IDENTIFYING PARTS OF SPEECH

VERB: A word denoting action, occurrence, or existence.
Examples: ran, jump, shout, sweat, thinks, feels, sleeps, eat, laugh, are, is, was, has
The President met with foreign diplomats on Tuesday.

NOUN: A word that names a person, place, thing, idea, animal, quality, or action. Nouns function as the subject of the sentence. They also function as objects, complements, appositives, and modifiers, as well as in direct address.
Examples: child, John, New York, books, pizza, love, pony, generosity
Edwin, my brother, is a professional musician.

PRONOUN: A word that takes the position of a noun and functions as nouns do.
Examples: he, she, it myself, me, theirs, ours, we, you, yours
He attended a luncheon in his honor on Wednesday.

ADJECTIVE: A word that modifies, qualifies or describes nouns and pronouns. Generally, adjectives appear immediately before the words they modify.
Examples: pretty girl, talented doctor, young athlete, blue book
The small child begged for a bedtime story.

ADVERB: A word that modifies verbs, adjectives and other adverbs. An "ly" ending almost always changes an adjective to an adverb.
Examples: spoke quickly, ran hastily, worked frantically
Kelly reluctantly agreed to serve on my committee.

PREPOSITION: A word that establishes a relationship between its object and another word in the sentence. The relationship can be one of time, space, direction, place accompaniment, cause, or manner.
Examples: on, between, down, in, of, since, to (not a complete list)
Jack sat beside Jill on the bus.

CONJUNCTION: A word that functions as a connector between words, phrases, and clauses. There are coordinating, correlating, and subordinating conjunctions.*
Examples: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so (coordinating)
when, until after, before, although (subordinating)
I work part-time although I don’t need the money.

ARTICLE: A word that is used before a noun and functions as an adjective
Examples: The (definite article), a and an (indefinite articles)
The bees that were on the flowers stung Kaye.
A man gave us directions to the airport.
[An is used before a noun beginning with a consonant sound]
A man gave us directions to the airport.
An article in the paper caught my attention.
[An is used before a noun beginning with a vowel sound]

INTERJECTION: An exclamation expressing emotion.
Examples: Wow! Help! Stop! Ouch!
Wow! Look at all the snow.

TIPS TO HELP YOU RECOGNIZE PARTS OF SPEECH
The word is probably a verb if:
- You can use *will, shall, can, could, may, might, must, should,* or *would* in front of the word.
*Examples:* will come, could go, would miss

The word is probably a noun if:
- You can make it plural or singular (one book, two *books*)
- You can make it possessive (book, book's pages; girl, girls' dresses)
- It can follow a prepositional phrase such as *to the, with the, from the.*
- You can place the word *a, an, or the* in front of it.

The word is probably a pronoun if:
- You can substitute the word for a noun
*Examples:* me, mine, you, he, her, it, we, these, one, everybody (not a complete list)

The word is probably an adjective if:
- You can add *er* or *est* to the word (happy--happier--happiest)
- You can use *more* or *most* in front of it (beautiful--more beautiful--most beautiful)
- You can use the words *very* or *quite* in front of it (she wore a very bright, daring costume)

The word is probably an adverb if:
- There is an *ly* suffix (happily)
- The word or phrase can be moved to another place in the sentence and still make sense
*Examples:* He usually goes to school.  *-or-*
                      Usually, he goes to school.  *-or-*
                      He goes to school usually.

These words must be followed by a noun object. Prepositions only occur in prepositional phrases. *(This is not a complete list)*

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The word is probably a conjunction if:
- The word serves as a connector between words, phrases, or clauses. (There are coordinating correlating, and subordinating conjunctions.)*
*Example:* *He was not handsome, yet he was a very successful actor.*

The young boy ran quickly down the street, and he yelled, "Help!"

*See handouts "How to Recognize Parts of Speech" and "Coordination/Subordination"