

Parts of Speech:

All words can be categorized into nine basic parts of speech. Understanding sentence structure and punctuation, requires a strong understanding of the basics.

	Definition	Examples
Noun		
Pronoun		
Verb		
Adjective		
Adverb		
Conjunction		
Preposition		
Interjection		
Article		

Dude! In the middle of the day, the Nebraska sun quickly baked the discarded

Interjec Prep Art Adj Prep Art noun Art Proper noun Noun Adv Verb Art Adj

Skittles into a rainbow crisp, but it shattered when I tried to pick it up.

Proper Noun Prep Art Adj noun conj pronoun verb noun pronoun verb prep verb pronoun prep



1:1 PRACTICE IDENTIFYING PARTS OF SPEECH.

From the parts of speech we collect words into phrases and clauses.

A **PHRASE** is a group of words, which contains neither a subject nor a verb. (It may, however, contain a verbal form such as an infinitive, a participle, or a gerund.)

Prepositional phrases (the most common phrases) can be used as adverbs or adjectives. They begin with a preposition and carry through the object. (remember, a preposition relates two subjects. One comes before the phrase and one is contained within the phrase.):

Common Prepositions

There are a little over 100 prepositions in the English language. For a complete list do a google search or check the Wikipedia entry.

about	behind	except	outside
above	below	for	over
across	beneath	from	past
after	beside	in	through
against	between	inside	to
along	beyond	into	under
among	by	near	until
around	despite	of	up
at	down	off	with
before	during	on	without

In a flash, she realized that the tofu had been **underneath her chair** all along.

After midnight, Egbert's mother was on the roof dancing **with a Ukranian bullfighter**.

Phrases, particularly prepositional phrases, are non-essential to the meaning of the sentence. You could remove them and the sentence as a whole would still make sense. It would be a little less specific. but the sentence still works.

~~**After midnight**~~, Egbert's mother was on the roof dancing ~~**with a Ukranian bullfighter**~~.

Note: The remaining idea: “Egbert’s mother was on the roof dancing” is a complete idea.

E 1:2 PRACTICE IDENTIFYING PREPOSITIONS AND PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES.

A **CLAUSE** is a group of words containing at least a subject and a verb (the baby ate), and frequently it lets its hair down by containing some kind of a complement as well (the baby ate the goldfish). There are two kinds of clauses: independent and dependent.

IC

Like John Wayne, an **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE** can stand alone. It contains a subject, a verb, and a complete idea.

I shall haunt you till your dying day.

It may, however, become part of a **Compound Sentence** if it is connected to other clauses and phrases. A compound sentence has two subjects, two verbs and two complete ideas. There are two ways to make a compound sentence:

1. by a **semicolon** or 2. by a **coordinating conjunction**.
for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so

1. I shall haunt you till your dying day; I shall haunt your friends and relations after that.

Here, the **semi-colon** takes the place of a period. Note that the second part of the compound sentence is not capitalized unless it is a proper noun or the word "I."

The **coordinating conjunctions** that join independent clauses include **for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so (FAN BOYS)**. The coordinating conjunction does not belong in either clause, but merely joins them together. Put a comma before the coordinating conjunction (*but note that this particular punctuation rule is so commonly ignored -- particularly in short sentences -- that it is in danger of disappearing. Do NOT ignore this comma. It is not optional in this class.*).

She had lost her castanets, **so** she used her uncle's dentures.

I shall haunt you till your dying day, **and** I shall haunt your friends and relations after that.



If you try to join two independent clauses with a comma, your reader will regard you with horror as the perpetrator of a **comma splice**. Don't do it. Use a semicolon or a coordinating conjunction instead.

DC

A **DEPENDENT CLAUSE** has a subject and a verb, and looks exactly like an independent clause except for one small thing: it is introduced by either a **relative pronoun** or a **subordinating conjunction**, which makes the clause grammatically "dependent" on the rest of the sentence.

He fiddled with his cufflinks *before* **he chewed on his tie**.

If you're very sweet to me, I'll let you see my collection of exotic tofu sculptures.

Relative pronouns include:

who whom which that what
 whoever whatever whichever.

They "relate" the material in the clause to an antecedent that appears elsewhere in the sentence. In "the bag of potato chips *that* I ate," the "that" introducing the clause relates back to "bag of potato chips."

Subordinating conjunctions are best classified according to the kind of relationship they express between clauses:

Time:

before, after, when, until, while, as soon as, as long as.

