PARTS OF SPEECH

Different words in English put according to the work they do in a sentence are called parts of speech. There are eight classes of words that make up the parts of speech. These are noun, pronoun, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, preposition, conjunction and interjections.

NOUNS

Nouns are the names of people, animals, places and things. For example: Samson, Mary, John are names of people; Monkey, cow, goat are names of animals; Delta, Imo, Edo are names of places; House, tree, cup are names of things.

TYPES OF NOUN

There are four types of nouns; they are proper noun, common noun, collective noun and abstract noun.

Proper Noun: proper nouns are names of particular persons, animals, places or things. Proper noun start with capital letter like Mary, John are proper nouns because they are names belonging to specific persons. Enugu is a proper noun as it is the name of a particular place.

Common Noun: common nouns are names given to a class of people, animals, places or things, e.g. men, women, boys, girls, tables, chairs, town, village, school, etc.

Collective Noun: a collective noun is a name given to a group or collection of similar things or places, e.g. A collection of people can be referred to as a crowd; Teachers in a school can be referred to as staff; A number of sheep can be referred to as flock; a number of soldiers can be referred to as troop.

Abstract Noun: abstract noun is the name of things that we cannot see or touch e.g. music, honesty, happiness, success, question, etc.

COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

The four types of nouns are regrouped into countable and uncountable nouns.

Countable Nouns: they are the names of things that can be counted e.g. cars, pens, books, buses, schools, tables, keys, etc. Countable nouns usually have singular and plural forms. Singular implies one whilst plural implies more than one.

Uncountable Nouns: the plural of the common uncountable nouns remain the same. That is they do not really have a plural form. Instead quantity could be specified through the use of adjectives that qualify plural nouns. For example: many, few, little, some, and much. "Many" and "few" are used for countable nouns e.g. many houses, many books, many cars, few eggs, few mangoes. "Much" and "little" are used for the plural of uncountable nouns e.g. little food, little water, much sugar, much work, etc.

PLURAL FORMATION

Normally, nouns make their plural forms by adding '-s' to the singular form. However, there are many nouns which do not follow this general rule.

Examples of plurals ending with '-s'

Singular	**Plural**
Ball	Balls
Boy	Boys
Book	Books
Girl	Girls
Chair	Chairs
Chief	Chiefs
Doctor	Doctors
Key	Keys
Cup	Cups

Examples of plurals ending with '-es'

Singular	Plural
Mango	Mangoes
Tomato	Tomatoes
Dress	Dresses
Glass	Glasses
Box	Boxes
Bus	Buses

Examples of plurals ending with '-ies'

Singular	Plural

Examples of plurals involving vowel change

Singular	Plural
Man	Men
Woman	Women
Foot	Feet
Tooth	Teeth
Goose	Geese

Examples of plurals with changing of 'f' letter to 'ves'

Singular	Plural
Leaf	Leaves
Life	Lives
Thief	Thieves
Wife	Wives

Knife	Knives
Calf	Calves

Examples of plurals without any change

Singular	**Plural**
Rice	Rice
Fish	Fish
Sheep	Sheep
Series	Series
Information	Information
Equipment	Equipment

PRONOUNS

Pronouns are words used instead of nouns. Example: he, she, they, we, it, himself, them, etc. They are used to prevent repetition of nouns.

Types of Pronouns

Personal Pronouns: personal pronouns consist of words that usually replace for a name of a particular person or thing. Example: Samuel is coming soon; he is coming soon. The stone is big; it is big. I, you, he, she, it are examples of personal pronouns.

Possessive Pronouns: It indicates ownership of a particular thing. Examples: yours, mine, theirs, his, hers. Examples: (i) That bag is mine; (ii) The cat is hers; (iii) The book is yours.

Demonstrative Pronouns: pronouns that refer to objects that are pointed at are called demonstrated pronouns. Example: this, these, that, those, etc.

Relative Pronouns: it is a word that does the job of a pronoun and simultaneously joins two sentences together. Examples: who, whom, which, that, whose, etc. For instance: (i) John is the boy who

ate the food; (ii) He knows the boy whom you described; (iii) This is the pen that I borrowed from you.

Reflexive Pronouns: it replaces the names of persons or thing but usually ends with self as the object. Example: yourself, myself, himself, ourselves, themselves, etc. For instance: (i) go yourself; (ii) Samuel hurts himself.

Indefinite Pronouns: these are pronouns used when a person does not know exactly which person or thing he is speaking about. Example: someone, somebody, anybody, everybody, etc. For instance: Everyone turned up for the labour exercise.

Interrogative Pronouns: They replace nouns but asks questions as well. For instance: (i) Who killed the cat? (ii) Whose is the book? (iii) Which one of these is yours?

