

We could think about language
from our windy deck, approaching
Hong Kong, Brisbane, or Abidjan.

We think of language
as we sail the Coral Sea,
or as we sail east from Manakara to Mauritius,
and we will think about
the four ways of thinking
about language, more, much more,
but here, as we begin,
is a subtle hint:

1. **parts of speech:**

the 8 kinds of words

2. **parts of the sentence:**

the parts of ideas

3. **phrases:**

little groups of words

4. **clauses:**

making simple or complicated ideas
with subjects and predicates

Word Fragments from the **Ancient World**

Before we study the four levels of grammar, let's learn some of the ancient Latin words or word pieces that we will see in the grammar words we will study. Memorize these meanings:

pre - before

pos - put

ad - to

nom - noun

inter - between

junct - join

plex - twist or fold

verbum - word

in - not

fin - end

de - down

co - together

ante - before

com - together

pro - for

ject - throw

con - together

pound - weigh

dict - say

sub - under

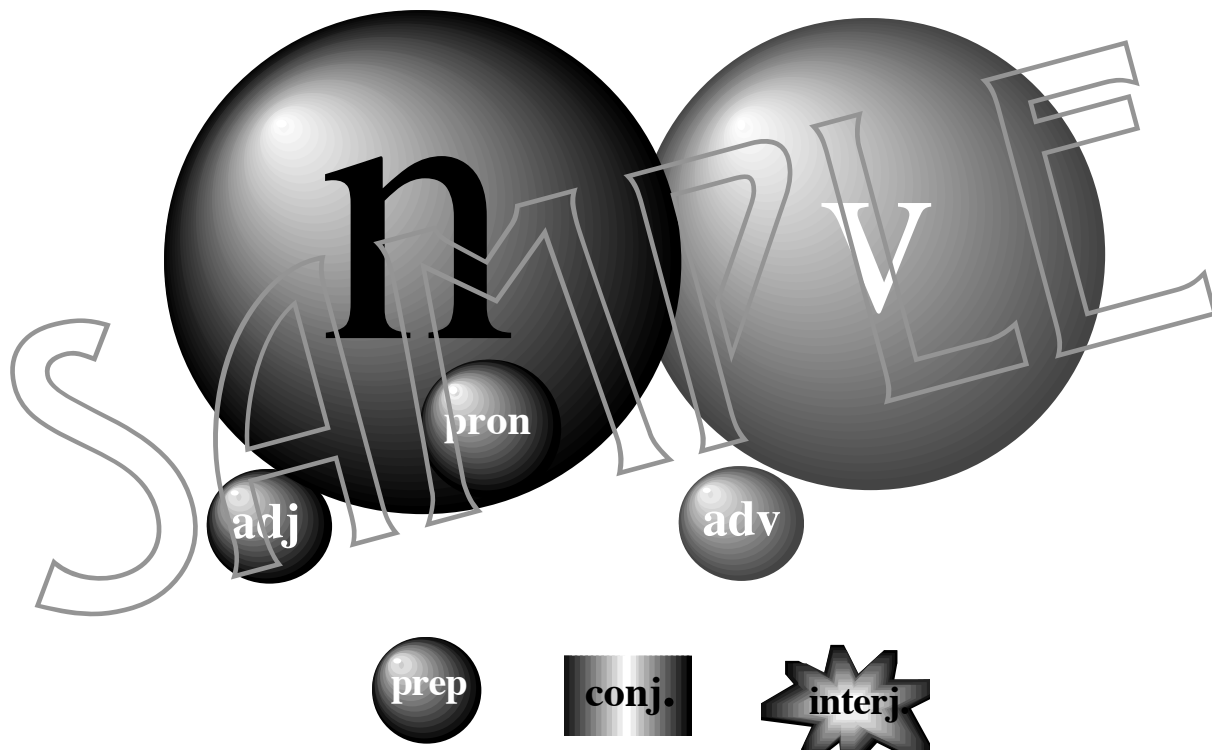
ap - beside

pend - hang

cede - go

apo - beside

preposition appositive nominative dependent
antecedent independent antecedent subordinate interjection
adjective coordinating pronoun conjunction infinitive
interjection compound complex



Every sentence has a
noun (or pronoun that means it)
and a **verb** about it.

