

BASIC TERMS USED IN ENGLISH

Like in every language, speaking or writing in English too requires knowledge of several words which are used according need of communication in different contexts of utterance/writing and there are a set of RULES which must have to be known in order to be able to use them appropriately and for effective communication.

ALL words in English are classified into different groups- NOUNS, PRONOUNS ADJECTIVES, VERBS, HELPING VERBS, ADVERBS, etc. Such classification is known as PARTS OF SPEECH.

We shall quickly take a review of the “ENGLISH PARTS OF SPEECH”

THE ENGLISH PARTS OF SPEECH

1. **NOUN**- These are words which are used to name persons, places or things.

Examples:

Person- Ram, Sham, etc.

Place- Delhi, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, etc.

Things- Table, Chair, etc.

2. **PRONOUN**- These are words used in place of a noun.

Examples- I, we, you, he, she, it, they, etc.

3. **ADJECTIVES**- Words that describe the quality or characteristics or any thing about a Noun or a PRONOUN.

Example:

MANU is an INTELLIGENT person. (The word INTELLIGENT describes the noun word MANU; so the word INTELLIGENT is an ADJECTIVE word)

VERB: Any word used to represent action done by NOUN/PRONOUN

Example:

Running, Eating, Dancing, etc.

Verbs in English have different structural FORMS, each structural form conveying a specific meaning (We shall discuss in greater detail later)

SIMPLE (or the BASE form)

SIMPLE PAST FORM (or the ED form)

PARTICIPLE FORM, PRESENT (or, - ING form)

PARTICIPLE FORM, PAST (or, the -EN form)

INFINITIVE FORM (or, the to-infinitive)

GERUND

The SIMPLE, and the SIMPLE PAST FORMS stand alone in a sentence/utterance. But the PARTICIPLE FORMS-PRESENT and PAST do not stand alone in any sentence. They require helping verbs.

HELPING VERBS: There are certain words which help the main verb express itself

Examples: is, am, are, was, were, has, have, had, etc.

BE VERB: These verbs function as LINKING VERBS in a sentence or an utterance. They link a NOUN WORD (representing the subject of a sentence/utterance) with NOUN WORD/an ADJECTIVE WORD.

Example:

Ram—IS—a Doctor. [IS links RAM (N) with DOCTOR (N)]

I—AM—a teacher. [AM links I (P) with TEACHER (N)]

John—IS—GLAD. (IS links JOHN (N) with GLAD (ADJ))

ADVERB: Words used to describe the quality of the ACTION WORDS. They also let us know following things about the ACTION WORDS- How, When, Where the action happens.

Example:

He RAN—**FAST**.

He TURNED—**QUICKLY**.

PREPOSITION: These are words which show relationship or connection between meaning words and pronouns:

Between

VERB and NOUN/PRONOUN [Ex: She is suffering (v) FROM fever (n)]

ADJECTIVE and VERB [I (p) am glad (aj) TO see (v) (p) you.]

VERB and VERB [I (p) have been moving (v) FROM place (n) TO place (n).]

In the above examples FROM and TO are prepositions.

OTHER PREPOSITIONS:

In, on, upon, below, before, after, under, across, along, through, about, up, since, etc.

CONJUNCTIONS: A conjunction is a word used to join two sentences, two clauses, or even two words.

And, but, or, if, until, till, etc.

Examples:

You can visit Delhi OR Jeypore.

She is gentle AND poor.

ARTICLES: are words used to denote a single number of any Noun.
There are 3 ARTICLES in English language.

A, an, the.

'A' and 'an' are indefinite articles whereas 'the' is a definite article.

INTERJECTIONS: These are words which are used to express sudden experience of feelings (Ex- joy, sorrow, surprise, shock, etc) within one's own self.

Example:

Alas! We lost the match!
Oh! What a sad story!

'Alas' and 'Oh' are interjections.

For an exhaustive list of interjections, please refer
<http://www.vidarholen.net/contents/interjections/>

ASSIGNMENT/CLASS WORK:

Please classify words used in the following sentences into different parts of speech:

1. A man sets a new world record.
2. This happens in the USA.
3. He bungee jumps 158 times in one day.
4. He is 40 years old.
5. He sees a bear.
6. The bear walks on its hind legs.
7. People hold a festival in South Korea.
8. This festival is special.
9. It is a mud festival.
10. It is held every year.
11. Korean people are known for strange things.
12. It's not surprising for me that this annual event holds in South Korea.
13. My ego wouldn't allow me to get to the party.
14. Something interesting happens in the sky.
15. You can watch it at night. You can watch it from any place on earth.

Thank you.