

# WORKBOOK 1 - PARSING & THE PART OF SPEECH

**NAME:** .....

## NOUNS

Pick out thirty-six nouns in this extract, counting each one only once.

*As he waited for his helping of blueberry pancakes with fresh cream and Winsconsin cheddar, the thought of dieting brushed feebly at his mind like an old remorse. He was aware that just eating a little of what he did not fancy would sooner or later do him good in the sexual chase. This idea had been brought sharply into focus at a fellow-publisher's party the previous year. Somebody's secretary had told him that what he wanted was all right with her on the understanding that he brought his block and tackle along. Five days later, sipping a half-cup of sugarless milkless tea to round off a luncheon of a lightly boiled egg with no salt, a decarbohydrated roll resembling fluff in plastic, and a small apple, he made up his mind for ever that, if it came to it, he could easily settle down to a regime of banquets and self-abuse. He sent his plate up now for a second helping of pancakes and put three chocolate mints into his mouth to tide him over. Outside every fat man there was an even fatter man trying to close in.*

Kingsley Amis, One Fat Englishman

2. In the following lists of words, three belong to the same part of speech, state which part of speech the odd one belongs to.

- a. elegant, beautiful, sweetness, bright
- b. servant, messenger, serve, porter
- c. addition, subtract, multiplication, division
- d. shrub, creeper, grow, tree
- e. really, Raleigh, rally, alley
- f. he, him, his, them
- g. compulsory, obligatory, stationary, stationery
- h. contrary, wary, fairy, chary
- I. arithmetic, geometry, pathetic, rheumatism
- j. danger, anger, enrage, infuriate

3. Give the nouns that express the ideas of the following verbs eg. depart = departure.

depart	receive	succeed	compel
resign	arrive	reject	fail
resist	try	believe	merry
deceive	pursue	expect	

## ADJECTIVES

Pick out the adjectives in the following extract ( thirteen, or fourteen if you include the number). Count each only once.

### *The Gentle Touch...*

*I love touching, affectionate physical contact, massage, and all things tactile/kinaesthetic. Other pursuits: dance, walking, cinema, therapy. Friendly, Affectionate Man, 35, seeks similarly Warm, Affectionate, Sensual Woman for these plus warm but unpossessive friendship, loving sex, and mutual support. London. Letter with telephone no. - and photo?*

2. Fill in each blank with the most suitable adjective from the list.

resolute	mischievous	discernible	indulgent
mournful	impermissible	pampered	lavish
avaricious	propitious	anonymous	exorbitant

- The ..... owl hoots in the night.
- He was a ..... lad to tease the cat.
- The castle became ..... through the mist.
- It is hardly a .....moment to ask your father to lend you some money when he has just been robbed.
- The .....mother foolishly gave in to her ..... child.
- A ..... use of sugar during the war was quite .....
- Owing to the ..... rent demanded by an ..... landlord, we had to decline the offer of the house.
- He showed a ..... desire to discover the writer of the ..... letter.

3. Arrange the following adjectives in order of intensity.

- best, good, better
- astonishing, disturbing, stunning
- likeable, adorable, tolerable, lovable
- disquieting, terrifying, alarming, frightening
- corpulent, well-covered, fat, plump
- bright, vivid, brilliant, glossy, light
- dark, dim, obscure, gloomy, pitchy

## VERBS

Pick out the thirteen verbs in the following extract.

- *The Kidney!* he cried suddenly.  
He fitted the book roughly into his inner pocket and, stubbing his toes against the broken commode, hurried out towards the smell, stepping hastily down the stairs with a flurried stork's legs. Pungent smoke shot up in an angry jet from a side of the pan. By prodding a prong of the fork under the kidney he detached it and turned it turtle on its back. Only a little burned. He tossed it off the pan on to a plate and let the scant brown gravy trickle over it.

James Joyce - Ulysses

## **ADVERBS**

Pick out the seven adverbs in the following extract. Count repeated words once only.

*A few light taps upon the pane made him turn towards the window. It had begun to snow again. He watched sleepily the flakes, silver and dark, falling obliquely against the lamp-light. The time had come for him to set out on his journey westward. Yes, the newspapers were right: snow was in general all over Ireland. It was falling on every part of the dark central plain, on the treeless hills, falling softly upon the Bog of Allen and, farther westward, softly falling into dark mutinous Shannon waves. It was falling, too, upon every part of the lonely churchyard on the hill where Michael Furey lay buried. It lay thickly drifted on the crooked crosses and headstones, on the spears of the little gate, on the barren thorns. His soul swooned slowly as he heard the snow falling faintly through the universe and faintly falling, like the descent of their last end, upon all the living and the dead.*

2. State whether the italicised word is an adverb of time, place, manner or degree.
  - a. The actress moved *gracefully* across the stage.
  - b. I will meet you *outside*.
  - c. He advanced towards me *immediately*, informing me that he had seen me *before*.
  - d. I am *very* glad to have made the acquaintance of this *exceedingly* charming person.
  - e. *Finally* he crossed the road and disappeared quite suddenly.
  - f. The boat drew *almost* alongside and then turned *completely* round.
  - g. He leaned *forward* and spoke *rather* sharply to the *extraordinarily* unmannerly child.
  - h. I have told you *twice*, but will repeat *again* that Julian played *best* but Terry *most* consistently.
3. Fill in the blank with a suitable adverb of place.
  - a. I will work \_\_\_\_; you can work \_\_\_\_.
  - b. Confronted with an impenetrable jungle, they turned \_\_\_\_.
  - c. As he could not climb over the chair he crawled \_\_\_\_.