No other part of speech
is in *every* sentence.
This simple image shows us
what our thinking is like.

This sublime simplicity
gives our language its flexibility
and power.

Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives, Verbs, and Adverbs!

Here are sentences that have nouns,
pronouns, verbs, adjectives, or adverbs. Study them carefully.

The light breeze gradually increased.

adj. adj. n. adv. v.

The rusty freighter has many portholes.

adj. adj. n. v. adj. n.

The grizzled captain stared hesitantly.

adj. adj. n. v. adv.

She brushed the red paint on the hull.

pron. v. adj. adj. n. adj. n.

Three freighters moved silently out of the port.

adj. n. v. adv. adj. n.

The waves undulated very gently on the azure surface.

adj. n. v. adv. adv. adj. adj. n.

The crafty seaman snuck quietly behind the blue door.

adj. adj. n. v. adv. adj. adj. n.

The summer storm rose from the sea.

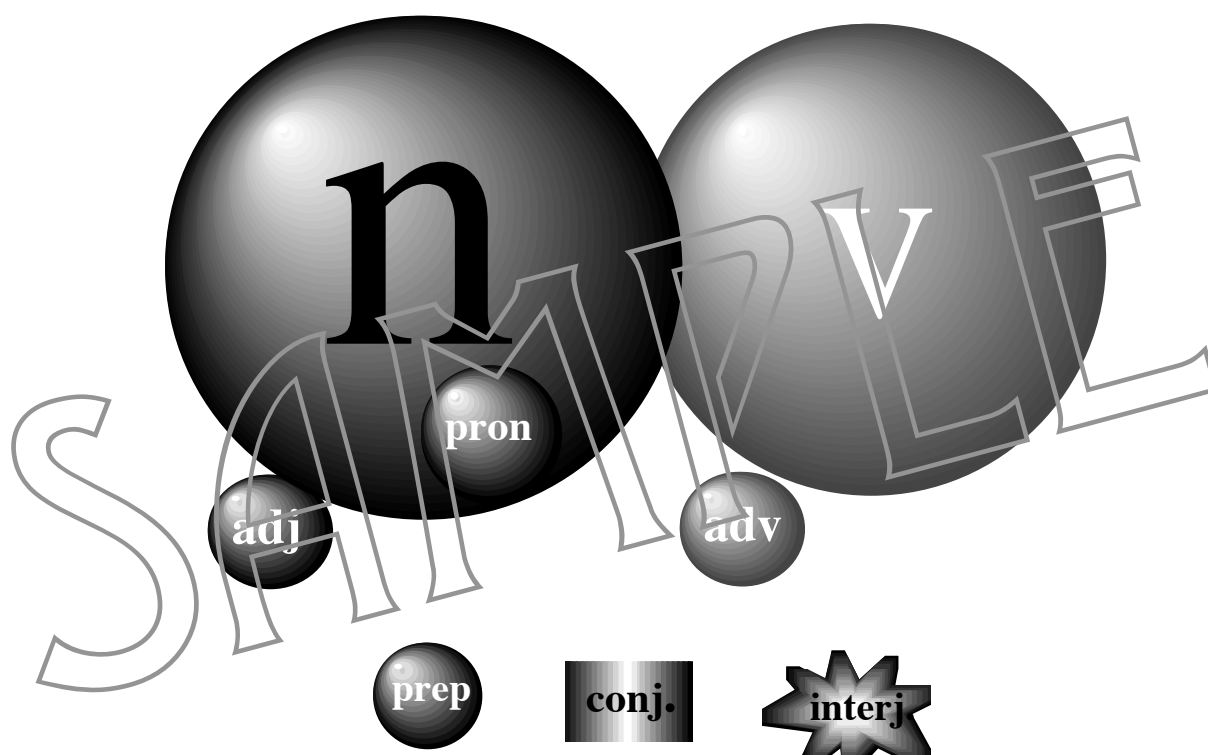
adj. adj. n. v. adj. n.

