

Grammar and Syntax – 1 Parts of Speech and Word Order

Part of Speech	Description	Word examples	Sentence Examples
Noun Noun phrase	Name of anything – referring to persons, places, animals, things, ideas or concepts. Nouns can be used as the subject or object of a verb	John Perth wisdom bunch Chairs Skylight Walking Rice	<i>John</i> is my son. I <i>like</i> Perth. We seek <i>wisdom</i> . He ate a <i>bunch</i> of grapes. The <i>chairs</i> are wooden. He built a <i>skylight</i> . <i>Walking</i> is good exercise. The recipe uses lots of <i>rice</i>
Pronoun	A Word used in place of a noun	She Her they	<i>She</i> eats icecream. He likes <i>her</i> face. <i>They</i> walk together.
Adjective	a word which adds something to a noun to tell what it is like - to describe something and so qualifies it	Small Green Good New plastic	The ant is a <i>small</i> insect She wears a <i>green</i> coat. The <i>good</i> child is praised. He bought a <i>new</i> car. The <i>plastic</i> chair broke.
Verb Verb phrase	A word that is used in describing an action, experience or state. It can make a statement, ask a question, or give a command	Run feel Is Put on	Do cheetahs <i>run</i> fast? I <i>feel</i> sick. The woman <i>is</i> old. He puts the clothes on.
Adverb Adverbial phrase	A word that describes or adds to the meaning of a verb, adjective another adverb or a whole sentence.	Quickly Unusually Immediately really	He runs <i>quickly</i> . The food is <i>unusually</i> tasty. Go home <i>immediately</i> . She swam <i>really</i> well.
Preposition Prepositional phrase	A word placed before a noun to show the relation or connection of a person or thing to something else.	Of At In By	He has a book <i>of</i> jokes. Can you meet <i>at</i> the shop? The lolly is <i>in</i> the box. Refugees came <i>by</i> boat.
Determiner	Definite Article Indefinite article	The A An	<i>The</i> book you like is here. Would you like <i>a</i> banana? Eat <i>an</i> apple every day.
Conjunction	A word that joins together two words, phrases, clauses or sentences.	And But So because	I went to the shops <i>and</i> bought a hat. The girl listened <i>but</i> she did not speak. He was hungry <i>so</i> he ate a biscuit. She cared for him <i>because</i> he was sick.

Consider the parts of speech in this sentence:

The little boy excitedly chased a butterfly around the park but alas it flew away.

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1 - NOUNS - [NOMEN] A SUBSTANTIVE

Name of anything – referring to persons, places, animals, things, ideas or concepts
e.g Alice, table, father, justice

1. TYPES OF NOUNS

Proper nouns name specific people places and things, and usually, in English, begin with a capital letter e.g Prime Minister, Perth, April, Paul

Concrete nouns name people, or things you can experience with the 5 senses, things you can see, hear, touch, smell, or taste. They have a capital letter only when placed at the beginning of a sentence e.g table, letter, music, computer, fragrance, teacher, brother, food

Abstract nouns group of nouns that cannot be perceived by the senses
– they include emotions, ideas, states, qualities and feelings.
E.g love, hate, humility, peace, war, grace, wisdom

Collective nouns name groups of people, places, things & animals forming one body
e.g committee, church, flock of birds, herd of elephants, bunch of grapes,

Compound nouns are made when two words are joined together to form a word – can be hyphenated or two words together e.g firefly, icecream, skylight, , hairspray.
They are usually used with a singular verb but also can be found with a plural depending on whether the writer/ speaker thinks they make one unit or not.

Gerunds are verb forms ending in “ing” which are used as a noun.
e.g *Walking* is fun.. Avoid *speaking* to him. *Suffering* for Christ
Your job does not include *sleeping*. Compare - He was sleeping at work.
Learning is easy for him. Compare - He is learning Greek.
Paul bore in his body the *suffering* of Christ. Compare - He was suffering from hardship.

