

8

Adjective

Adverb

Pronoun

Preposition

Noun

Tense

Verb

# New Learners' English Grammar and Composition



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*(Revised Wren's English Grammar Series &  
Wren & Martin's High School English Grammar & Composition)*



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# PREFACE

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Learners' English Grammar and Composition is an activity-based series specially designed to meet the needs of pupils in Indian schools today. This graded series, comprising eight books, is intended for classes 1 to 8 and leads up to Learners' English Grammar and Composition for classes 9 and 10, which has been in use since 1990.

The present series is largely based on a study of the current trends in school syllabi and recent developments in the treatment of English grammar and composition. The main objective of this series is to equip learners with the ability to use English effectively in real-life situations. Special attention has been paid to the points of structure and usage which are usually problematic to non-native speakers of English. The major focus is rightly on the area of verbs, which is the most important aspect of grammar and is evidently the most difficult for Indian learners to master.

The series aims at simplicity of language and simplicity of treatment. The grammatical explanations in particular have been made very clear and easy to understand. The material has been graded with the utmost care. There are various types of exercises, most of which are judiciously geared towards mixed-ability classes. The units on comprehension and writing skills set out to help learners to put their knowledge of grammar to more practical use and widen their communicative ability.

It is hoped that this need-based series, enlivened by full-colour illustrations, will be liked by both pupils and teachers, and found suitable for use in CBSE- and ICSE-affiliated schools as well as State Board schools.

I am indebted to numerous grammarians and writers on methodology, mainly to P.C. Wren, H. Martin, John Eastwood, Michael Swan, Raymond Murphy, Adrian Doff and Penny Ur, whose books have been of great help. I acknowledge the assistance of my sons, Koteswara Rao and Murali Mohana Rao, in organizing the material.

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Dr. N.D.V. PRASADA RAO

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# 1 Parts of Speech : Review



There are eight word classes or **parts of speech** in English. They are: nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections.

There is also another word class called **determiners**.

A **noun** is a word which names or refers to a person, animal, place, thing or idea. The words **student, Saroja, dog, city, Nagpur, computer, fridge, joy, truth** and **beauty** are all nouns.

A **pronoun** is a word (such as **I, me, you, we, he, him, she** and **they**) which is used in place of a noun.

A **verb** says what somebody or something does (e.g. **eat**) or what happens (e.g. **die, rain**). A few verbs like **be, remain** and **have** describe a state or condition.

An **adjective** is a word which describes or says more about a noun or pronoun, e.g. **clever, tall, hungry, interesting**.

A **determiner** is a word which comes before a noun and limits the meaning of the noun or shows which person or thing is being referred to. Determiners include **the, a, an, this, that, these, those, all, some, any, each, every, my, your, our, his, their, one, two**, etc. Most of the determiners (almost all except **a/an** and **the**) are often treated as adjectives in traditional grammars.

An **adverb** is a word that mainly describes or gives more information (**how, when, where**, etc.) about a verb. (e.g. He writes **neatly**. He came **yesterday**. Sit **there**.)

An adverb sometimes gives more information about an adjective (e.g. You are **quite** right.) or another adverb (e.g. He walks **very** slowly.)

A **preposition** is a word like **on, in, at, with, for, under, from** and **to**, used before a noun or pronoun to show place, time, method, etc.

A **conjunction** is a joining word such as **and, but, yet, or, when, because** and **though**. It joins words or groups of words.

An **interjection** is a word spoken suddenly to express a strong feeling. **Hurrah, hello, bravo, oh, ah, gosh, ouch, shh, wow**, etc. are interjections.

Some words belong to more than one word class or part of speech. Study the following :

- (a) Would you give me some **water**? (noun)  
(b) We **water** the plants daily. (verb)



2. (a) We saw the film on **video**. (noun)  
(b) They **video** such programmes. (verb)
3. (a) He fell **off** the ladder. (preposition)  
(b) The thief ran **off**. (adverb)
4. (a) This is a **fast** train. (adjective)  
(b) He walks **fast**. (adverb)  
(c) Muslims **fast** during Ramzan. (verb)  
(d) He broke his **fast** yesterday. (noun)

Remember that, as in the above sentences, sometimes we can't know what part of speech a word is unless we see what work it is doing in a sentence.

## Exercise 1...



**Name the parts of speech of the words in bold. Write your answer below the passage.**

Mr Vijay Joshi **was** a businessman in **Nagpur**. One day, **while** he was driving **along** a country road, **he** saw an **old** man carrying a **heavy** bag.

"I'll give **you** a lift to the **town**," said Mr Joshi.