A serene silence filled the fishing grounds.

adj. adj. n. v. adj. adj. n.

The crazy Ahab glared furiously at the white whale.

adj. adj. n. v. adv. adj. adj. n.



The Eight Parts of Speech

Now we see how easy the parts of speech are to learn. There are only eight kinds of words, and six of those are support words that help the two main kinds of words, the noun and the verb, work.

The **noun** names things: boat, wind, wave, idea, Anna.

The **pronoun** replaces the noun: it, he, she.

The **adjective** modifies either a noun or a pronoun: rusty, wavy, blue.

The **verb** shows action or links: sailed, is.

The **adverb** modifies the verb: quickly, suddenly, then.

The **conjunction** joins: and, but, if, as.

The **preposition** shows relationships: under, before, after, from.

The **interjection** shows emotion: yes, no, wow, oops.

The Verb Decides the Parts of Sentence

Do you remember that some verbs show action, and other verbs are linking, like equations?

1. ACTION verbs show action:

The tugboat **pushed** the barge.

The captain **gave** the command to alter course.

2. LINKING verbs show something IS something:

The harbor **is** deep.

The ship **was** an old Italian cruise liner.

Now it becomes critical to focus on the verb, because **depending on what the verb is**, there are five different parts of the sentence, and they have great names.

The whole sentence is made of a **complete subject**, and a **complete predicate** about it.

The **simple subject** is the noun or subject pronoun that the sentence is about.

The **simple predicate** is the verb.

If the verb is ACTION, then it might act on a **direct object**.

The direct object is a noun or object pronoun that receives the action of the action verb.

The frigate slowly crossed the **inlet**.

The captain saw the **island** in the distance..

If you have a direct object, you might have an **indirect object**.

An indirect object is a noun or object pronoun that is located between the action verb and the direct object, and it is only indirectly affected by the action.

The captain gave the **seaman** a direct order.