- d. \_\_\_\_ stands the ancient castle, grey and mossy.  
 e. \_\_\_\_ were these adventurers leading their followers?
4. Fill in the blank with a suitable adverb of manner.  
 a. A log fire burnt \_\_\_\_ in the grate.  
 b. Jack slept \_\_\_\_ on the hearth rug.  
 c. \_\_\_\_ the escaped convict crawled along the wall.  
 d. \_\_\_\_ the conjurer whisked away the handkerchief.  
 e. The wind in the trees whispered \_\_\_\_ through the night.
5. Fill in the blank with a suitable adverb of time.  
 a. We shall be broadcasting a full account \_\_\_\_.  
 b. \_\_\_\_ listen to me.  
 c. A stranger \_\_\_\_ rushed in and brusquely addressed us.  
 d. He was thirteen years old \_\_\_\_.  
 e. \_\_\_\_ the sound of sweet music was heard.
6. Fill in the blank with a suitable adverb of degree.  
 a. Next day the tempest roared still \_\_\_\_ angrily.  
 b. The child lay \_\_\_\_ snugly among the bracken.  
 c. The patient was \_\_\_\_ helpless with pain.  
 d. I have walked \_\_\_\_ far today; my feet are sorely blistered.  
 e. Her French is \_\_\_\_ good; she is placed thirteenth on the Form list.

James Joyce Dubliners

## **PREPOSITIONS**

Pick out eight prepositions from the following extract:

*Children deal with language by stripping it of inessentials, as we should do in writing a telegram.*

*The child faced with 'Daddy is eating a cake' may produce, if he is at that stage, 'Daddy eat cake'.*

*To take an actual example, quoted by Brown and Bellugi (1964), a mother's sentence 'No you can't write on Mr Cramer's shoe' was reduced by the child to 'Write Cramer shoe'.*

*In both examples the child selects the grammatically important items, nouns, verbs, and adjectives, what are called 'content words', because they carry high information content. He leaves out, on the other hand, structure words - words whose grammatical function is more important than the meaning they carry - such as auxiliary verbs, determiners, prepositions, and conjunctions. There is no object or process 'on' in his world.*

Andrew Wilson The Foundations of Language

2. Complete these sentences by supplying the correct preposition  
 a. The path \_\_\_\_ the wood makes a short cut \_\_\_\_ the village.  
 b. The canoe sank \_\_\_\_ the lake \_\_\_\_ the valley below.  
 c. They were up \_\_\_\_ their eyes \_\_\_\_ work.  
 d. I shall attend \_\_\_\_ your request \_\_\_\_ the earliest opportunity.

- e. The cat \_\_\_\_ the tree was \_\_\_\_ difficulty.  
 f. \_\_\_\_ the glen rode armed men.  
 g. \_\_\_\_ doubt one might fall \_\_\_\_ thieves \_\_\_\_ one's journey \_\_\_\_ Europe  
 \_\_\_\_ the Dark Ages.  
 h. Such behaviour is \_\_\_\_ contempt.  
 I. This is little different \_\_\_\_ the rest \_\_\_\_ the sentences.  
 j. \_\_\_\_ the rugged rock the ragged rascal ran.
3. Complete these phrases by adding the usual preposition.
- |                   |                    |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| ____ any rate     | ____ the lurch     | ____ dear life           |
| ____ your service | ____ the whole     | ____ spite of            |
| ____ no means     | ____ the most part | ____ his heart's content |
4. State when the italicised word is acting as a preposition and when it is an adverb.
- Mrs Plumpton sat *down*.
  - Mrs Plumpton waddled *down* the street.
  - We discerned a head appearing *above* the wall.
  - We saw a skylark hovering *above*.
  - "Come *inside*," shouted our friend.
  - We were glad to be able to shelter *inside* his house.
  - A horseman cantered *by* while we rested.
  - By* hard work much can be achieved.

## **THE VERSATILITY OF THE PARTS OF SPEECH**

- Write sentences in which the word *round* appears as each of the following: noun, adjective, verb, adverb, preposition.
- Explain what part of speech the word *cans* is in the following sentence by the philosopher J.L.Austin: "*Are cans constitutionally iffy?*"
- Say what part of speech the word *more* is in the following sentences:
  - Tell me more
  - I need more time
  - You couldn't have hurt him more if you had tried
- Write down what you notice about the adjectives in the two sets of headlines below:
  - Roux cleans up in Kitchen-sink drama.  
 Britain loses £500m tornado fighter deal.  
 Deng dispels ill-health rumour.  
 Dons told exam row must end.  
 Fireman dies in explosives van blast.
  - Explosives van warning.

Explosives van warning inquiry.  
Explosives van warning inquiry report.  
Explosives van warning inquiry report denial.

5. In the examples below, state which part of speech the italicised word is, and what its function is.

- a. There is no *place* like school!
- b. I *place* great confidence in my helpers.
- c. It was his *left* hand he burnt.
- d. Mrs. Blanksome *left* suddenly for the continent.
- e. In this country we always drive on the *left*.
- f. Will you *time* me for the quarter mile please?
- g. He learnt to tell the *time* very early.

## **PARSING**

Write the following sentences vertically down the side of your page, indicating (a) what part of speech it is and (b) what work it is doing in the sentence:

- The wretched Council very stupidly built some nasty houses and a really ugly school close by us.
- Why do I continue watching these disgusting creatures greedily devouring their young on BBC 1, when I could be engrossed in Coronation Street, observing the finer things in life?
- There is a recess dressing-room, equipped with a bath and all that is necessary to one's toilet, and the water, one remarks, is warmed if one desires it warmed, by passing it through an electrically heated spiral of tubing.
- Bo-bo was in the utmost consternation, as you may think, not so much for the sake of the tenement, which his father and he could easily build up again with a few dry branches, and the labour of an hour or two, at any time, as for the loss of the pigs.