

Fundamentals of English Grammar

Language

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Fundamentals of English Grammar

- ROLE OF WORDS IN A SENTENCE –
- words are **the building blocks** with which sentences are constructed.
- words are like **clothing for the thought**. How well you dress up or ‘clothe’ your thoughts , becomes your power over words.

Role of words : VERB = ACTION

- Each word in a sentence has a specific role to play in completing the meaning of the thought that is being conveyed through it.
- No sentence can exist with out at-least one Verb. As Humpty Dumpty said to Alice 'Verbs have a temper' You cannot misplace them or use them incorrectly.
- A 'Verb' is the 'doing word' in a sentence, which means it conveys the action that is taking place in the sentence.

Role of words : NOUNS = DOER of the action in a sentence

- one Noun + one Verb = one simple sentence.
- 2 Nouns + 2 verbs = a Compound sentence
- 3 or more Nouns + 3 or more Verbs = a Complex sentence.
- Nouns are the 'naming words' They tell us about the person who is doing the action in the sentence.

CONCORD

- Noun or Doer is the **Subject** part of a sentence
- Verb or Action is the **Object** part of a sentence
- CONCORD means harmony or agreement between the Subject and the Predicate.
- When the subject is singular, the verb in the predicate is also singular
- Two nouns connected with 'and' , have a plural verb.

PRONOUNS AND PROVERBS

- Pronouns are words used in place of Nouns. He, She, It, Us.
- Personal pronouns, and Relative pronouns.
- Proverbs are words used in place of Verbs.
- These are popular sayings expressed in a clever , brief manner. For example, “All is well that ends well”.

Adjectives and Adverbs

1. **Adjectives** add information and meaning about the doer of action in a sentence, namely the Noun.
 - Adjectives have three degrees : Positive, Comparative, and Superlative.
2. **Adverbs** add information about the action word in a sentence, namely, Verb.
 - Kinds of Adverbs : of time, place, manner, degree, number, questioning, affirmation, negation.

Conjunctions and Prepositions

3. 'Preposition' : meaning placed before or after the Noun or Adjective, verb or adverb.
4. 'Conjunction': is another role of a word in a sentence. It joins two nouns, or two adjectives, or two adverbs.

It also joins two parts of a Compound Sentence, or two phrases / clauses in a Complex Sentence.

Same word can have different roles

- The previous slides indicate the roles of words in a sentence.
- The **same word** can have **different roles** in the same or in different sentences.
- The trick is to understand
 - a) **what role the word is playing ?**
 - b) **how to identify that role ?**

Good Precise writing comes from this knowledge.

This is also the difference between grasping the meaning in a Comprehension Question, and merely using from memory.

Role of letters in a word

- Similar to understanding the **role of words** in a sentence, we can also **understand words** by recognizing the **role of letters** within a word.
- **200 keys** can get you to the meaning of most words
- Learning to break a word into **smaller units** to reach **its root** and **understand its meaning**.
- The roots may be **a prefix or a suffix**.
- A **'Prefix'** is a letter that comes **before** or at the beginning of the word.
- A **'Suffix'** is a letter that comes **at the end** of a word.