Nominal functions as a noun but are not really one e.g the poor, the young the blind

2. COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE USES OF NOUNS

If a noun is countable:

- we can use a/an in front of it e.g a book, an orange
- It has a plural and can be used in the question “how many? E.g how many apples? 4 apples
- we can use numbers e.g. 10 girls, one table

If a noun is uncountable;

- we do not usually use a/an in front of it e.g coffee is expensive
- it does not usually have a plural and can be used in the question How much? E.g How much water is there? – a lot of water.
- we cannot usually use a number (one ,two) before it.
- Usually name a substance, or liquid, or material or abstract quality
E.g. water, rice, cotton, anger integrity, information, comfort
- are preceded by only certain qualifiers or some kind of container or measure
e.g a glass of wine, some paper, a little time, lots of rice, 1 kg of coffee
- Usually used with singular verbs e.g The milk is fresh. Your advice is welcome.

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The same word can be countable in one context and uncountable in another. The meaning is usually different.

E.g *experience* - The cafe is asking for someone with *experience* to waitress.

We had a wonderful *experience* when we saw the sunrise.

Comfort – The apostle brings much *comfort* to the people. He enjoys the many *comforts* of knowing the Lord.

.Also “2 coffees” please is short for 2 cups of coffee

3. NOUNS IN APPPOSITION [LATIN AD = NEAR; POSITIO = PLACEMENT]

Two nouns or noun phrases placed next to each other, side by side with one element serving to define or modify the other so it identifies or explains the noun preceding it, often marked by commas, are called “nouns in apposition”

Both have the same syntactic relation to the other elements in the sentence

E.g My friend, *John*, was born in Melbourne

My wife, *a nurse by training*, helps sick people.

I talked to Bill, *the gardener*.

Appositive phrases – Alexander the Great, the Macedonian conqueror

Kevin Rudd, the Prime Minister of Australia.....

[Just to distinguish

In the sentence “Joan’s friend, whose name is Matilda, is a teacher.” ‘Whose name is Matilda’ is not in apposition but a relative clause, which states what an apposition omits.]

Appositive genitive

In several languages, the same syntax which is used to express such relations as possession can also be used appositively. Examples include: a prepositional phrase with *of* as in: *the month of December*, *the sin of pride*, or *the City of Perth*.

4. CHANGES IN FORM IN ENGLISH

a) Plural forms of Nouns

In English plural forms are indicated by the change of ending

Usually it is by the addition of “s” – table = tables, cup = cups

But there are other endings

Nouns ending in “-s”, “-ch”, or “-sh”, “-x” add -es - torch = torches, brush = brushes, box = boxes, gas = gases, bus = buses, match, fox, dish, glass

Nouns ending in -y after a vowel add -s - tray= trays, boy= boys, day = days, key = keys

Nouns ending in -y after a consonant, change “y” to “i” and add “es” – party = parties, city = cities, fly = flies, lady = ladies.

Nouns ending in “o”, add “s” or “es” piano = pianos, potato = potatoes, tomato = tomatoes

Some nouns ending in -f make plural by changing -f to “-v” - loaf = loaves, leaf = leaves, scarf = scarves; but chief = chiefs, roof= roofs

Some nouns change their form – child = children, man = men, tooth = teeth, foot = feet

However, some have no change - sheep, deer

b) Possessive form of nouns

In English, an apostrophe + “s” is used to indicate that something belongs to someone or something, if in the singular

e.g the boot of a boy = A boy’s boot, the coat of the woman = the woman’s coat,

If the owner is plural the apostrophe is usually placed after the “s”

e.g the bikes of the boys = the boys’ bikes; the legs of the cows = the cows’ legs.

2 - PREPOSITIONS IN ENGLISH

A **preposition** is a word placed before a noun to show the relation of a person or thing to something else. It is usually followed by a noun or pronoun. The preposition does not change its form. It combines with a noun to make a **prepositional phrase**. A **phrase** is a group of words, which do not have verb.

[This differs from a **clause**, which is a group of words that do have a verb]

Different prepositions express different relationships- how, when, where, why

Some examples -. In , at, by, for, under, since, from

There are some two word sequences e.g instead of; next to; in front of;

Belonging -The book of David;

Time / when –at, in the morning; for 6 months; on time ; after; before; during; since; until.

Means / how- by boat ; instrument –with a knife;

Place / where – under; on; over ; near; behind; between; opposite ; beside; beneath; outside; up; down; at the beach; in the box

Movement to place - into the sea; through; towards; to

Accompaniment –with;

Why – because of, as a result of; owing to;

Some prepositions can have several different meanings depending on placement. Eg

In - we are *in* time for the concert. We sat *in* the boat. I am writing *in* biro. He was unconscious but in the end he came to. It was in the month of May.

