

Shaw Academy

LESSON 1 NOTES

[English for Beginners]



Parts of Speech

1. NOUN

- A noun is the name of a person, place, thing, or idea.

man... Shaw Academy... house... happiness

A noun is a word for a person, place, thing, or idea. Nouns are often used with an article (*the, a, an*), but not always. Proper nouns always start with a capital letter; common nouns do not. Nouns can be singular or plural, concrete or abstract. Nouns show possession by adding 's. Nouns can function in different roles within a sentence; for example, a noun can be a subject, direct object, indirect object, subject complement, or object of a preposition.

*The young girl brought me a very long letter from the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared.
Oh my!*

2. PRONOUN

- A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun.

She... we... they... it

A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun. A pronoun is usually substituted for a specific noun, which is called its antecedent. In the sentence above, the antecedent for the pronoun *she* is the girl. Pronouns are further defined by type: personal pronouns refer to specific persons or things; possessive pronouns indicate ownership; reflexive pronouns are used to emphasize another noun or pronoun; relative pronouns introduce a subordinate clause; and demonstrative pronouns identify, point to, or refer to nouns.

*The young girl brought me a very long letter from the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared.
Oh my!*

3. VERB

- **A verb expresses action or being.**

jump... is... write... become

The verb in a sentence expresses action or being. There is a main verb and sometimes one or more helping verbs. ("She can sing." Sing is the main verb; can is the helping verb.) A verb must agree with its subject in number (both are singular or both are plural). Verbs also take different forms to express tense.

*The young girl **brought** me a very long letter from the teacher, and then she quickly **disappeared**.
Oh my!*

4. ADJECTIVE

- **An adjective modifies or describes a noun or pronoun.**

pretty... old... blue... smart

An adjective is a word used to modify or describe a noun or a pronoun. It usually answers the question of which one, what kind, or how many. (Articles [a, an, the] are usually classified as adjectives.)

*The **young** girl brought me a very **long** letter from the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared.
Oh my!*

5. ADVERB

- **An adverb modifies or describes a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.**

gently... extremely... carefully... well

An adverb describes or modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb, but never a noun. It usually answers the questions of when, where, how, why, under what conditions, or to what degree. Adverbs often end in -ly.

*The young girl brought me a **very** long letter from the teacher, and **then** she **quickly** disappeared.
Oh my!*

6. PREPOSITION

- **A preposition is a word placed before a noun or pronoun to form a phrase modifying another word in the sentence.**

by... with... about... until

(by the tree, with our friends, about the book, until tomorrow)

A preposition is a word placed before a noun or pronoun to form a phrase modifying another word in the sentence. Therefore a preposition is always part of a prepositional phrase. The prepositional phrase almost always functions as an adjective or as an adverb. The following list includes the most common prepositions:

*The young girl brought me a very long letter **from** the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared. Oh my!*

7. CONJUNCTION

- **A conjunction joins words, phrases, or clauses.**

and... but... or... while... because

A conjunction joins words, phrases, or clauses, and indicates the relationship between the elements joined. Coordinating conjunctions connect grammatically equal elements: and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet. Subordinating conjunctions connect clauses that are not equal: because, although, while, since, etc. There are other types of conjunctions as well.

*The young girl brought me a very long letter from the teacher, **and** then she quickly disappeared. Oh my!*

8. INTERJECTION

- **An interjection is a word used to express emotion.**

Oh!... Wow!... Oops!

An interjection is a word used to express emotion. It is often followed by an exclamation point.

*The young girl brought me a very long letter from the teacher, and then she quickly disappeared. **Oh my!***