Note: Who, whom, whose, are used in asking questions about living things (esp. humans) while which and what are used to ask questions about non-living things (and even non-human animals). However, 'which' could be used for both, example: which of these girls went out of the classroom.

Singular and Plurals of Pronouns

Singular	**Plural**
My	Our
I	We
Me	Us
She/He/It	They
Her/Him/It	Them
This	These
That	Those
Mine	Ours
Hers/His/Its	Their

VERBS

A verb is an action word. It tells us what a noun or a pronoun do at a particular time. Example: coming, wrote, eaten, stole, came, etc. For instance: (i) Samuel came here yesterday; (ii) Ada stole the book; (iii) The Headmaster flogged him.

Tenses

Tenses means the changing of verbs according to time, that is present tense, past tense, future tense, etc.

Types of Verbs

Definite or Transitive Verb: this is the verb that passes the action expressed by the doer to some other person or thing. It can also control the object in a sentence. For instance: The boy played the ball (*here the verb controls the object, the ball*)

Finite or Intransitive Verb: this verb does not pass its action over to any other person or thing. For instance: The player scored.

Regular Verb: these verbs form their past and past participle by simply adding '-ed' to them. For example: work (worked), etc.

Irregular Verb: these verbs do not form their past and past participle by simply adding '-ed' instead they take different forms. Example: throw (threw, thrown), put (put, put), etc.

Auxiliary Verb: these are helping verbs. They support the main verb to make grammatical completeness of a sentence. Example: to be, to be able (to can), to have, to go, to do, etc.

ADJECTIVES

Adjectives are words that describe or give us more information about a noun or pronoun. Example: (i) the wicked man; (ii) the intelligent girl.

Types of Adjectives

Possessive Adjectives: these are adjectives that show possession. For example: that is my book; this is our car.

Qualitative Adjectives: it tells the quality of a noun. For example: she is a beautiful lady.

Quantitative Adjectives: it helps to tell us the number or size of a noun or nouns. For example: there are only few cakes in the basket.

Demonstrative Adjectives: they are used before a noun unlike demonstrative pronouns and they point at the particular noun we are talking about. For example: I love that game.

Distributive Adjectives: they are used to point out something among many things. For example: (i) Every student worked at the farm; (ii) Neither of them is good in physics; (iii) He called each of them, one by one.

Interrogative Adjectives: they are used to ask questions. For example: whose book is this?

NOTE: Pronouns are used like nouns, that is they perform action and are usually aided by auxiliary verbs, however adjective usually come before a noun or pronoun to tell something about that noun or pronoun. For instance: (i) This book is mine (*adjective*); (ii) This is my book (*pronoun*).

Some Adjectives of Quality

Singular and Plurals of Pronouns

Positive	**Comparative**	**Superlative**
Long	Longer	Longest
Old	Older	Oldest
Sweet	Sweeter	Sweetest
Thin	Thinner	Thinnest
Small	Smaller	Smallest
Up	Upper	Uppermost
Good	Better	Best

Bad	Worse	Worst
Far	Farther	Farthest
Dull	Duller	Dullest
New	Newer	Newest
In	Inner	Innermost
Fat	Fatter	Fattest
Round	Round	Round
Wrong	Wrong	Wrong
Empty	Empty	Empty
Right	Right	Right
Beautiful	More beautiful	Most beautiful
Black	More black	Most black
Intelligent	More intelligent	Most intelligent

ADVERBS

An adverb is a word that modifies (i.e. tells us more about) a verb, an adjective or another adverb. It lets us know how, when, where, or why an action takes place. Most adverbs are derived by adding '-ly' to an adjective. E.g. gentle (*adjective*), gently (*adverb*). Although, other adverbs that do not have any special ending exist. E.g. fast, often, etc.

Types of Adverbs

Adverb of Place: they tell us where an action takes place. For example: John is here; I saw a pen there.

Adverb of Time: they tell us when an action takes place. For example: He left late; Ed had a music lesson today.

Adverb of Reason: this adverb answers the question of why did something happen. For example: it happened because of him.

Adverb of Manner: this is the adverb that answers the question of how a thing happened. For example: He walked slowly.

Adverb of Degree: this tells us the extent of an action. For example: I ran quickly.

PREPOSITIONS

They help to show relationship between two nouns, pronouns or between a noun and a verb. For example: my shoe is beside the table.

INTERJECTION

They are words which express some sudden emotions of the mind. They are usually written with an exclamation mark following them. For example: Ah! Aha!

CONJUNCTION

They are words, which join two words or sentences together to form one sentence. They do not start a sentence. For example: or, but, and, yet, neither, because, also, however, etc.