The captain gave **him** an order

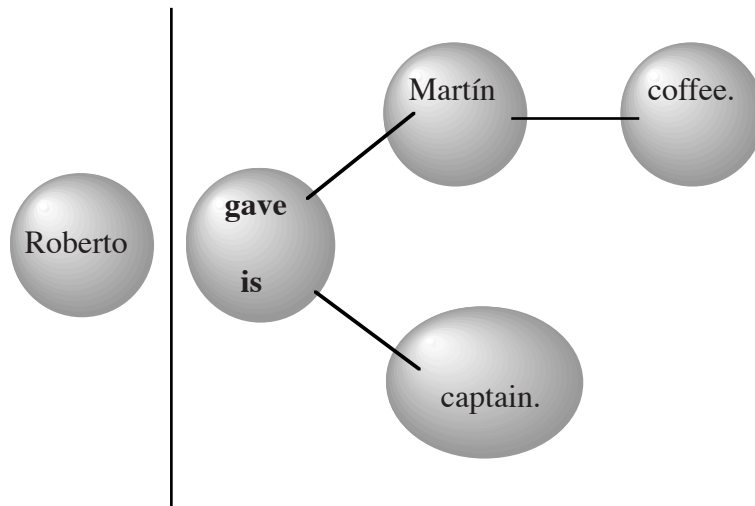
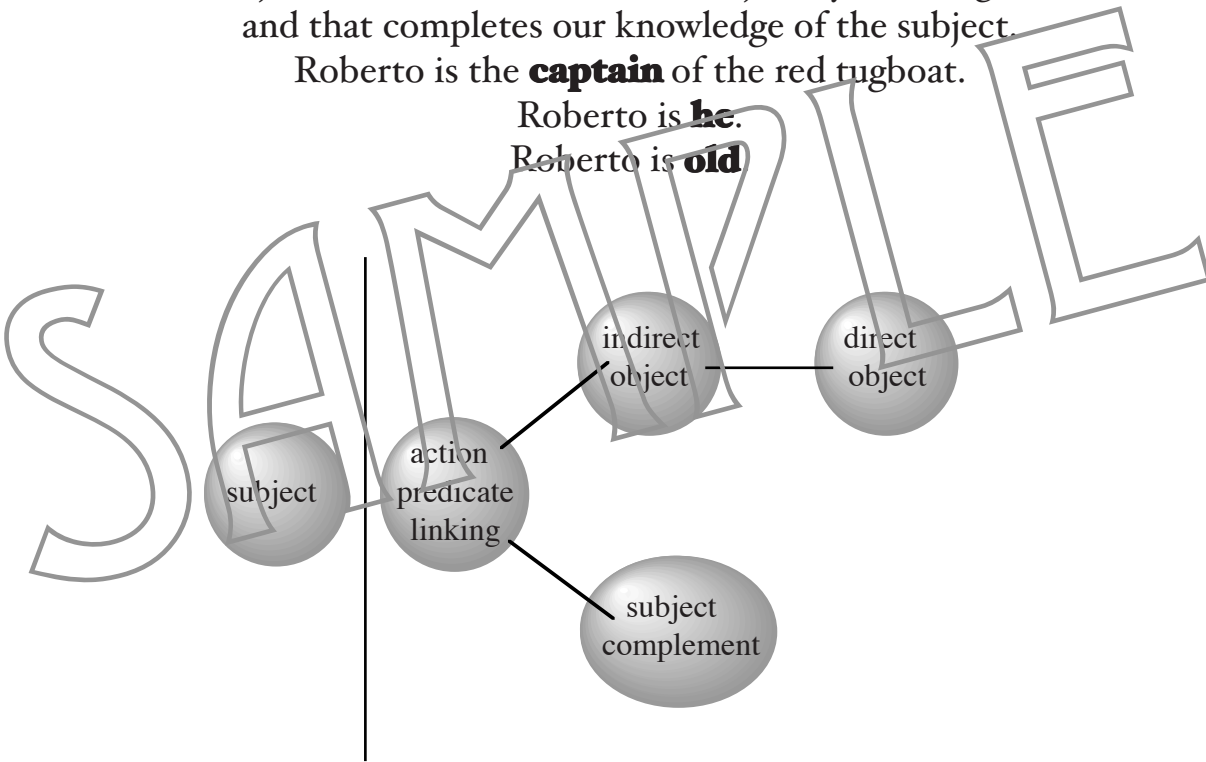
If the verb is LINKING, then you might have a **subject complement**.

A subject complement is a noun or subject pronoun or adjective that is linked to the subject by a linking verb, and that completes our knowledge of the subject.

Roberto is the **captain** of the red tugboat.

Roberto is **he**.

Roberto is **old**.



Notice the sequence if you have an action verb:
subject - predicate - indirect object - direct object
Roberto gave Vásquez the coffee.

What have we learned on the voyage?

Level One: Parts of Speech: The 8 kinds of words

Noun: names things. dock, marina, ocean, pelican, cloud, Oscar, moon

Pronoun: a quick word that takes the place of a noun.

Subject pronouns: I you he she it we you they

Object pronouns: me you him her it us you them

Possessive pronouns: my your his her its our your their

Adjective: modifies a noun or pronoun. red, tall, rusty, fast, the, old, gray

Verb: shows action or linking. sailed, sank, fell, rumbled, is

Adverb: modifies a verb. slowly, silently, noisily

Conjunction: joins two words or two groups of words.

