

Writing Mechanics & Grammar: Parts of Speech Level: High School

To put sentences together properly, you need to know the parts of speech and what they do in a sentence. Once you know what each part of speech does and how each part works together, you can write creative and interesting sentences. Remember what the eight parts of speech do:

- **NOUN:** names a person, place, thing, idea, or way of existing
- **VERB:** describes what you do, how you are, or how you feel
- **ADJECTIVE:** tells you what a noun is like
- **ADVERB:** describes a verb and the way the action happens
- **PRONOUN:** stands in the place of a noun and acts like a noun
- **CONJUNCTION:** joins together two words, phrases, or clauses
- **PREPOSITION:** can show location or position; has a noun as its object
- **INTERJECTION:** expresses sudden emotion in an exclamatory word

List the part of speech of the underlined word in each sentence.

1. _____ She played soccer while I cheered wildly in the stands.
2. _____ Wow! You look really great with that new haircut!
3. _____ Those librarians find the most interesting information.
4. _____ He briskly walked the frisky dog in the park.
5. _____ Each of us has agreed that we all love the new house.

Circle the preposition that works best in these prepositional phrases:

1. She's been gone (for / since) Monday, but will arrive (in / at) one hour.
2. The cat ran happily (along / toward) me when I opened the can of food.
3. I strolled (until / amidst) the crowd until we got (beyond / during) the city limits.
4. Look on the floor (onto / beneath) the table, because the ball rolled (under / before) it.

5. He squirmed (during / amongst) the concert, so I sent him to sit outside.

Circle the correct adverbs or adjectives in these sentences:

1. He behaved (selfless / selflessly), and we appreciated his (generously / generous) gift.
2. A holiday break was (eagerly / eager) awaited by (wearily / weary) teachers.
3. A (sudden / suddenly) change in the weather (quick / quickly) spoiled all our plans.
4. She walked very (slowly / slow) since the whole pace of the crowd was (slowly / slow).
5. He spoke (brief / briefly), and the response of the audience was (polite / politely) applause.

Circle the simple subject (the main noun[s]) and simple predicate (the main verb[s]) in these sentences:

1. The birds that had eaten all the berries flew away to look for more.
2. The teacher and her assistant corrected and graded exams all day long.
3. The fans, when they realized that their team would win, cheered very loudly.
4. When I was a child, I read many of my favorite books in the library.
5. Parents who remove crying children from movie theaters are acting responsibly.
6. The guy who is singing while he works in the backyard sings off key.
7. Mom, Dad, and my sisters all snuggled on the couch to watch the movie.
8. He sat and waited for his friend to arrive.

Writing Mechanics & Grammar: Parts of Speech Answer Sheet

1. **adverb**
2. **interjection**
3. **adjective**
4. **pronoun**
5. **verb**

1. **since, in**
2. **toward**
3. **amidst, beyond**
4. **beneath, under**
5. **during**

1. **selflessly, generous**
2. **eagerly, weary**
3. **sudden, quickly**
4. **slowly, slow**
5. **briefly, polite**

1. **birds, flew**
2. **teacher, assistant: corrected, graded**
3. **fans, cheered**
4. **I, read**
5. **parents, are acting**
6. **guy, sings**
7. **mom, dad, sisters; snuggled**

8. He, sat, waited