"**Oh!** How kind you are!" said the old man, **and immediately** he got **into** the **car**.

After a few minutes Mr Joshi found that the old man was still holding the heavy bag in his hands. He was surprised.

"Why are you **still** carrying the bag?" he said. "You can put it on the seat."

The old man **replied**, "You have been kind enough to give me a ride. I don't like to make you carry my bag too."

- |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. was _____    | 9. town _____         |
| 2. Nagpur _____ | 10. oh _____          |
| 3. while _____  | 11. and _____         |
| 4. along _____  | 12. immediately _____ |
| 5. he _____     | 13. into _____        |
| 6. old _____    | 14. car _____         |
| 7. heavy _____  | 15. still _____       |
| 8. you _____    | 16. replied _____     |



# Exercise II...



What parts of speech are the words in bold? Write your answers on the lines.

- 1. The **phone** is ringing. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. I **phone** my sister every day. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. We **play** cricket on Sundays. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. The children are at **play**. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. **Today** is Friday. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. I will see him **today**. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. He works **hard**. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. There were some **hard** questions in the exam. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. The **cook** is ill. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. I usually **cook** at weekends. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. The boys ran **round** the tree. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. I turned **round** and went home again. \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. The postman starts his **round** at 9 o'clock. \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. I have a pain in the **back**. \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. I'll come **back** in five minutes. \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. Have you closed the **back** door? \_\_\_\_\_



# 2

## Classifications of Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives and Adverbs : Review



### Nouns

Nouns can be divided into :

1. **Common nouns** (= names given in common to all people, places and things of the same kind)  
*e.g. boy, teacher, city, river, month*
2. **Proper nouns** (= names of particular people, places or things )  
*e.g. Suresh, Mr Brown, Allahabad, the Ganga, October*
3. **Abstract nouns** (= names of feelings, ideas or qualities )  
*e.g. love, anger, beauty, wisdom, kindness*
4. **Collective nouns** (= names of groups of people or collections of things )  
*e.g. crowd, team, flock, bunch, fleet*

There is another classification of nouns : “**countable nouns**” (= names of things which can be counted) and “**uncountable nouns**” (= names of things which cannot be counted ). Nouns like **pen, chair, house** and **tree** are countable. Nouns like **milk, sugar, rice, gold, freedom** and **happiness** are uncountable. The next unit deals with this subject in detail.

### Pronouns

There are seven kinds of pronouns :

1. **Personal pronouns**  
*I, you, he, we, they, me, him, us, etc.*
2. **Possessive pronouns**  
*mine, his, hers, ours, yours, theirs*
3. **Reflexive pronouns**  
*myself, yourself, himself, herself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves*
4. **Demonstrative pronouns** ( used to “point out” somebody or something )  
*this, that, these, those*
5. **Interrogative pronouns** ( used in asking questions )  
*what, which, who, whom, whose*
6. **Relative pronouns** (used to introduce clauses as in : “This is the boy **who** helped me”.)  
*that, which, who, whom*



7. **Pronouns of quantity** (and number)  
**many, much, some, few, all, both, each, either, neither**, etc.

## Adjectives

There are mainly five kinds of adjectives :

1. **Adjectives of quality** (or Descriptive adjectives)  
They show the quality of a person or thing.  
a **kind** person, a **large** city, an **honest** man, **dirty** clothes
2. **Demonstrative adjectives**  
Like demonstrative pronouns, they “point out”.  
**this** book, **these** pencils, **that** man, **those** houses
3. **Possessive adjectives**  
**my, your, his, her, our, their**
4. **Interrogative adjectives**  
**which, what, whose** (e.g. **Which** pen is yours ?)
5. **Adjectives of quantity** (and number)  
They include all the numerals (**one, two, second, fifth**, etc.) and also many words like **all, both, some, many, much, few, each, every**, etc.  
**six** apples, **all** men, **some** books, **every** player

**Note :** In modern grammars, adjectives of types 2 to 5 are often called **determiners**.

## Adverbs

An adverb is a word which modifies or adds to the meaning of a verb. Sometimes an adverb modifies an adjective or another adverb.

She types **quickly**. (modifies the verb “types” )

You are **quite** right. (modifies the adjective “right”)

He spoke **very** well. (modifies the adverb “well”)

The commonest types of adverb are :

1. **Adverbs of manner** (These answer the question “How?”)  
**quickly, angrily, carefully, fast, well**, etc.
2. **Adverbs of place** (These answer the question “Where?”)  
**here, there, near, everywhere**, etc.
3. **Adverbs of time** (They answer the question “When?”)  
**now, then, today, yesterday, soon**, etc.





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