Place:

where, wherever

Purpose:

so that, in order that, so

Cause:

because, since

Condition:

if, unless, provided that, except

Contrast:

although, though, even though, despite, in spite of

When relative pronouns or subordinating conjunctions are attached to a complete idea, they create a lingering question that **MUST** be answered. Left unanswered, it is a sentence fragment.



1:3 PRACTICE IDENTIFYING INDEPENDENT AND DEPENDENT CLAUSES.

Fixing Fragments and Run-On Sentences: The point of all this background on phrases and clauses is to better understand the structure of a sentence which will help you to avoid fragment sentences and run-on sentences.

Fragments: are incomplete ideas. They are frequently missing either a subject or a verb, though occasionally, they are a dependent clause (containing and subject and verb) that simply is not a fully formed idea. There is some lingering question left by a fragment.

Over by the fields. (Contains no verb)

Toppled by the silly girl. (Contains no subject. The noun is contained in a prepositional phrase, so it cannot be the subject of the sentence.)

When she goes to the store. (Dependent clause. The word “When” is a subordinating conjunction.)

To fix a fragment, either continue writing to fully develop the idea, or join the fragment to an independent clause.

1:4 PRACTICE FINDING AND FIXING SENTENCE FRAGMENTS.

Run-ons: These are also called fused sentences or comma splices. You are making a run-on when you put two complete sentences (a subject and its predicate and another subject and its predicate) together in one sentence without separating them in any way. Here's an example of a run-on:

My favorite Mediterranean spread is hummus it is very garlicky.

This one sentence actually contains two complete sentences. But in the rush to get that idea out, I made it into one incorrect sentence. Luckily, there are many ways to correct this run-on sentence.

1. You could use a semicolon:

My favorite Mediterranean spread is hummus; it is very garlicky.

2. You could use a comma and a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so):

My favorite Mediterranean spread is hummus, for it is very garlicky.

-OR-

My favorite Mediterranean spread is hummus, and it is very garlicky.

3. You could use a subordinating conjunction:

My favorite Mediterranean spread is hummus because it is very garlicky.

-OR-

Because it is so garlicky, my favorite Mediterranean spread is hummus.

4. You could make it into two separate sentences with a period in between:

My favorite Mediterranean spread is hummus. It is very garlicky.



You CANNOT simply add a comma between the two sentences, or you'll end up with what's called a "comma splice." Here's an example of a comma splice:

My favorite Mediterranean spread is hummus, it is very garlicky.

You can fix a comma splice the same way you fix a run-on—either change the punctuation or add a conjunction. The good news is that writers tend to be either comma splices or run-on artists, but almost never both.

Finding run-ons

You can test your sentences to see if they're run-ons two different ways.

1. Turn them into yes/no questions.
2. Turn them into tag questions (sentences that end with a questioning phrase).

Look at the following sentence:

EX: My favorite Mediterranean spread is hummus.

1. Is my favorite Mediterranean spread hummus?
2. My favorite Mediterranean spread is hummus, isn't it?

The first sentence is complete and not a run-on, because our test worked. Now, try the test with the original run-on sentence:

EX: My favorite Mediterranean spread is hummus it is very garlicky.

1. Is my favorite Mediterranean spread hummus? Is it very garlicky?

But not:

1. Is my favorite Mediterranean spread hummus is it very garlicky?
2. My favorite Mediterranean spread is hummus, isn't it? It's very garlicky, isn't it?

But never:

2. My favorite Mediterranean spread is hummus it is very garlicky, isn't it?

E 1:5 & 1:6 PRACTICE FINDING AND FIXING RUN-ON SENTENCES.

Unit I Exercises:

1:1 Circle the **Prepositions.** Draw a box around the **Verbs.** Underline the **nouns.**

Hint: Some of the words do not fit these three categories.

Went	through	behind	get	gather	
	beyond	owl	girl	happen	kinder
from	hike	over	where	fierce	
	into	paper	upon	find	kind
begin	jump	there	their	she	
	in	my	desk	but	growl
back	excuse	release	black	frog	

1:2 Draw a box around the prepositions and underline the prepositional phrases.

