**Parts of Speech Categories**

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| **Noun** | **Verb** | **Adjective** | **Adverb** |
| book, friendship, Seattle, cork, mud, email, Snapchat, text | sing, text, wonder, catapult, forgive, stand up | glad, curious, funny, silky, weird, tight, interesting | carefully, often, sometimes, fast |

**Nouns -** Short semantic definition: Nouns are people, places, things, and ideas.

Morphological and syntactic facts about nouns:

* Nouns can be pluralized *rats, spiders, bunnies*
* Nouns can be made possessive the cat’s tail, the truth’s inevitability
* Nouns can have certain other “nominal” suffixes - *-ance/ence* (performance), *–ion* (formation)*, -al* (refusal)*, -age* (leakage).
* Nouns occur after Determiners like *a, the,* and *an* (also called articles); *this, that, these, those* (also called demonstrative determiners); and possessive determiners (*my, your, her*, etc.).
* Nouns occur after Numerals, both the Cardinal ones (six, eleven, four thousand) and the Ordinal ones (second, fifteenth).
* Nouns occur after Quantifiers, words that express quantity like *all, each, both, every, some, several, many, more, less, much, few*.
* Nouns can be modified by (or described by) Adjectives: *the furry kitten, a rainy day*. The term modification is one we’ll be exploring in more depth later.

**Verbs -** Short semantic definition: Verbs express actions or states of being.

Morphological and syntactic facts about verbs:

* Verbs express tense – present and past
  + She walk**ed** to school.
  + He eat**s** pizza.
  + Sue **caught** the ball.
* Verbs can have certain other “verbal” affixes: dis- (disappear), re- (rediscover), -ate (activate), -ize (regularize), -en (tighten), and others
* Verbs can occur with auxiliary verbs (forms of *have, be*, and *do*) and modal verbs (*can, could, shall, should, may, might, must, will, would*) modal verbs: *She will eat. They must swim. We are running*

**Adjectives -** Short semantic definition: Adjectives are describing words

Morphological and syntactic facts about adjectives:

* Adjectives have comparative (-*er/more*) and superlative (-*est/most*) forms: bigger, biggest; more interesting, most interesting
* Adjectives can follow a **linking verb** (such as *seems, is, appears*), which “link” a subject to what follows: *The cat seems sick. The paint is thick.*
* Adjectives can be preceded by a degree word like *very, so*, or *too*:*Her foot is very bruised.**She is so ecstatic.*

**Adverbs -** Short semantic definition: adverbs modify, or give extra information about verbs, and they describe manner, time, attitude of the speaker, possibility, or focus certain parts of the sentence. (See note on conjunctive adverbs below.) (And note adverbs are distinct from **degree words**.)

Morphological and syntactic facts about adverbs:

* Adverbs sometimes end in *–ly,* but not always: quickly, slowly, awkwardly (Some adjectives end in –ly: *friendly, cowardly*, and lots of adverbs don’t end in –ly: *fast, often, sometimes*)
* They can have no suffix, or they can have other suffixes: *-wise, -like, -ward, -ways,* among others. We are eating fast. He wrote on the page sideways.
* Adverbs, like adjectives, can have comparative (-*er/more*) and superlative (-*est/most*) forms: She ran faster than you. He is the fastest of all.
* Adverbs can modify not just verbs, but whole sentences: Carefully, he unwrapped the sandwich. Fortunately, we don’t have to walk home in the rain.

**Function Word Categories with Examples -** convey more grammatical meaning, do not typically add new words

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| **Determiner** | the, a, this, that, these, those, his, my | **Preposition\*** | across, beneath, under, in, on, during |
| **Numeral** | two, seven, twelfth, | **Conjunction** | and, or, yet, for, but, so, nor |
| **Quantifier** | all, each, every, both, some, most, much, less | **Degree Word** | very, so, quite, somewhat, too |
| **Pronoun** | I/me, you, he/she, him/her, we/us, they/them, mine, who | **Auxiliary Verb** | have (has, have, had) be (am, is, are, was, were), do (does, did) |
| **Interjection** | ouch, lordy, oh my! | **Modal** | may, might, can, could, will, would, should, must |

**Conjunctive Adverbs** – This subtype of adverb can conjoin independent clauses: *accordingly, again, also, besides, consequently, finally, further, furthermore, hence, however, indeed, instead, likewise, moreover, nevertheless, otherwise, still, then, therefore, thus*.

\***Subordinating Prepositions** – This subtype of prepositions can introduce clauses: *although, because, before, even though, since, until, when*.