



Parts of Speech 1

There are 8 basic parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.

Nouns

Nouns name a person (*William Shakespeare, John Keats, poet*), a thing (*book, table, pen, paper*), a place (*city, Paris, London, ocean, Bali, Irish Sea*), or an idea (*pleasure, success, reality, conflict, metaphysics*).

Common Nouns name general classes of things and do not begin with capital letters: *earthquake, citizen, army, fortitude, earth*.

Proper Nouns name specific people, places and things, and begin with capital letters: *William Blake, Spain, Toronto, Modern Languages Association*.

Pronouns

Most pronouns substitute for nouns and function in sentences as nouns do: *If Jeanette passes the class, she will graduate*. There are several different types of pronouns:

Personal Pronouns refer to a specific individual or individuals: *I, you, he, she, they, and we*.

Indefinite Pronouns, such as *everybody, anybody, and some*, do not substitute for any specific nouns, though they function as nouns.

- Everybody reads poetry.

Relative Pronouns, *who, whoever, which, and that* relate groups of words to nouns or other pronouns.

- The book that won is a work of fiction.

Interrogative Pronouns, such as *who, which, and what*, introduce questions.

- What is your name?

Demonstrative Pronouns, including *this, that, and such* identify or point to nouns.

- This is the issue.

Intensive Pronouns are made up of a personal pronoun plus *self* or *selves*. They point back at a noun or pronoun that has already been mentioned in order to emphasize it.

- He himself wrote that poem.

Reflexive Pronouns indicate that the sentence subject also receives the action of the verb.

- They injured themselves.