

# University of Mentouri Constantine 1

Faculty of Arts and Languages

Department of Arabic Language

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Lecturer: Oussama BENSLAMA

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Course of the First Semester

## Introduction: Parts of Speech

The term “**speech**” refers to the human ability to express thoughts and feelings through the utterance of sounds. People use different word classes to form their sentences during their communications.

In English, there are eight **parts of speech** (word classes) commonly used, these include: nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs (modifiers), pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.

It is important to understand the grammatical properties and functions of each word class in order to improve the learners’ speech.

### Lecture 1: Nouns

**A noun** is a word that can refer to a person, an animal, a thing, or even a place.

There are different types of nouns that are used to form sentences in the English language. Let’s talk about them.

#### 1- Common and Proper Nouns

**Proper nouns** are essentially used to name people, like: Charles, Sara, Patrick, Julia, but they also can refer to the names of places around the world, like: Algeria, Spain, Japan, Constantine, London. Proper nouns should always be capitalized no matter their position in the sentence.

**Common nouns** are generic nouns used to refer to animals as well as general items and ideas. We use common nouns to refer to the items that we see everywhere: street, classroom, cat, table, house. Common nouns are capitalized when placed at the beginning of the sentence.

#### 2- Concrete and Abstract Nouns

A concrete noun is something that is physical or real, it can be seen or touched, like: a pen, a chair, a piano, an apple.

An abstract nouns is something that is not visible but we know it exists, like: an idea, an emotion (happiness, anger, sadness...), fame, music.

### 3- Plural Nouns

**Plural nouns** refer to a large number of the same thing. Many English, plural nouns are formed by adding an “s” to the singular form, like:

Cat ➡ Cats      School ➡ Schools

- However, nouns that originally end with **s, ss, ch, sh, x, z** in the singular form, finish with “**es**” in the plural form, for example:

Class ➡ Classes      Tax ➡ Taxes      Mass ➡ Masses

- Nouns that originally end with **y** in the singular form take an ‘**s**’ at the end of the word in the plural form if there is **a vowel** before the letter y, for example: Toy ➡ Toys
- But if there is **a consonant** before the letter “y”, then the y changes into “**ies**” in the plural form, for example: Sky ➡ Skies
- There are also irregular nouns which can take different forms (or keep the same form) in plural, for example:

Mouse ➡ Mice      Child ➡ Children      Sheep ➡ Sheep      Person ➡ People

### 4- Compound Nouns

A **compound noun** is a noun made up of two words to form one single unit that can be modified by adjectives and other nouns.

There are three types of compound nouns:

**Attached (or closed):** classroom, airport, football

**Separated (or spaced):** bus stop, fast food, Ice cream

**Hyphenated (separated by a hyphen -):** high-tech, great-grandmother, self-care

**Note:** All compound nouns which start with the word “**self**” are usually hyphenated.

### 5- Possessive Nouns

**Possessive Nouns** are nouns that indicate ownership. They are usually formed by adding an apostrophe s (’s) at the end of the first word followed by the possession.

Example: a book’s cover - a car’s tires - a woman’s purse

- If the possessive noun originally ends with an “s” in the singular form, the apostrophe s is still added, for instance: Chris’s shirt - the dress’s colour
- If the possessive noun ends with an “s” in the plural form, only the apostrophe is required in this case, for example: the lights’ switches, the birds’ cage

- If it does not end with an “s” in the plural form, the possessive s is still required, for example: people’s budget - men’s habits

## 6- Countable and Uncountable Nouns

**Countable nouns** are nouns that can be counted (fixed by a number) and put in the plural form. The singular form of countable nouns tends to use the articles of “a” or “an”. When asking about the number of a countable noun, we say “**how many?**”

Examples: He ate **a** cookie

She has **two** cats

I work **seven** hours per day

**Uncountable nouns** are nouns that cannot be indicated by a specific number, and usually do not have a plural form. These nouns might refer to abstract words as well as physical ones, they can only be approximately calculated (or indicated) using either measurement units or other expressions (like: a lot of, a little of, a group of, a bunch of, a bit of...). When asking about the quantity of an uncountable noun, we say “**how much?**”

**Example:** I would like to buy **a kilo of** meat

I have **a lot of** rice

She used **two spoons of** sugar

Note: **a/an** are *indefinite* articles used with singular countable nouns.

