

Literacy Skills

The 8 parts of language

Whether you are writing essays, reports, or in later life, your CV, learning the eight parts of language on this page will serve you well.

NOUN A noun is the word we use to identify a person, place, object or idea. Common nouns refer to any of the above, whereas proper nouns refer to any particular person, place, object or idea.

	Common Nouns	Proper Nouns
OUR EXAMPLES:	boy, shop, table, dream	Sally, London, Channel Tunnel

YOUR EXAMPLES: _____

PRONOUN A pronoun is a word used in the place of one or more nouns.

OUR EXAMPLES: *As soon as **she** returned from holiday, Anne telephoned her father and told **him** about the accident.*

YOUR EXAMPLE: _____

ADJECTIVE An adjective qualifies a noun or pronoun. It describes size, colour, how many, which one, whose, or what kind.

OUR EXAMPLES: *An **old** man shouted from an **upper** window of the **terraced** house.*

YOUR EXAMPLE: _____

VERB A Verb is a word which expresses action or state of being. The tense of the verb shows the **time** of that action or state.

OUR EXAMPLES: *He **ran** to the shops. (Past) I **feel** the cold. (Present)
We **will leave** next week. (Future)*

YOUR EXAMPLE: _____

ADVERB An adverb is used to modify a verb, an adjective or another adverb. It expresses in what manner, when, where, and how much.

OUR EXAMPLES: *The man spoke **loudly**. (Modifies the verb **spoke**)
He was **very** annoyed. (Modifies the adjective **annoyed**)
He spoke **too** quickly. (Modifies the adverb **quickly**)*

PREPOSITION A preposition shows the relationship between a noun or pronoun and some other word in a sentence, making the meaning clear.

OUR EXAMPLES: *She waited **beside** the lift. The cow jumped **over** the moon.*

CONJUNCTION Conjunctions (or connectives) join words or groups of words.

OUR EXAMPLES: *Work with care **and** do not worry. **Although** it was dark, we continued our search.*

INTERJECTION Interjections are used to express feeling and emotion. They are often identified by the use of an exclamation mark.

OUR EXAMPLES: ***Help!** I'm slipping. But then, **alas**, he fell into the pond.*