



Reading On The Move

Break It Down

Parts of Speech: Nouns, Pronouns, and Adjectives

When you look up a word in the dictionary, you will see a small letter next to the meaning, which tells you the word's **part of speech**. There are four (4) common parts of speech: noun, verb, adjective, and adverb. In this lesson, you will be exploring nouns, pronouns, and adjectives.

Part of Speech	Definition	Examples
noun (n)	a person, place, thing, or idea	Mrs. Jones chair school love
adjective (adj.)	word that describes a noun or tells you more about it	small ugly delicious good



Let's take a look at a page from a dictionary.

The word *puma* is a **noun**.

pulley ▶ punch

runners.] **6** [an informal use] to perform; do [Don't ever *pull* a stunt like that again!]
noun the act of pulling [Give the door a *pull*.]
 —**pull for** [an informal use] to hope for the success of [We're *pulling for* the home team.]
 —**pull off** [an informal use] to manage to do [The thief *pulled off* another robbery.] —**pull oneself together** to gather one's self-control.
 —**pull over** to drive a car to the curb. —**pull through** [an informal use] to get safely through an illness or trouble [In spite of her injuries, she will *pull through*.] —**pull up** **1** to bring or come to a stop [She *pulled up* at the red light.] **2** to move ahead [He *pulled up* to the intersection.]
pull • **verb** pulled, pulling • **noun**, plural pulls

pulley (pʊl'ē) **noun** a small wheel that has a groove in the rim in which a rope or belt moves. A pulley may be used to lift an object fastened to one end of the rope by pulling down on the other end. A pulley is a simple machine.
pulley • **noun**, plural pulleys



pulley

pullover (pʊl'ō vər) **noun** a shirt or sweater that is put on or taken off by being pulled over the head.
pull-o-ver • **noun**, plural pullovers

pulp (pʌlp) **noun** **1** the soft, juicy part of a fruit. **2** the soft, center part of a tooth. It contains nerves and blood vessels. **3** ground-up wood and other matter, mixed into a soft, wet mass from which paper is made.

pulpit (pʊl'pɪt or pʌl'pɪt) **noun** a platform in a church on which a clergyman stands to give

pulpy (pʌl'pē) **adjective** of or like pulp [a *pulpy* mass] —Look for the WORD CHOICES box at the entry **soft**.
pulp-y • **adjective** pulpier, pulpiest

pulsate (pʌl'sat) **verb** to beat or throbb in a regular rhythm [Your heart *pulsates* more slowly when you sleep.]
pul-sate • **verb** pulsated, pulsating

pulse (pʌls) **noun** **1** the regular beating in the

arteries that is caused by the movements of the heart in pumping the blood. **2** any regular beat [the *pulse* of the drums].
pulse • **noun**, plural for sense **1** only pulses

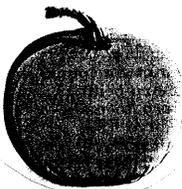
pulverize (pʌl'vər ɪz) **verb** to crush or grind into a powder [He *pulverized* the stone with a sledgehammer.]

puma (pyʊə'mə or pʊə'mə) **noun** another name for cougar.
pu-ma • **noun**, plural pumas

verb **1** to raise, move, or force with a pump [She *pumped* water from the well. He *pumped* air into the tire.] **2** to empty with a pump [They *pumped* out the flooded basement.] **3** to fill with a gas [The mechanic *pumped* up the flat tire.] **4** to move with an action like a pump [The heart *pumps* blood.]
pump • **noun**, plural pumps
 • **verb** pumped, pumping

pumpnickel (pʌm'pər nɪk'əl) **noun** a coarse, dark kind of rye bread.
pump-er-nick-el • **noun**

pumpkin (pʌm'kɪn or pʌmp'kɪn) **noun** a large, round orange fruit that grows on a vine. The pulp is used as a filling for pies.
pump-kin • **noun**, plural pumpkins



pumpkin

pun (pʌn) **noun** the humorous use of words that have the same sound but have different meanings [The short story title "A Dog's Tale" has a *pun* in it.]
verb to make a pun or puns.
pun • **noun**, plural puns • **verb** punned, punning

punch¹ (pʌntʃ) **noun** a tool for making holes in something or one for cutting or stamping designs on a surface.
verb to make holes in or designs on with a punch [The train conductor *punched* our tickets.]
punch • **noun** • **verb** punched, punching

punch² (pʌntʃ) **noun** a hard blow with the fist.
verb **1** to hit with the fist. **2** to herd or drive cattle.

The word *pulpy* is an **adjective**.

Use the dictionary page above to answer these questions.

1. What part of speech is the word **pullover**? _____
2. What part of speech is the word **pulverize**? _____

Let's take a closer look at nouns.

