



WORD CLASS & SENTENCE PARTS

What's What in a Sentence?

What Is a Word Class?

Word class means the *type* of word. Every word has a job. Every sentence has a team. Let's learn how they work.

Here are the most common word classes:

| Word Class | What It Does | Examples |
|--------------|--|----------------------|
| Noun | Names a person, place, or thing | dog, teacher, school |
| Verb | Shows action or state | run, eat, is |
| Adjective | Describes a noun | big, happy, red |
| Adverb | Describes a verb, adjective, or another adverb | quickly, very, well |
| Pronoun | Replaces a noun | I, you, he, she, it |
| Preposition | Shows position or time | in, on, at, before |
| Conjunction | Joins words or sentences | and, but, because |
| Determiner | Comes before a noun | the, a, some, my |
| Interjection | Shows emotion | wow, oh, hey |

What Are Sentence Parts?

Every sentence has parts. These parts work together to make meaning.

| Sentence Part | What It Is | Example |
|---------------|---|--|
| Subject | Who or what does the action | <i>The dog</i> runs. |
| Verb | The action or state | The dog <i>runs</i> . |
| Object | Who or what receives the action | She eats <i>pizza</i> . |
| Complement | Gives more info about the subject or object | He is <i>tired</i> . |
| Adverbial | Tells us when, where, how | They play <i>outside</i> . / <i>On Monday</i> , we left. |

Not every sentence has an object. But when it does, it's the thing or person that gets the action.

Example: She reads a book. → **Object** = a book

Let's Look at Sentence Parts Together

Every sentence has a few key parts. You don't need to remember big grammar words—just think about what each part does.

Here's a simple way to break it down:

| Part | What It Does | Example |
|--------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Who? | The person or thing doing the action | My brother plays soccer. |
| What action? | The thing they do | My brother plays soccer. |
| *What thing? | The thing they do it to (optional) | My brother plays soccer. |
| *Extra info | When, where, or how it happens (optional) | My brother plays soccer on Saturdays. |

These parts are optional. Not every sentence has an object or extra info.


You can think of it like this:

Who + does what + to what + extra info

Note: "Who" = Subject, "What action" = Verb, "What" = Object, "Extra info" = Adverbial.

Try It Yourself: Sorting Practice

Look at these sentences. Can you find the parts?

 Use this chart to help:

Sentence: The teacher reads a book in the morning.

| Who? (Subject) | What action (Verb) | What thing? (Object) | Extra info? (Time/Place/How) |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | |

Sentence: My friends eat lunch at school.

| Who? (Subject) | What action (Verb) | What thing? (Object) | Extra info? (Time/Place/How) |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | |

Sentence: We play games after dinner.

| Who? (Subject) | What action (Verb) | What thing? (Object) | Extra info? (Time/Place/How) |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | |

Grammar Rules to Remember

Every sentence needs a subject and a verb. ✓ "She runs." ✗ "Runs."

The object comes after the verb.

✓ "He reads a book." ✗ "He a book reads."

Adjectives go before nouns.

✓ "a big house" ✗ "a house big"

Adverbs often go after the verb.

✓ "She sings beautifully." ✗ "She beautifully sings."

(sometimes okay, but harder)

Word class is about the job, not the spelling. ✓ "run" is a verb in "I run." ✓ "a run" is a noun in "I went for a run."

Teacher's Key

Try It Yourself: Sorting Practice

Look at these sentences. Can you find the parts?

Use this chart to help:

Sentence: The teacher reads a book in the morning.

| Who? (Subject) | What action (Verb) | What thing? (Object) | Extra info? (Time/Place/How) |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| The teacher | reads | a book | in the morning |

Sentence: My friends eat lunch at school.

| Who? (Subject) | What action (Verb) | What thing? (Object) | Extra info? (Time/Place/How) |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| My friends | eat | lunch | at school |

Sentence: We play games after dinner.

| Who? (Subject) | What action (Verb) | What thing? (Object) | Extra info? (Time/Place/How) |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| We | play | games | after dinner |


Notes

“Who?” is the subject—the person or group doing the action.

“What action?” is the verb—the thing they do.

“What thing?” is the object—the thing affected by the action.

“Extra info” tells us when, where, or how—this is sometimes called an adverbial, but you can just say “extra part.”

 **Tip:** If students struggle, let them act out the sentence or draw boxes around each part. You can also color-code the sentence on the board to show how each part works.