

## Parts of Speech

**Nouns** — name a person, place or thing (*professor, ocean, college*). Proper Nouns name specific places, people, or objects, and they get capitalized (*Boston, Professor Smith, the Bill of Rights*).

**Pronouns** — take the place of or rename a noun. There are three major kinds:

1. Personal — take the place of people or things (*She fished all day.*)
2. Possessive — show possession (*The man took his hat.*)
3. Objective — receive a verb's action or are the object of a preposition (*Carla made him cookies and ate them with him.*)

Also, you'll use the following types of pronouns:

1. Interrogative (*who, what, which*)
2. Reflexive (*yourself, itself, herself, themselves*)
3. Relative (*which, who, that, whose*)
4. Indefinite (there are many, including *all, most, both, several*)
5. Demonstrative (*this, that, these, those*)

**Verbs** — express actions, occurrences or states of being and also indicate the time of that action, occurrence or state of being.

There are six tenses: present (*climb*), past (*climbed*), present perfect (*have climbed*), past perfect (*had climbed*), future (*will climb*) and future perfect (*will have climbed*).

There are three forms: infinitive as in *to climb*; participle which describes, as in *the scratching noise drove her crazy* and gerund which ends in "ing" and is used as a noun, as in *climbing the stairs was a daily chore for her*.

There are two "voices": active, in which the subject does the action, as in *Susan climbed Mt Everest* or passive, in which the subject receives the action, as in *The Oscar was won by Frank*.

**Adjectives** — describe or modify nouns (*red, small, good, happy*).

**Adverbs** — modify verbs, adjectives or other adverbs. They often specify how, where, when, why, how much, how often etc. (*She replied **hastily**. **Today**, she **quickly** drank her **very** hot tea.*)

**Conjunctions** — join words, phrases or clauses. There are three types: coordinating — which join similar grammatical structures, (*and, but, or, nor, so, yet, for*); correlative — used in pairs, (*either/or, neither/nor, both/and, not only/but also*, and many more); and subordinating — join dependent (subordinate) clauses with independent clauses (*although, than, when, providing that, how, until*, and many more)

**Prepositions** — link nouns or pronouns to some other word(s) in a sentence. There are many prepositions — they often describe position or time in one way or another (*in, by, against, after, on, with, of, below, down, during* and many more).

**Interjections** — communicate surprise or strong emotion, and are often, though not always, followed by an exclamation mark. Use them sparingly when writing. (*Wow! Great!*)