Nouns: person, place, thing, or idea

Example: Tracey walked to the store. (*Tracey* is a noun because she is a person.)

I went to Florida. (*Florida* is a noun because it is a place.)

Please sit on the bench. (*Bench* is a noun because it is a thing.)

Love is in the air. (*Love* is a noun because it is an idea.)

Now, you try! Underline the noun(s) in each sentence below. There may be more than one noun in each sentence.

3. Please set the table.
4. I hate running.
5. My sister lives in Texas.
6. That book is mine.
7. Mr. Mendoza teaches math.

Proper nouns, such as the names of people and specific places, are always **capitalized**. That means they begin with a capital letter. The beginning of every sentence must also be capitalized.

Example: ***Rose lives in Michigan.*** (***Rose*** is a proper noun as well as the first letter of the sentence, so it must be capitalized.)

Michigan is the name of a state, which is a specific place, so it also must be capitalized.)

The chickens belong to Mr. Barber. (***The*** is not a proper noun, but it begins the sentence, so it must be capitalized. ***Mr. Barber*** is a proper noun because it is the name of a person, so it must be capitalized.)

Let's compare these two sentences:

That bag belongs to Silvia.

That bag belongs to that woman.

Notice that "Silvia" is capitalized because it is the specific name of a person, making it a proper noun. But "that woman" is not a proper noun, so it does not need to be capitalized.

Here is another example:

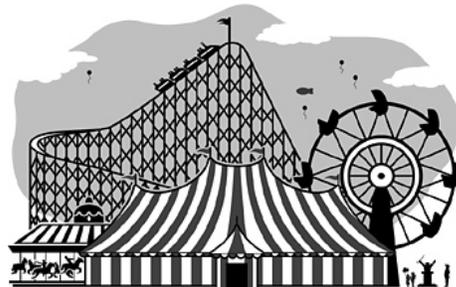
That's my Uncle Robert.

That's my uncle.

"Uncle Robert" is a proper noun, so it must be capitalized. But "uncle" does not refer to a specific uncle, so it is not capitalized.

Read the paragraph below. Underline each proper noun and other words that need to be capitalized.

8. my favorite childhood memory is of a family vacation in california. my mom, brother, and i loaded up into our beat-up, old station wagon and drove from mississippi to california to visit my aunt mary. aunt mary was my favorite aunt because she spoiled my brother and me with toys and candy. this vacation was by far my favorite because aunt mary took us to disney world! i remember my brother and mother were afraid to ride the roller coasters. aunt mary loved roller coasters so she took me on every last one in the park.



Pronouns take the place of nouns. Some common pronouns include: *he, she, I, you, they, we, it, and which.*

He
Example: ~~*Rubin*~~ *walked home.*
He *walked home.*

The noun *Rubin* can be replaced with the pronoun *He*.

It
~~*This bag*~~ *is heavy.*
It *is heavy.*

The noun *bag* can be replaced with the pronoun *It*.

They
~~*Tom and Elizabeth*~~ *are going to the store.*
They *are going to the store.*

They replaces the nouns *Tom* and *Elizabeth*.

You try! Rewrite each sentence below by replacing the noun with a pronoun.

9. Juan ran. _____

10. Bobby and I ate pizza. _____

11. Bill and Jorge worked late. _____

12. Olivia planted flowers. _____

13. Martin picked corn. _____

Possessive pronouns are pronouns that show ownership. These pronouns include: *mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, and theirs*.

Example: *I think your shoe is untied.*

The possessive pronoun, *your*, tells whose shoe is untied.

His voice is very loud.

The possessive pronoun, *his*, tells whose voice is loud.

The boys don't like it when I borrow their tools.

The possessive pronoun, *their*, tells whose tools.

Now, you try! Underline the possessive pronoun in each sentence.

14. Our project won first place.
15. The soccer ball is mine.
16. Pedro needs his glasses in order to see.
17. I like your new haircut.
18. Margaret is resting in her bedroom.

Fill in an appropriate possessive pronoun in each sentence below.

19. The black running shoes are _____.
20. This slice of cake is _____.
21. _____ pen is blue.
22. The girls hate it when I eat _____ snacks.
23. Did you see _____ test score?

Adjectives describe nouns. These words tell how someone or something looks, feels, sounds, smells, or tastes.

Example: *He helped the elderly woman cross the street.*

The adjective, *elderly*, describes the woman.

That dinner was delicious!

The adjective, *delicious*, describes the dinner.

I hope you learned a valuable lesson.

The adjective, *valuable*, describes the lesson.

Give it a try! Circle the adjective in the sentences below.

24. Did you see that yellow motorcycle?
25. This box is heavy.
26. I couldn't take my eyes off that beautiful woman.
27. I dream of owning that expensive watch.
28. She wore her fancy dress.
29. The comedian was funny.
30. That perfume was stinky.
31. I sat on the wet ground.

