one part of speech. This is particularly true of words that can be both nouns and verbs. Pay attention to how a word is used in a sentence before you decide if it is a noun, verb, adverb or adjective.

For example, in the sentence below, book is used as a verb.

Will you book us a court for 3 pm?

But in the following sentence, book is a noun.

I need to look for my math book.

Remember that verbs show action or state of being.

Nouns identify a person, place or thing. There are common nouns and proper nouns. Proper nouns are names of people, places or events, which are always capitalized.

Uncle Joe lives in San Francisco.

Adjectives and adverbs describe other words. Adjectives describe nouns or pronouns. Adverbs describe verbs, adjectives and other adverbs. Many adjectives can be made into adverbs by adding an –ly ending.

His total bowling score was 145. (Total is an adjective.)

That is totally awesome! (Totally is an adverb.)
Identifying Parts Of Speech Exercises

1. A noun
   a. is a person, place or thing.
   b. shows action or state of being.
   c. describes a noun or pronoun.
   d. describes a verb, adjective, or adverb.

2. An adverb
   a. is a person, place or thing.
   b. shows action or state of being.
   c. describes a noun or pronoun.
   d. describes a verb, adjective, or adverb.

3. A verb
   a. is a person, place or thing.
   b. shows action or state of being.
   c. describes a noun or pronoun.
   d. describes a verb, adjective, or adverb.

4. An adjective
   a. is a person, place or thing.
   b. shows action or state of being.
   c. describes a noun or pronoun.
   d. describes a verb, adjective, or adverb.

5-15. Below each sentence, write the name of the underlined part of speech.

5. The **hungry** cat scratched at the back door.

6. We **spend** the summer months at the beach.
7. I left my backpack in the car this morning.

8. When it rains, I like to go to the movies.

9. He sat by the window and watched the rain.

10. I could hardly hear them speaking.

11. My cat prefers dry food.

12. He is always watching a football game.

13. I got a new football for my birthday.

14. I learned a lot about grammar in third grade.

15. I usually don’t like to go shopping.
Identifying Parts Of Speech Answers

1. a
2. d
3. b
4. c
5. adjective
6. verb
7. noun
8. verb
9. noun
10. adverb
11. adjective
12. adjective
13. noun
14. adjective
15. adverb