- The article **a** is used with a singular noun that begins with a consonant or a consonant sound, **example:** a car, a class, a phone, a house, a **u**ser, a **k**nife.
- The article **an** is used with a singular noun that begins with a vowel or a vowel sound, **example:** an apple, an orange, an island, an **h**our, an order, an **h**onour.

## Lesson 2: Verbs

**Verbs** are words that are often used to refer to **actions** or **states of being**. In the English language, verbs are considered as the most important parts in the formation of sentences. There are different types of verbs that one should know about.

### Types of verbs

**1- Dynamic Verbs (or Action Verbs):** These verbs refer to the activities that humans perform every day, for example: walk, eat, laugh, shout, jump, sing, run. Action verbs also include internal actions such as:

**2- Stative Verbs:** These verbs tend to describe a state or a condition; this could be anything from **thoughts and emotions**, such as: think, agree, like, hate, guess, to **perceptions and possessions**, like: seem, feel, taste, has, belong. Unlike action verbs, stative verbs cannot be used in the continuous form (**be+ing**).

**Note:** Some stative verbs may refer to an activity or an action depending on the context of the sentence.

**Examples:** This flower **smells** great (state- our perception (sense) of the flower)  
The child **is smelling** the flower (action- he is actively doing something)

He **thinks** everyone lies (state- his opinion on people)  
He is **thinking** of a past of memory (action- it is a momentary thought)

The student **has** a backpack (state- he possesses (owns) a backpack)  
The student **is having** an English session (action- he is studying at moment)

**3- Modal Verbs:** Modals are different from normal verbs since they are always followed by principal verbs and are used to express a variety of functions different from describing human state or action.

**Note:** Modals are different from normal verbs in that:

- 1: They don't use an 's' for the third person singular.
- 2: They make questions by inversion ('she **can** go' becomes '**can** she go?').
- 3: They are followed directly by the infinitive of another verb (**without 'to'**).

Some of the most common uses of modals can be listed as follows:

Function	Modals	Examples
<b>Ability</b>	Can, Could	- I can draw. - The girl could sing since she was young.
<b>Permission</b>	Can, Could, May	- Can I go out? - Could you pass the salt? - May I help you with something?
<b>Advice</b>	Should, Ought to	- You should revise for the test. - You should <b>not</b> lie. - You ought to get vaccinated.
<b>Obligation</b>	Must, Have to,	- I must go to work at 8. - You have to eat something.
<b>Possibility</b>	Might, May, Could, Can	- It might rain today. - I could come by your house later. - You may <b>not</b> know about this fact. - He can <b>probably</b> run faster than you. .

### Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

**Transitive verbs** are verbs used by subjects to express an action exerted on an object (if there is a **transitive verb** in the sentence there has to be an **object**). The student can identify a transitive verb when a sentence would seem incomplete without an object, for example:

Children **love** (loves what?) ➡ **Incomplete sentence**

Children **love** candy. ➡ **Complete sentence**

**Intransitive Verbs** are the opposite of transitive ones. They do not require an object when used in a sentence. For example: The sun **rises** – the dog **ran** – Planes **fly** – She **sang**

**Note:** Intransitive verbs are sometimes used as transitive verbs when followed by an object. When put in a certain context, the intransitive verb might not make sense without exerting the action on a specific object. For example:

**During summer**, they **flew** (where?) ➡ **During summer**, they **flew to Italy**.

The students were learning (what?) ➡ The students were learning **some English**.