On – When the family went *on* holiday *on* the train, he sat *on* the cushion, which he did *on* purpose because he was *on* the phone holding forth *on* his pet subject, being *on* drugs.

We came in different ways - I came *on* foot, he came *on* his bike, she came *in* a car, while you came *by* train and *on* the bus.

Prepositional verbs

= verb + preposition where the preposition goes after the verb and before the object

I write to you.- Write to; talk to; belong to; listen to;

Did you hear about the earthquake? dream about; hear about; speak about; agree with me; believe in God;

I care for the sick; we wait for the mail; pay for; look for; decide on; put on laugh at; look at;

In Greek, some prepositions are expressed in the case that is used

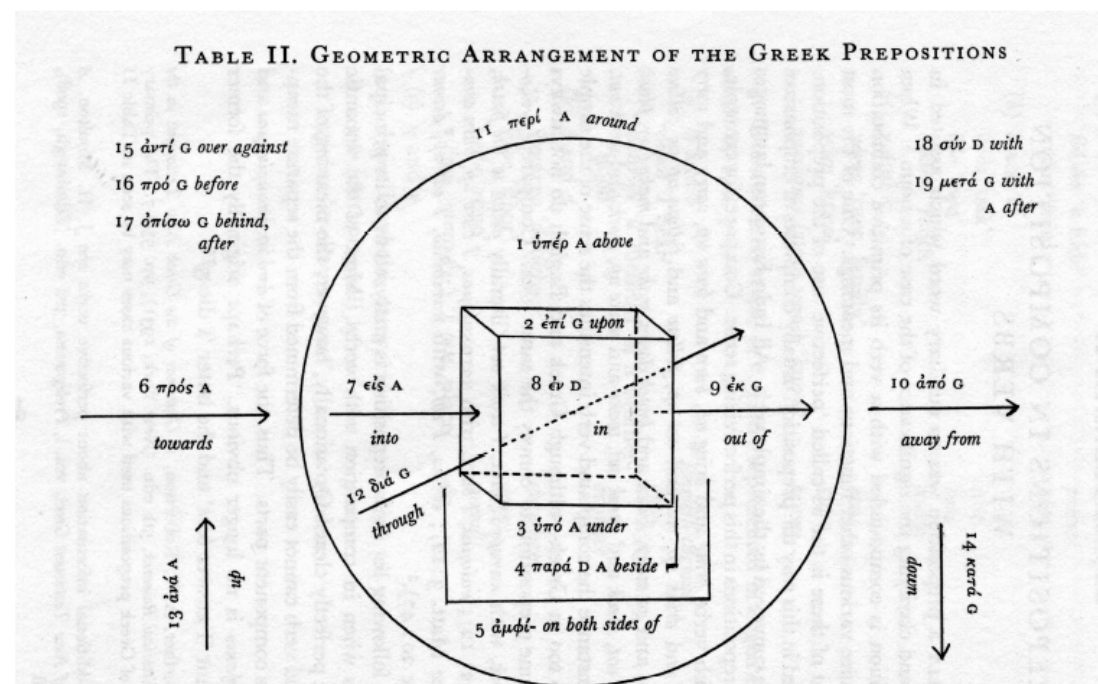
Of – As in belonging to - In Greek this is expressed by the noun being in the genitive case e.g the Father *of mercies*; grace *of God*.

e.g My grace is sufficient *for* you for power is perfected in weakness. 2 C 12.9– *For you* is expressed by the use of the dative case.

Note for is not a preposition in this sentence but a conjunction, expressing a cause or sequence. “We are afflicted *for* your comfort” 2C1.6 “our hope *for* you” 2C1.7 both use the preposition meaning ‘on behalf of’.

In Greek different prepositions are used with different cases – some with only one, others with two or three - genitive, accusative, dative.

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Try these:

1. Underline the 17 prepositions + find 2 appositional noun / noun phrases.

On Tuesday of last week, John arrived in Perth, the city he loved. He was born there in 1976. Since childhood, he had swum in the sea with his brothers and sisters, running into the waves with great vigour and sailing their small boat out of the harbour. Now he sat in his chair on the balcony and pensively drank his beer out of his old glass. He had returned with his wife because of the phone call from his father and the letter to his lawyer Steve.

