

## PARTS OF A WORD

A word can be divided into its STEM (the basic part of the word containing its meaning) and its INFLECTIONS (the endings added to indicate such things as that a noun is PLURAL or a verb is in the past tense).

|           |              |                           |
|-----------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Examples: | Stem:        | dog<br>walk               |
|           | Inflections: | s in dogs<br>ed in walked |

## PARTS OF A SENTENCE

### SUBJECT

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The subject is the person, thing or topic which the sentence deals with. To discover the subject, ask **who** or **what** before the verb, e.g. in the sentence **The house stands on the hill**, *what* stands on the hill? Answer: **the house**.

|           |                                                                        |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Examples: | <b>The house</b> stands on the hill.<br><b>It</b> overlooks the plain. |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### PREDICATE

The predicate is all of the sentence except the subject.

|           |                                                                          |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Examples: | The house <b>stands on the hill</b> .<br>It <b>overlooks the plain</b> . |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### OBJECT

The object is the person, thing or topic upon which the subject carries out the action of the verb. To discover the object, ask **who** or **what** after the verb, e.g. the house overlooks **what**? Answer: the plain.

|           |                                                                                                             |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Examples: | The house overlooks <b>the plain</b> .<br>I see <b>him</b> clearly.<br>He watches <b>himself</b> carefully. |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

In some cases a whole clause can act as object.

|          |                                                          |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Example: | He said <b>that the Green Knight was really orange</b> . |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------|

Sometimes we apparently have two objects. Where one of these can alternatively be expressed by placing **to** before it, it is called the **indirect object**. For example, instead of He **gave me the book** we can say He **gave the book to me**. Here **the book** is the direct object and **me** the indirect object.

### COMPLEMENT

After the verb **to be** there is no object since the noun which follows refers to the same thing as that which precedes the verb (the subject). The noun following the verb **to be** is called the complement.

Examples:            I am **a man**.  
                         This is **the question**.

## CLAUSE

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There are two kinds of clauses: **principal** (or main) clauses, and **subordinate** (or dependent) clauses.

### Principal Clauses

A group of words which includes a subject and a finite verb and makes a complete statement.

Examples:            I am **a man**.  
                         The house **stands on the hill**.  
                         When I come home, I **will let the cat in**.

The following are **not** principal clauses because they do not make a complete statement which can stand by itself:

Which is **a problem**  
That the house is **standing on the hill**  
When I come **home**  
The house which **stands on the hill**

### Subordinate Clause

A group of words which includes a finite or non-finite verb but does not make a statement which stands by itself.

Examples:            As soon as the Green Knight entered the room all were  
                         astounded.  
                         He said **that the Green Knight was really orange**.  
                         The house, **which stands on the hill**, is empty.

Subordinate clauses can be classified according to their function:

### Adverbial Clause

Example:            As soon as the Green Knight entered the room, all were  
                         astounded.

In this sentence the clause fulfills the same function as an adverb such as **immediately** in the sentence **immediately all were astounded**.

### Noun Clause

Example: He said **that the Green Knight was really orange**.

The clause fulfills the same function as a noun such as **the words** in **He said the words**.

### Relative Clause

Example: The house, **which stands on the hill**, is empty.

Relative clauses are adjectival in nature. The clause fulfills the same role as an adjective such as **high-placed** in the sentence **The high-placed house is empty**.

Clauses can also be classified by whether they contain a finite verb.

### Finite Clause

A finite clause contains a finite verb and, usually, a subject. It can be a principal clause or a subordinate clause.

Examples: **They say nice things about you**. (principal clause)  
**When they say nice things about you** they are not lying.  
(subordinate clause)

### Non-Finite Clause

A non-finite clause contains a non-finite verb but does not contain a finite verb and cannot stand alone. A non-finite clause cannot be a principal clause. Non-finite verbs include participles and infinitives .

Examples: **Singing and dancing**, he moved slowly up the aisle.  
He gave me an invitation **to bring you to the party**.  
**Having eaten all the cakes**, he began to consume the biscuits.  
**Filled with joy**, he left the room.

### PHRASE

A phrase is group of words **without** a verb.

Examples: It is **on the hill**.  
He went **over the sea**.