Recap of the Tenses

The 12 Verb Tenses

	Past	Present	Future
Simple	<p>I <i>ate</i> pizza yesterday.</p> <p>S + V₂ + O</p>	<p>I <i>eat</i> pizza everyday.</p> <p>S + V₁ + O</p>	<p>I <i>will eat</i> pizza tomorrow.</p> <p>S + 'will' + V + O</p>
Continuous	<p>I <i>was eating</i> pizza when you arrived.</p> <p>S + 'was/were' + (V+ing) + O</p>	<p>I <i>am eating</i> pizza right now.</p> <p>S + 'am/is/are' + (V+ing) + O</p>	<p>I <i>will be eating</i> pizza when you arrive.</p> <p>S + 'will be' + (V+ing) + O</p>
Perfect	<p>I <i>had eaten</i> all of the pizza when you arrived.</p> <p>S + 'had' + V₃ + O</p>	<p>I <i>have eaten</i> all of the pizza.</p> <p>S + 'have/has' + V₃ + O</p>	<p>I <i>will have eaten</i> all of the pizza by the time you arrive.</p> <p>S + 'will have' + V₃ + O</p>
Perfect Continuous	<p>I <i>had been eating</i> pizza for 2 hours when you arrived.</p> <p>S + 'had been' + (V+ing) + O</p>	<p>I <i>have been eating</i> pizza for 2 hours.</p> <p>S + 'have/has been' + (V+ing) + O</p>	<p>I <i>will have been eating</i> pizza for 2 hours when you arrive.</p> <p>S + 'will have been' + (V+ing) + O</p>

Legend: S = Subject O = Object V = Verb (V₁ = present / V₂ = past / V₃ = past participle)

Auxiliary Verbs

Primary auxiliary verbs are derived from the verbs BE, HAVE, and DO.

Primary auxiliary verbs which are derived from the verb '**to be**' are am, is, are, were and was.

- I **am** a teacher.
- I **was** a teacher.
- He **is** my friend.
- He **was** my friend.
- They **are** students.
- They **were** students.
- She **is** an intelligent girl.
- He **was** very polite.
- You **are** a clever boy.
- They **are** quarrelsome.

Primary auxiliary verbs which are derived from the verb '**to have**' are have, had and has.

- They **have** five houses.
- He **has** two children.
- She **had** ten cars.

Primary auxiliary verbs which are derived from the verb **'to do'** are do, does and did.

- I **do** drive the car.
- He **did** the assignment perfectly.
- He **does** the examination very well.

Questions and Negatives

Negatives

A **negative sentence** (or statement) states that something is not true or incorrect. A negative adverb has to be added in order to negate or “cancel” the validity of the sentence. This “negation” element is created according to the following general rule.

The Negation Rule: In English, in order to claim that something is not true, you form a negative sentence by adding the word **'not'** after the first auxiliary verb in the positive sentence. If there is no auxiliary verb in the positive sentence, as in the Present Simple and Past Simple tenses, then you add one (in both these cases, the auxiliary verb **'do'**)

Watch out:

- When an auxiliary verb (including modals) is used, the main verb is not inflected (no **s** or **ed** ending), meaning that either the base form or past participle is used.
- The verb **'to be'** uses a different negation pattern.

Note:

In informal writing settings, you can contract the auxiliary verb with either the sentence subject or the word not. In formal writing settings, refrain from contracting any words.

She is not playing. [formal]

She isn't playing. = *She's not playing.* [informal]

Questions

A **Yes/No question** is a closed question, meaning that it has one of two answers, yes or no. It asks whether something is true or not, i.e., whether the original positive sentence is valid. A question element needs to precede the subject in order to form this question. The “question element” is formed according to the following rule:

The Y/N Question Rule: To form a yes/no question in English, transfer the first auxiliary verb that appears before the main verb in the positive sentence to the position before the subject. If there is no auxiliary verb, as in the Present Simple and Past Simple, then you add one (in both these cases, the auxiliary verb ‘**do**’).

e.g. “Do you like to eat?”

Watch out:

- When an auxiliary verb (including modals) is used, the main verb is not inflected (no *s* or *ed* ending), meaning that either the base form or past participle is used.
- The verb *to be* uses a different yes/no question pattern

A **‘Wh’ question** is an open question, meaning that it can have any number of answers. It asks about some missing information the speaker needs. This corresponds to the different sentence elements, such as the verb, objects, manner, place, time, purpose, etc. Questions about the subject have a special form (see the next section). A question element needs to precede the subject in order to form this question. The “question element” is formed according to the following rule.

The ‘Wh’ Question Rule: To form a Wh question in English, add a Wh question word before the corresponding yes/no question.

e.g. “Where do you like to eat?”

Watch out:

- When an auxiliary verb (including modals) is used, the main verb is not inflected (no *s* or *ed* ending), meaning that either the base form or past participle is used.
- The verb **‘to be’** uses a different Wh question pattern.

THANK YOU

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