2. Make sentences using the words below with a preposition:

Forget

decide .

laughing,

stare

rely

famous

guilty

happy

3. Complete the following with a preposition:

He picked apples the tree. The dog barked the stranger. I have not seen him last weekend. The gardener leant the spade the fence

3 - CONJUNCTIONS

A conjunction is a word that joins together two words, phrases, clauses or sentences. Small words that show relationships and are essential to the structure of sentences. There are two main types of conjunctions :

1. Coordinating conjunctions join two similar elements e.g subject + subject, verb phrase+ verb phrase; sentence + sentence. They include for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so

They may simply express

(i) a coupling together of two elements, as 'and' ; "Paul and Timothy"

(ii) a contrast or balancing word e.g 'but'; "afflicted but not despairing"

(iii) an alternative between two elements eg. or "Choose life or death"

(iv) a word that is used to draw a conclusion or indicate a result eg. Therefore, then, for this reason,. "Therefore I am content with weakness"

(v) a causal conjunction - for

e.g. He is not the God of the dead *but* of the living. - noun +noun. Let her remain unmarried *or* be reconciled to her husband – verb +verb

You will call his name Jesus *for* he will save his people from their sins. Sentence + sentence

2. Subordinating conjunctions

introduce grammatically dependent clauses that express such things as purpose, result, cause, condition, comparison, concession and time.

Some examples:

TIME	CAUSE + EFFECT	OPPOSITION	CONDITION
after	because	although	if
before	since	though	unless
when	Now that	Even though	Only if
while	as	whereas	Whether or not
since	In order that	while	Even if
until	so	however	In case (that)
then	As a result	On the other hand	
	So that	nevertheless	

In Greek some conjunctions are postpositive – i.e they cannot stand first in the sentence. Such as gar (for); de (but);

Consider these sentences

(i) Mark the conjunction:

We were accused *but* we did not defend ourselves.

If we are afflicted, it is *for* your comfort.

I won't need an umbrella *unless* it rains.

Although he worked very hard, Mike did not pass the exam.

(ii) Put in the conjunction:

The driver stopped his bus. The children could get on the bus

The joke was funny. Nobody laughed.

4 - WORD ORDER

ABOUT GREEK AND LATIN NOUN STRUCTURE

In Greek and Latin a noun consists of a **stem** and an **ending**. Where there is an addition to the stem, at the end, it is called a **suffix** and before the stem, it is called a **prefix** - for eg. in Greek, where the noun is negated].

- the stem tells the basic meaning of the word
- the ending tells whether the word is singular or plural and gives some idea of what the word is doing in the sentence by its **case**.

There are 5 different **cases** in Greek and 6 in Latin. Each of these cases have both a singular and plural form.

The case names are called:

vocative where a person is called by name – *Joe* , look out.

nominative for a subject – *Joe* hit the rock ;

accusative for direct object – The rock hit *Joe* ;

genitive, usually used to express possession – *Joe's* boots are black [the boots of *Joe*];

dative used in indirect object – I gave the rock *to Joe* and with certain prepositions

ablative [only in Latin]used with certain prepositions e.g He was hit *by the rock*.

The other feature of Greek and Latin nouns is they belong to one of three **genders** - masculine, feminine and neuter. The genders apply to certain obvious words such as *femina* L; γύνῃ (woman)has feminine endings, *vir* L; ἄνθρωπος Gk (man) masculine. But the connection between gender and word is not always obvious to an English speaker e.g in Latin 'mensa' (a table) & terra (land) are feminine nouns; 'animus (mind); mons (mountain) are masculine and 'bellum' (war); aurum (gold) are neuter.

In addition, for both Latin and Greek, nouns are classified as belonging to a particular **declension**, ie. their endings are seen as a similar common pattern. Generally 1st declension are feminine nouns, 2nd declension words are masculine and neuter nouns and the 3rd included all the genders.

ENGLISH FORM

In English the endings of nouns do not change to indicate function except for plurals and to express possession "of.."

To work out function of a word we have to note its place in a sentence. [- more of this later]
e.g The *judge* ruled in the court. - Judge as a noun; He will *judge* the case. as a verb.

Work is my great love. - Nouns ; I *love* it when I *work* -verbs

To Consider:

Put these words into a sentence. the man, the child , the woman, brings, happy, to