

# ATI TEAS ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE USAGE REVIEW PARTS OF SPEECH

## LANGUAGE USAGE PARTS OF SPEECH

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Questions related to **parts of speech** address the differences between subjects, verbs, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, articles, and prepositions. You must identify these parts of speech in a sentence. These questions also test the difference between singular and plural nouns.

In the English language, we use different parts of speech to convey different types of information in sentence form. The parts of speech identify the role that a particular word or words play in a sentence. Essentially, parts of speech for sentence components.

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### UNDERSTANDING SUBJECTS AND VERBS

The most important sentence components are subjects and verbs.

- **Subjects** convey who or what is performing the action in a sentence.
- **Verbs** describe the action that is taking place.

For example:

Jason couldn't keep a promise.

Here is a slightly more complex example:

Heather's earnest little brother couldn't keep a promise.

In this form of the sentence, the subject is *Heather's earnest little brother*. The verb is still *couldn't*, as in the previous two examples

In this sentence, the subject of the sentence is *Jason*. The verb is *couldn't*, a contraction for could not.

Consider this example:

Heather's brother couldn't keep a promise.

In this sentence, the subject of the sentence is *Heather's brother*. The verb is *couldn't*.

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### UNDERSTANDING NOUNS AND PRONOUNS

A **noun** is a person, place, or thing, and a **pronoun** is a word that refers to a noun.

For example

Stacy entered the room before she saw Harry.

This sentence contains three nouns: *Stacy*, *the room*, and *Harry*. The word *she* is a pronoun that refers to *Stacy*.

Nouns and pronouns often make up the subject of sentences, but they aren't always the subjects. Sometimes a form of a verb may be the subject of the sentence.

For example

Laughing is contagious in our office.

In this example, the word *laughing* is a form of the verb *to laugh*. Laughing is the subject of the sentence, followed by the verb *is*.

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### UNDERSTANDING NOUNS AND PRONOUNS

Nouns can be singular or plural.

- A **singular** noun represents only one person, place, or thing.
- A **plural** noun represents more than one person, place, or thing being described.

Pronouns can also be singular or plural, depending on the noun they refer to.

For example

Laughing is contagious in our office, especially when we are listening to television.

In this example, *office* is a singular noun: it describes only one office. *Television* is also a singular noun, indicating one television. The pronoun *we* is plural. It indicates more than one person watching television.

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### UNDERSTANDING ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

Adjectives and adverbs are descriptive words. In grammatical parlance, we say that **adjectives** modify nouns, and **adverbs** modify verbs. That just means that adjectives describe nouns, and adverbs describe how the action of a verb is taking place.

Adverbs can also modify adjectives and other adverbs.

For example

The beach has massive waves.

In this sentence, the word *massive* is an adjective. It modifies the noun *waves*.

Another example  
The beach's massive waves immediately caused a scare.

In this sentence, the word *massive* is still an adjective modifying *waves*. The word *immediately* is an adverb, modifying the verb *caused*. *Immediately* is used to describe how the action of causing a scare took place.

# LANGUAGE USAGE PARTS OF SPEECH

## UNDERSTANDING CONJUNCTIONS, ARTICLES, AND PREPOSITIONS

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Other important parts of speech to know are conjunctions, articles, and prepositions. These components are less central to the meaning of a sentence than are subjects and verbs, but they must be included in order to make the meaning understood.

**Conjunctions** are connecting words. They join together the ideas in a sentence. **Articles** are identifiers; they let us know if a noun is specific or general. Finally, **prepositions** indicate relationship between components of a sentence, often showing the location or direction of action. Prepositions are commonly included as parts of prepositional phrases.

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## UNDERSTANDING INTERJECTIONS

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An **interjection** is a word added to a sentence to show sudden or strong emotion. For example, the interjection might express surprise, joy, excitement, enthusiasm, pain, or disgust. It usually comes at the beginning of the sentence although there is no set rule.

For example

Hey, give me back my cookie!

In this sentence, the word hey is an interjection.

Another example

No, I will not give back your cookie.

Introductory words, such as *yes*, *no*, or *well*, are also considered interjections.