### PARTS OF SPEECH

Examples:

|                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| house                   | noun                           |
| The house               | article + noun                 |
| The house stands        | article + noun + verb          |
| The house stands firmly | article + noun + verb + adverb |

|                                                       |                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The house stands firmly on the hill                   | article + noun + verb + adverb<br>preposition + article + noun                                      |
| The empty house stands on the hill                    | article + adjective + verb + adverb +<br>preposition + article + noun                               |
| It stands on the hill                                 | pronoun + verb + preposition + article<br>+ noun                                                    |
| Since it stands on the hill it overlooks<br>the plain | conjunction + pronoun + verb +<br>preposition + article + noun +<br>pronoun + verb + article + noun |

## NOUN

Nouns can be thought of as 'names'; they denote things, people, abstract ideas.

Examples:      The **house** is old.  
                      A **king** was here.  
                      **Virtue** is its own reward.  
                      **Accidents** will happen.

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## ARTICLE

The articles are: **the, a, an**. **The** is called the **definite article**; **a** (and **an**) is called the **indefinite article**.

## VERB

A verb is a "doing word". It expresses the carrying out of an action. With an active verb this action is carried out by the subject.

Examples:      It **stands**.  
                      I **am**.  
                      He **adjudicates** between the parties concerned.  
                      Alfred **burnt** the cakes.

With a passive verb the action is carried out upon the subject:

Examples:      The cakes **were burnt** by Alfred.  
                      The Bible **is read** in many languages.

Verbs have various qualities:

### Tense

This is the feature of the verb indicating when the action took place

|           |                |               |
|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Examples: | Present tense: | It stands     |
|           | Past Tense:    | It stood      |
|           | Future Tense:  | It will stand |

## Aspect

This is the feature of the verb which indicates whether the action is was or will be a completed one or a continuous one. If the verb is unmarked as to whether it is completed, 'perfect' or continuous, 'progressive', it is called **simple**. Hence we can draw up the following scheme:

|                      |                                                          |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Simple Present:      | It stands                                                |
| Simple Past:         | It stood                                                 |
| Simple Future:       | It will stand                                            |
| Present Perfect:     | It has stood                                             |
| Past Perfect:        | It had stood                                             |
| Future Perfect:      | It will have stood                                       |
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| Present Progressive: | It is standing                                           |
| Past Progressive:    | It was standing                                          |
| Future Progressive:  | It will be standing                                      |

The present perfect is often know simply as the **perfect** and the past perfect is sometimes called the **pluperfect** .

## Voice

In English we have the active and the passive voice. In the active voice the subject carries out the action of the verb; in the passive the action of the verb is carried out upon the subject.

|           |          |             |
|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Examples: | Active:  | I place     |
|           | Passive: | I am placed |

A full complement of passive verbs exists in English. The passive is formed with the appropriate tense of the verb **to be** and the past participle.

|           |                              |                   |
|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Examples: | Present Progressive Passive: | I am being placed |
|           | Past Perfect Passive:        | I had been placed |
|           | Future Perfect Passive:      | I will be placed  |

## Mood

There are three moods in English.

### 1. Indicative:

The **indicative** mood is the normal one in present-day English (PE):

Example: I was going to the pictures

### 2. Subjunctive:

The subjunctive mood is much rarer in PE; it expresses a hypothetical action.

Examples: If I were going to the pictures.  
I wish I were going to the pictures.

### 3. Imperative:

The **imperative** mood expresses an order.

Example: Go to the pictures.

### Finite and Non-Finite Verbs

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Verbs are either **finite** or **non-finite**. Non-finite verbs do not include any indication of tense. One kind of non-finite verb is the **infinitive**. The infinitive is the basic form of the verb. It is often combined with **to** as in **I am going to stand here**. However the infinitive is not always preceded by **to**: in the sentence **I will stand** the infinitive is **stand**. Combined with **will** the infinitive **stand** makes the finite (future tense) verb **will stand**. Other non-finite parts of the verb are the participles. The present participle is the form of the verb used in constructions like:

I am **going**.  
He is **combing** his hair.  
They are **developing** rapidly.

