

# Word Classes

## Nouns

NAME

Common nouns – names of things (people or places). These don't begin with capital letters.

e.g. *tree, people, boy, curtains etc*

Proper nouns – names of specific things, people, places. These begin with a capital letter.

e.g. *Tom, Mrs Smith* – person's names

*Tesco, India, Solihull* – place names

*Monday, Friday* – days of the week

*June, April* – months of the year

*Christmas, Diwali* – festivals

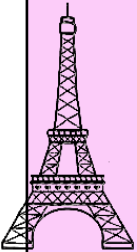
*Snickers, River Nile, Mount Everest*

*The Hobbit, Jumanji* – titles

Collective nouns – names of groups of things.

e.g. *flock, gang, team etc.*

Abstract nouns – names of things that can't be touched or seen. e.g. *dream, idea, beauty*



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## Verbs

Doing or being words.

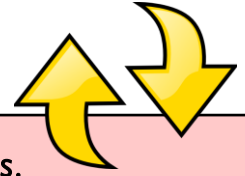
e.g. *run, hoping, written, thought*

Auxiliary verbs – forms of '*to have*', '*to be*' or '*to do*'. These form the tense of a verb.

Modal verbs – used to show levels of possibility. e.g. *could, can, must, might*



## Pronouns



Take the place of nouns.

e.g. *I, you, he, she, it, we, they* (personal pronouns)  
*my, your, his, her, its, our, their* (possessive pronouns)  
*which, who, whose, that* (relative pronoun)

## Adjectives

Describe nouns.

e.g. *beautiful, great, yellow, old etc*

Some nouns can be converted to adjectives by adding suffixes – *care – careful, danger – dangerous*



## Adverbs



Describe verbs. They tell us *how, when, where, how often and how much*.

Adverbs for *how* – *fast, slowly, secretly, cautiously etc*

Adverbs for *when* – *today, tomorrow, later, soon etc*

Adverbs for *where* – *outside, here, anywhere etc*

Adverbs for *how often* – *never, sometimes, seldom etc*

Adverbs for *how much* – *very, fully, just quite etc*

Many end in *-ly* but not all.

# Conjunctions

Coordinating conjunctions join two main clauses together.

How to remember them - FANBOYS



Subordinating conjunctions join a main clause to a subordinate clause.

How to remember them –  
I SAW A WABUB

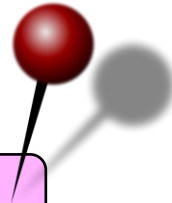
For And Nor But Or Yet So

If Since As When Although  
While After Before Until Because

## Determiners

These introduce a noun. They can tell you whether something is known or unknown.

e.g. a, an, the, some, more, less etc



## Prepositions

Used to show where one thing is in relation to something else.

inside, under, on, within, around, about



### All Change!

When identifying word classes, always look at the word in context because some can have more than one function.

For example, some nouns can also be verbs:

a dream – to dream

I had the strangest dream last night. (noun)

I often dream about dragons. (verb)