Coordinating conjunctions: and but or nor for so yet

Subordinating conjunctions: if as since when because . . .

Preposition: shows the relationship between two things. in, on, under . . .

Interjection: shows emotion. ough, yes, no, yikes, Oh

Level Two: Parts of Sentence:

The sentence has two sides, a predicate about a subject

Sentence: a group of words with a subject and its predicate; it makes a complete thought.

Subject: the noun or subject pronoun that the sentence is about. The **ship** sailed away. **He** stowed the charts in the cabinet.

Predicate: the simple predicate is the verb. The marina **opened** early. If the predicate is an action verb, it might have a direct object; if the predicate is a linking verb, it might have a subject complement.

Direct object: the noun or object pronoun that receives the action of an action verb. Lopez closed the **porthole**. Lopez saw **her**.

Indirect object: the noun or object pronoun that is located between the action verb and the direct object, and that is indirectly affected by the action. The captain gave the stolid **seaman** a kind word. The captain gave **him** the nail.

Subject complement: a noun, subject pronoun, or adjective that is linked to the subject by a linking verb, and that complements (makes more complete) the subject. Rachel was the **owner** of the boat. It was **she** who won the race. The boat was **fast**.

Pronoun Rule

A subject is a subject and an object is an object. This rule combines parts of speech with parts of sentence. For the direct object, indirect object, and object of preposition, use object pronouns. For the subject of the verb and the subject complement, use subject pronouns. Parts called subjects use subject pronouns; parts called objects use object pronouns. Educated speakers do apply this to their spoken English, and they notice it when they hear an error.

A **phrase** is a group of words, but it acts like one word,
like a single part of speech.

It can act like an adjective, adverb, or noun!

Phrases don't have subjects and verbs.

Three Kinds of Phrases

Prepositional Phrases

Prepositional phrases always begin with prepositions,
and they act like modifiers (like adjectives or adverbs).

like an adjective: the ship **in the canal**

like an adverb: It sailed **after sunset**.

like an adjective: a letter **for him and her**

Appositive Phrases

Appositive phrases are interrupting definitions.

Using commas, they are put (pos) beside (apo)
what they define. They act like adjectives.

Roberto, **the new sailor**, came on board early.

The canal, **an old lake system**, was still used by ships.

Verbal Phrases

Verbals are verby forms that aren't used as verbs!

There are three kinds: gerunds, participles, and infinitives.

Gerunds: nouns made out of -ing verbs.

Sailing is fun.

Participles: adjectives made out of verbs.

Sailing well, the rusty ship headed for the island.

Completely **broken**, the mast fell over into the sea.

Badly **cracked**, the red paint peeled off the hull.

Infinitives: a noun or modifier made from the *to* verb form.

To sail is fun. (noun)

The man **to see** is Howard. (adjective)

He lived **to sail**. (adverb)

Note: we think of an infinitive as one word.

To think is considered one word.

4 levels

• Parts of Speech

• Parts of Sentence

• Phrases

• Clauses

Now, we know FOUR ways to look at ideas! In the examples that follow, the four different ways to look at ideas are separated, with each level on its own line!

The harbor was silent because it was early morning.

adj. n v. adj. conj. pron. v. adj. n.

subj. pred. subj. comp. subj. pred. subj. comp.

no prepositional, appositive, or verbal phrase

-----independent clause----- dependent clause-----

an ID complex declarative sentence

This is a complex declarative sentence. We can tell that it is complex because the second clause is dependent. Do you see the subordinating conjunction *because* that makes the clause dependent? Remember, when two clauses are joined by a coordinating conjunction, it isn't part of either clause, but when two clauses are joined by a subordinating conjunction, it is part of the dependent clause.

Taking the wheel, the captain laughed unexpectedly at the mate.

adj. adj. n. adj. n. v. adv. prep. adj. n.

subj. pred.

-----participial phrase-----

--prepositional phrase--

-----independent clause-----

a simple declarative sentence