Proper adjectives come from proper nouns. To review, a proper noun is a specific person, place, or thing. Let's explore proper adjectives some more.

Example: *I was born in Mexico, therefore, I am Mexican.*

↑
Mexico is a
specific place, so it
is a proper noun.

↑
Mexican comes
from the proper
noun, Mexico, so
it is a proper
adjective.

Match each proper noun with the correct proper adjective. The first one is done for you.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 32. England | Shakespearian |
| 33. Italy | Italian |
| 34. Mars | Chinese |
| 35. Queen Elizabeth | English |
| 36. Switzerland | Martian |
| 37. America | Elizabethan |
| 38. Peru | French |
| 39. France | Swiss |
| 40. Shakespeare | Peruvian |
| 41. China | American |

Adjectives can also be used to **compare** two people or things. There are a few rules to remember when writing the **comparative form of adjectives**:

- ✓ Usually, if the adjective is one syllable that does not end in a –y, you add an –er to the end of the adjective to create the comparative form.

For example: *smart* → *smarter*

fast → *faster*

- ✓ If the adjective is one or two syllables and ends in a –y, drop the –y and add an –ier.

For example: *pretty* → *prettier*

funny → *funnier*

- ✓ If the adjective ends in a consonant-vowel-consonant pattern, repeat the second consonant before you add the –er.

For example: *wet* → *wetter*

(w is a consonant, e is a vowel, t is a consonant, making the consonant-vowel-consonant pattern)

hot → *hotter*

- ✓ If the adjective is three syllables or more, or ends in –ful, use the words more or less before the adjective and do not add an –er to the end.

For example: *beautiful* → *more beautiful*

amazing → *less amazing*

Here are a few exceptions to the rules you just learned. The adjectives below do not follow the rules of comparative form. The comparative form of these words is something you must remember.

good → *better* *bad* → *worse* *far* → *farther*

Let's practice using the comparative form of adjectives. Write the comparative form of each adjective below.

42. ugly → _____

43. dirty → _____

44. silly → _____

45. thin → _____

46. far → _____

47. cheerful → _____

48. angry → _____

49. excited → _____

50. crazy → _____

51. slow → _____

Write a sentence using the comparative form of each word below.

52. (noisy) _____

53. (bad) _____

54. (bright) _____

➔ Answer Key

1. noun

2. verb

3. Please set the table.

4. I hate running.

8. my favorite childhood memory is of a family vacation in california. my mom, brother, and i loaded up into our beat-up, old station wagon and drove from mississippi to california to visit my aunt mary. aunt mary was my favorite aunt because she spoiled my brother and me with toys and candy. this vacation was by far my favorite because aunt mary took us to disney world! i remember my brother and mother were afraid to ride the roller

5. My sister lives in Texas.

6. That book is mine.

7. Mr. Mendoza teaches math.

coasters. aunt mary loved roller coasters so she took me on every last one in the park.

- 9. He ran.
- 10. We ate pizza.
- 11. They worked late.
- 12. She planted flowers.
- 13. He picked corn.
- 14. Our project won first place.
- 15. The soccer ball is mine.
- 16. Pedro needs his glasses in order to see.
- 17. I like your new haircut.
- 18. Margaret is resting in her bedroom.
- 19. The black running shoes are his (or hers, mine, or yours).
- 20. This slice of cake is mine. (other acceptable answers are: yours, his, hers)
- 21. My pen is blue. (other acceptable answers are: your, his, her)
- 22. The girls hate it when I eat their snacks.
- 23. Did you see your test score? (or my)
- 24. Did you see that yellow motorcycle?
- 25. This box is heavy.
- 26. I couldn't take my eyes off that beautiful woman.
- 27. I dream of owning that expensive watch.
- 28. She wore her fancy dress.
- 29. The comedian was funny.
- 30. That perfume was stinky.
- 31. I sat on the wet ground.

- 32. England
- 33. Italy
- 34. Mars
- 35. Queen Elizabeth
- 36. Switzerland
- 37. America
- 38. Peru
- 39. France
- 40. Shakespeare
- 41. China
- Shakespearian
- Italian
- Chinese
- English
- Martian
- Elizabethan
- French
- Swiss
- Peruvian
- American

- 42. ugly → uglier
- 43. dirty → dirtier
- 44. silly → sillier
- 45. thin → thinner
- 46. far → farther
- 47. cheerful → more cheerful
- 48. angry → angrier
- 49. excited → more excited
- 50. crazy → crazier
- 51. slow → slower

Each sentence you wrote should have the comparative form of each adjective. The comparative form of each adjective is shown below.

- 52. (noisy) = noisier
- 53. (bad) = worse
- 54. (bright) = brighter