

ENGLISH GRAMMAR

LEARNING TO WRITE, RIGHT!!!

THE PARTS OF SPEECH

1. ADJECTIVES

- Describe or limit the meaning of nouns and pronouns
 - Answers one of three questions:
 - Which one?
 - What kind?
 - How many?
 - They usually precede the nouns they modify
- Example: “The laughing students threw wet snowballs at each other.”

2. ADVERBS

- Add to or modify meaning of verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs;
 - Answer one of three questions: How? When? Where?
- Usually end in ly
- May precede or follow the verbs they modify
- Example: “Yesterday the principal angrily scolded the students.”

3. ARTICLES

- Help define nouns
 - The article an precedes words that begin with a vowel (a,e,i,o,u – not long u)
 - The article a precedes words that begin with a consonant (except silent h)
- Examples: “Yesterday the principal angrily scolded a student..” “I lost an hour today.”

4. CONJUNCTIONS

- Connect words, phrases, and clauses within a sentence
 - Example: “The principal and the parents argued, but the student kept quiet.”

INTERJECTIONS

- Shows surprise or emotion
- Example – “Yes! Let’s do it!”
- Not acceptable in formal writing!!!!

NOUNS

- Name persons, places, things, ideas
- Two classes of nouns
 - **Common Nouns:** refer to nonspecific persons, places, things, or activities
 - **Proper Nouns:** name specific persons, places, or things, and always begin with a capital letter
- **Example:** “The principal and the parents argued about John’s behavior.”

PREPOSITIONS

- Show the relationship between a noun (or pronoun) and some other word in the sentence.
- Example: “According to school policy, the students must be supervised during school.”

PRONOUNS

- Take the place of nouns
 - Change form according to the noun they replace:
 - Person: I, you, he, she, it
 - Gender: male or female
 - Number: singular or plural
- Example: “This is the only time he could meet with me.”

VERBS

- Express action or state of being.
 - Form usually changes to reflect person and time
 - Agree with subject in person and number
- Example: “This is the first time we have evaluated all of the students.”

SENTENCE TYPES

- A sentence is a group of words that can stand on its own as a completed thought. Sentences have the following characteristics:
 - Begin with a capital letter and end with a period, question mark, or an exclamation point.
 - Always include at least one subject and its verb, although in some cases one or the other of these elements can be omitted – as long as its presence is clearly understood.
 - **Example:** “Don’t blame me!” (The subject you is understood.)
 - Can be classified according to structure or intention.

SIMPLE SENTENCE

- One independent clause with a subject and a verb
- Example: “Fish swim.”

COMPOUND SENTENCE

- Two or more independent clauses connected by a comma and a coordinating conjunction or by a semicolon.
- Example: “We expect Bob to sign, but we are not sure he will.”

COMPLEX

- Has one independent clause and at least one dependent clause.
- Example: “When you are finished the chart (dependent clause), bring it to my desk (independent clause).”

COMPOUND COMPLEX SENTENCE

- Has two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.
- Example: “He must agree (independent clause) because if he disagrees (dependent clause), we will lose everything (independent clause).”

INTENTION

- The purpose of the sentence.

DECLARATIVE SENTENCE

- Conveys information or make a factual statement.
- Example: “Ivanna Mhann is the top student in our class.”

INTERROGATIVE SENTENCE

- Asks a question.
- Example “Who is Ivanna Mhann?”

IMPERATIVE SENTENCE

- Issues a command.
- Example: “Go get Ivanna Mhann.”

EXCLAMATORY

- Declarative sentence stated with real emotion.
- Example: “We need Ivanna Mhann!”

STILL MORE ABOUT SENTENCES

YES, STILL MORE... ☺

EVERY SENTENCE HAS A SUBJECT

- The subject of a sentence is the person, object, or idea being described. Subjects are nouns, pronouns, or phrases used as nouns.
- To identify the simple subject, ask who or what is the sentence about:
 - Example: “Don went to the dentist.”
- The complete subject consists of the simple subject and all the other words that describe it:
 - Example: “Don, the anxious patient, went to his dentist.

EVERY SENTENCE HAS A VERB

- The verb (or predicate) tells what the subject did, had, or was. Verbs can express:
 - **Physical Action** – “John slammed the door.”
 - **Invisible action** – “She feared that her mother had left her.
 - **Possession** – “I have a problem with physics.”
 - **State of Being** – “He seems strong enough.”
- **Note:** Predicates are verbs and the words used to explain the action or condition.

VERB FORMS

- Verbs can their forms to indicate time distinctions or tense. These are six tenses: present, past, future, present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect. All verb tenses are derived from the three principal parts of the verb: the present, the past, and the present prefect (or past participle).
- **Regular Verbs:** Regular verbs form the past and the past participle by the addition of suffixes, -ed, -d, -t

REGULAR VERBS EXAMPLES

Tense	To Cough	To Believe
Present	I cough	I believe
Past	I coughed	I believed
Future	I will cough	I will believe
Present perfect	I have coughed	I have believed
Past perfect	I had coughed	I had believed
Future perfect	I will have coughed	I will have believed

- **Irregular Verbs** – Many of the verbs we use frequently do not have a regular pattern for changing verb forms. These are called irregular verbs.

Tense	To Write	To See
Present	I write	I see
Past	I wrote	I saw
Future	I will write	I will see
Present perfect	I have written	I have seen
Past perfect	I had written	I had seen
Future perfect	I will have written	I will have seen

