

PARTS OF SPEECH

AKA WORD CLASS

PARTS OF SPEECH

Common Noun

- Person, place, or thing
- Inflect for case and number
- Function as subjects, objects and complements

Proper noun

- The specific name of a person or place

Determiner/Article

- Definite: *the*
- Indefinite: *a, an*

PARTS OF SPEECH CONT.

Verb

- Action or state of being
- Derivation or inflection
- Marked for tense

Adjective

- Denotes properties/states

Adverb

- Describes an action, modifies adjective
- Prototypically express time, manner and place

Pronoun

- Replaces a noun

PARTS OF SPEECH CONT.

Preposition

- Expresses spatial relation

Conjunction

- Connects phrases and clauses
- Subordinators and coordinators

Interjection

- Shows emotion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE 1

It was a Sunday morning at the most beautiful time in spring.

In what word class does each word fit?

It was a Sunday morning at the most beautiful time in spring.

Determiners: a, the

Nouns: it, morning, time, spring

Verbs: was

Prepositions: at, in

Adverbs: beautiful

Adjectives: most, Sunday

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLE SENTENCE

Prepositions

As a closed class/function word, they can only be taken from a small set. These are always followed by a noun. This is the key factor in determining whether or not a lexeme is a preposition or an adverb.

Verbs

There is only one lexeme that has been marked for tense i.e. past tense; *to be + past tense = was*.

Adjectives

Whilst *beautiful* is an easily recognised adjective, *Sunday*, within the function of this sentence, is providing more detail about the subject of the morning. Thus, it is operating as an adjective.

EXPLANATION OF THE ANALYSIS

Determiners

Closed class/function words; a, the. No new words can be added to these.

Nouns

It is a noun because it is being used in the place of the subject. This is semantically empty though.

Adverbs

most is working to modify beautiful (adj.). It is working to modify the degree to which the morning was 'beautiful'.

EXPLANATION OF THE ANALYSIS

EXAMPLE SENTENCE 2

They are always less suspicious of Alex.

Verb

are is marked for tense i.e. *to be* + past tense (plural) = *are*

Adverbs

always works to indicate frequency, *less* to indicate the comparative

Adjective

Suspicious as an adjective because it denotes the properties of the subject

EXPLANATION OF THE ANALYSIS