

Los Medanos College
Center for Academic Support
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English grammar recognizes **eight parts of speech: noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, conjunction, and interjection.** Many words can function as more than one part of speech, depending on its use in a sentence (*The Bedford Handbook for Writers, 4th ed.*).

NOUN

Names a person, place, thing, or idea.

PRONOUN

Substitutes for a noun.

VERB

A **HELPING VERB** comes before a main verb.

Modals: can, could, may, might, must, shall, should, will would, ought to

Forms of *be*: be, am, is, are, was, were, being, been.

Forms of *have*: have, has, had

Forms of *do*: do, does, did

Note: The forms of *be*, *have* and *do* may also function as main verbs.

A **MAIN VERB** asserts action, being, or state of being.

There are eight forms of the highly irregular verb *be*: **be, am, is, are, was, were, being, been.**

ADVERB

Modifies a verb, adjective, or adverb, usually answering one of these questions:

When? Where? Why? How?

Under what conditions?

To What degree?

PREPOSITION

Shows the relationship between the noun or pronoun that follows it and another word in the sentence. Prepositional phrases usually function as adjectives or adverbs.

Common prepositions: about, above, across, after, against, along, among, around, as, at, before, behind, below, beside, besides, between, beyond, but, by, concerning, considering, despite, down, during, except, for, from, in, inside, into, like, near, next, next to, of, off, on, onto, opposite, out, outside, over, past, plus, regarding, respecting, round, since, than, through, throughout, till, to, toward, under, underneath, unlike, until, unto, up, upon, with, without.

ADJECTIVE

Modifies a noun or pronoun, usually answering one of these questions:

Which one?

What kind of?

How many?

The articles *a*, *an* and *the* are also adjectives.

INTERJECTIONS

 Express surprise or emotion. **WOW! OH! HEY! HOORAY!**

CONJUNCTION

Joins words, phrases, or clauses and indicates the relationship between joined elements.