The same form of the verb can also be used as a noun (in which case it is called a **gerund** or **verbal noun**:

Examples: Developing is not easy.  
Walking is pleasant in the summer.

or as an adjective (in which case it is called a **gerundive** or **verbal adjective**:

Examples: The third world is made up of the **developing** countries.  
She is a **growing** child.

The **past participle** is used in constructions like:

I have **walked**.  
She has **grown**.  
It has **developed** into a major argument.

This form is often the same in PE as the past tense (cf. I walked) but not always (cf. I grew). This also appears as an adjective:

A **grown** man

## ADVERB

An adverb modifies a verb; it indicates how the action of a verb is carried out.

Examples:        The house stands **firmly**.  
                      She speaks **well**.  
                      He dresses **beautifully**.

It can also modify an adjective or another adverb.

                      The house is **very** firm.  
                      She answered **most** considerately.     [www.doros-bac.com](http://www.doros-bac.com)

## PREPOSITION

A preposition connects a noun (with or without an article) or a pronoun to some other word. Prepositions are the "little words of English".

Examples:        It stands **on** hills.  
                      The swagman jumped **into** the billabong.  
                      England is **over** the sea.  
                      She told the good news **to** him.

## ADJECTIVE

An adjective qualifies a noun; it describes the attributes of a noun.

Examples:        The house stands on the **high** hill.  
                      **Precious purple** prose provokes **profound** professors.

## PRONOUN

Pronouns take the place of nouns.

Examples:        **It** stands on the hill.  
                      I see **myself**.  
                      The house **which** stands on the hill overlooks the plain.  
                      **That** stands on the hill.  
                      **What** stands on the hill?

There are a number of different kinds of pronouns:

### Personal Pronouns

These are divided into "persons" as follows:

|               | Singular    | Plural |
|---------------|-------------|--------|
| First person  | I           | we     |
| Second person | you (thou)  | you    |
| Third person  | he, she, it | they   |

The personal pronouns also include the **reflexive** and **emphatic** pronouns. These are the same in form but different in function. They are **myself, himself, themselves** etc.

|           |            |                                                                                    |
|-----------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Examples: | Reflexive: | I see <b>myself</b> .<br>People help <b>themselves</b> .                           |
|           | Emphatic:  | I think <b>myself</b> that it is wrong.<br>They <b>themselves</b> want to stay on. |

### Relative Pronouns

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The relative pronouns are as follows:

|            | People     | Things      |
|------------|------------|-------------|
| Subject    | who, that  | which, that |
| Object     | whom, that | which, that |
| Possessive | whose      | whose       |

These are used in relative clauses such as:

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Examples: | This is the man <b>who</b> saw me.<br>This is the man <b>whom</b> I saw.<br>This is the man <b>whose</b> house I saw.<br>This is the man <b>that</b> I saw.<br>This is the house <b>that</b> Jack built. |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### Demonstrative Pronouns

|            |                          |
|------------|--------------------------|
| These are: | This these<br>That those |
|------------|--------------------------|

|           |                                                           |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Examples: | <b>This</b> is the house.<br><b>That</b> is the question. |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|

They are also used as demonstrative adjectives:

|           |                                                        |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Examples: | <b>This</b> man is green.<br><b>That</b> house is red. |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------|

### Interrogative Pronouns

These are used in questions:

|         | People | Things      |
|---------|--------|-------------|
| Subject | who    | what, which |



|            |           |             |
|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Object     | whom, who | what, which |
| Possessive | whose     |             |

Examples: **Who(m)** did you see?  
**Who** is that man?  
**Which** is the right way?  
**Who(m)** did you speak to?

**What** and **which** can be also used as interrogative adjectives in which case they can be applied to people.

Examples: **Which** house stands on the hill?  
**Which** Prime Minister was drowned?  
**What** sweet do you recommend?

## CONJUNCTIONS

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Some conjunctions are **coordinating** (i.e. joining elements of the same kind) like **and** or **but**.

Examples: It stands on the hill **and** overlooks the plain.  
I say this **but** she says that.

Other conjunctions are **subordinating** (i.e. joining a subordinate clause to a main clause) like **when** **because**, **since**, **as**.

Examples: **Since** it stands on the hill it overlooks the plain.  
**Although** I say this she says that.  
**When** Gawain saw the Green Knight he did not show that he was afraid.