

Parts of speech

Noun (el sustantivo): The name of a person, place, thing, or concept. Some examples are: **María** (*Mary*, a proper name as opposed to a common noun), **hombre** (*man*), **parque** (*park*), **libro** (*book*), **religión** (*religion*). Nouns in Spanish have gender and number; that is, they are either masculine or feminine, singular or plural. **Libro** is masculine, **religión** is feminine; **libro** is singular (one *book*), **libros** is plural (two or more *books*).

Pronoun (el pronombre): A word which is used in place of a noun and from which it takes its gender and number. An example is **él** (*he*) to replace the expression **mi hijo** (*my son*, masculine singular). Pronouns are divided into: personal pronouns [e.g., **yo** (*I*), **ella** (*she*)], demonstratives [e.g., **éste** (*this one*), **ésa** (*that one*)], possessives [e.g., **el mío/la mía** (*mine*)], relatives [e.g., **que, quien, la que, el cual** (*that, who, which*)], and indefinites [e.g., **alguien** (*someone*), **algo** (*something*)]. Personal pronouns may serve as the subject of a verb [**yo, tú, usted**, etc.], the direct object of a verb [**me, te, lo, la**, etc.], the indirect object of a verb [**me, te, le**, etc.], reflexive [**me, te, se, etc.**], or the object of a preposition [**mí, ti, usted**, etc.].

Verb (el verbo): The part of speech which expresses an action or state in a variable form, according to the characteristics of the subject. There are several classes of verbs such as: active or transitive [e.g., **mover** (*to move*) and **bañar** (*to bathe*) in Spanish require a direct object], intransitive [e.g., **luchar** (*to fight*) in Spanish normally does not have a direct object], copulative or linking [e.g., **ser** (*to be*)], impersonal [e.g., **hay** (*there is/are*)], and helping or auxiliary [e.g., **he {hablado}** (*I have {spoken}*)], **habríamos {spoken}** (*we would have {studied}*)]. There are three conjugations of verbs: **-ar** [e.g., **hablar**, *to speak*], **-er** [e.g., **comer**, *to eat*], and **-ir** [e.g., **vivir**, *to live*], each with typical sets of endings. The endings in Spanish indicate mood, for example indicative or subjunctive, and the tense [or time, such as present, past, or future] within that mood, and the person [first (i.e., *I* or *we*), second (i.e., *you*), or third (i.e., *he/she* or *they*)] and number [singular or plural].

Adverb (el adverbio): The part of speech which modifies or changes the meaning of a verb, adjective, or another adverb. There are adverbs of place [e.g., **aquí** (*here*), **allí** (*there*)], time [e.g., **después** (*afterwards*), **pronto** (*soon*)], manner [e.g., **bien** (*well*), **rápidamente** (*quickly*)], affirmation [e.g., **sí** (*yes*)], and negation [e.g., **no** (*no*), **nunca** (*never*)]. Adverbs may appear in comparative, superlative [e.g., **más** (*more/most*), **peor** (*worse/worst*)], y diminutive [e.g., **ahorita** (*now*)] forms.

Adjective (el adjetivo): A word which is used with reference to a noun to indicate a quality or to determine or limit the noun. Accordingly, adjectives are divided into descriptive and limiting. Examples of descriptive adjectives are **inteligente** (*intelligent*), **pequeño/-a** (*small*). Limiting adjectives include the demonstratives [e.g., **este** (*this*), **esa** (*that*), numerals [**dos** (*two*), **cien** (*one hundred*)], possessives [**mi**(my), **tu** (*your*)] and *articles [**el/la/los/las** (*the*), **un/una** (*a/an*), **unos/unas** (*some*)]. Since they modify nouns, adjectives may have various endings to agree with the noun in question according to whether it is masculine or feminine, singular or plural. Descriptive adjectives may also have comparative/superlative forms [**bueno** = *good*, **mejor** = *better/best*], absolute superlative forms [**fácil** = *easy*, **facilísimo**= *extremely easy*], and diminutive forms [**pequeño** = *small*, **pequeñito** = *very small, tiny*].

Preposition (la preposición): An invariable part of speech which unites words, denoting a relationship which exists between them. Examples include: **a** (*to*), **ante** (*before*) **bajo** (*below*), **con** (*with*), **contra**(*against*), **de** (*of*), **desde** (*from*), **en** (*in, at*), **entre** (*between, among*), **hacia** (*toward*), **hasta** (*until*), **para** (*for*), **por** (*for, by*), **según** (*according to*), **sin** (*without*), and **sobre** (*over, upon*) and compound forms such as **antes de** (*before*), **después de** (*after*), **encima de** (*on top of*), and **debajo de** (*underneath*).

Interjection (la interjección): A part of speech which includes exclamations which express reactions and changes in mental states such as **¡ah!** (*oh!*), **¡ay!** (*ow!*, *ouch!*), **¡bravo!** (*well done!*), and **¡uf!**(*ugh!*).

Conjunction (la conjunción): An invariable word which serves to link words or phrases. Examples include **y** (*and*), **o** (*or*), **pero** (*but*), **cuando** (*when*), and **porque** (*because*). Conjunctions are often divided into two groups: coordinating conjunctions may be used to combine independent clauses (e.g., **y**, **o**, and **pero**); subordinating conjunctions (e.g. **cuando** and **porque**) introduce a subordinate or dependent clause.

*Some consider articles as another part of speech, the part which is used before a noun to limit it. Most consider articles as a specific type of [adjective](#).

Examples of parts of speech within the context of a sentence:

(possessive) adjective noun verb conjunction verb adverb preposition (demonstrative) adjective noun

Mi hijo vive y trabaja aquí en esta ciudad.
My son lives and works here in this city.

interjection verb adjective conjunction pronoun verb adjective (article) noun

¡Oh! Es maravilloso cuando ella toca el violín.
Oh! (It) is marvellous when she plays the violin.

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