Original Paragraph by John Steinbeck

Over the high coast mountains and over the valleys the gray clouds marched in from the ocean. The wind blew fiercely and silently, high in the air, and it swished in the brush, and it roared in the forests. The clouds came in brokenly, in puffs, in folds, in gray crags; and they piled in together and settled low over the west. And then the wind stopped and left the clouds deep and solid. The rain began with gust showers, pauses and downpours; and then gradually it settled to a single tempo, small drops and a steady beat, rain that was gray to see through, rain that cut midday light to evening. And at first the dry earth sucked the moisture down and blackened. For two days the earth drank the rain, until the earth was full. Then puddles formed, and in the low places little lakes formed in the fields. The muddy lakes rose higher, and the steady rain whipped the shining water. At last the mountains were full, and the hillsides spilled into the streams, built them to freshlets, and sent them roaring down the canyons into the valleys. The rain beat on steadily. And the streams and the little rivers edged up to the bank sides and worked at willows and tree roots, bent the willows deep in the current, cut out the roots of cotton-woods and brought down the trees. The muddy water whirled along the bank sides and crept up the banks until at last it spilled over, into the fields, into the orchards, into the cotton patches where the black stems stood. Level fields became lakes, broad and gray, and the rain whipped up the surfaces. Then the water poured over the highways, and cars moved slowly, cutting the water ahead, and leaving a boiling muddy wake behind. The earth whispered under the beat of the rain, and the streams thundered under the churning freshlets.

1:3 Identify the independent clauses with one line, and the dependant clauses with two lines. Draw a box around Coordinating Conjunctions, and circle Subordinating conjunctions and relative pronouns.

1. The doctor told Charlie to lose weight and exercise vigorously for forty-five minutes a day.
2. The doctor was worried that Charlie was putting on too much weight.
3. Charlie has a hard time sticking to a diet; he really loves rich, sweet desserts.
4. In fact, the last time he tried to lose weight, he ended up actually gaining weight.
5. Charlie has decided to hire a personal trainer because he is worried about his heart.
6. His new personal trainer, whose name is Adriana Bongiorno, thinks Charlie may be a lost cause.
7. That she can make him do the exercises but not stick to the diet.
8. He is very good as long as Miss Bongiorno is around, but he goes to the freezer for ice-cream when she leaves.
9. Charlie must learn that eating all those sweets may give him a temporary pleasure but that it's not good for his heart and that he would feel better about himself if he stopped eating all those rich and sweet foods that are not good for him.
10. Miss Bongiorno is starting to make a difference, though, and Charlie is starting to make some progress.

1:4 Identify and fix the sentence fragments in the paragraph below.

Although women's college basketball in Connecticut is a marvelously entertaining and popular sport. It not hard to remember. When it was not so popular. Which is hard to believe. Only a few years ago, my friends and I to go to a women's basketball game. And we could get seats for free near center court. Especially on Sunday afternoons. Of course, that before names such as Rebecca Lobo, Jenn Rizzotti, and Kara Wolters became household words. Lobo's book, Home-Court Advantage, which she wrote with her mother. A best-seller in Connecticut. If more than a couple of hundred fans showed up for a game. It was considered a big turnout. And games were played in practically silent gyms. Because the fans didn't care who won. Nowadays, it almost impossible to buy tickets to a women's game, and you can't get seats. Unless you know someone.

1:5 Identify and fix the run-on sentences.

1. Judy leads a charmed life she never seems to have a serious accident.
2. The airport is about to shut down because of the snow and if the plane doesn't land soon it will have to go on to Boston.
3. The show begins at 7:30 make sure you're there before 7:15.
4. Marcellino always knew his way around the woods this is something he could always depend on.
5. Having prepared himself well for the realtor exams and having exhausted everyone in the family with his requests that someone help him with the true-and-false drills, Jeffrey, who had never been a particularly good student in high school, knew he was ready to take on the greatest challenge of his life.
6. Throughout history money and religion were closely linked there was little distinction between government and religion.

1:6 Identify and fix the run-on sentences in the sentences below.

1. Miller was born in Olney, Maryland, he was raised in Montpelier, Vermont.
 2. Miller was a comic fan from an early age setting out to become an artist, he eventually received his first published work.
 3. This was followed by penciling work for anthology titles from DC Comics and his first work at Marvel Comics it was at Marvel that Miller would settle in as a regular.
- (4) In 2006, Miller announced that his next *Batman* book would be called *Holy Terror, Batman!* (5) In the story, Batman defends Gotham City against attacks by real-life terrorist group Al-Qaeda Miller proudly announced the title of his next Batman book, which he will write, draw and ink. (6) *Holy Terror, Batman!* is no joke Miller doesn't hold back on the true purpose of the book, calling it "a piece of propaganda," where 'Batman kicks al Qaeda's butt.'

7-10: Fix this run-on sentence four different ways.

Frank Miller is a comic artist he grew up in a small town.

- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

