

VOCABULARY: LEARNING THE PARTS OF SPEECH

Use this table to practice the differences between parts of speech. When you learn a new word, write the different parts of speech in the correct columns below.

Note: Not every word has a form in every part of speech.

Nouns: often used with “have” (direct object): I have time. She has patience. We have children. They have a car. Or, try using nouns after the verbs “give” or “cause” or “make.”

- Use nouns after prepositions. **Examples:** ...based on his strength / ...run with swiftness / I’m impressed by his integrity. / ...speak with clarity
- Nouns can be the subject of a sentence, followed by a verb. **Examples:** Strength is one element. Swiftness will help you win the race. Clarity is important.

Adjectives: should be used *before* a noun

- **Examples:** She has a busy schedule. They need a bigger car. We bought a new house. He is a strong guy.

Verbs: change to show *when* actions happen, and should come after the subject pronouns.

- **Examples:** I work, you are working, he worked, they will work

Adverbs: give more information about a verb or adjective; adverbs usually explain *how*, *how often*, *when*, or *where* something actions happen; you can often add -ly to an adjective to make an adverb

- **Examples:** She learns quickly. (“She is a quick learner”—quick is the adjective. Quickly shows how she learns.)
He does his work carefully. (“He is a careful worker”—careful is the adjective. Carefully shows how he does his work.)
They are traveling far. (Far shows where—the distance—they are traveling.)
I hardly ever eat steak. (Hardly tells how often you do something.)
This subject is really confusing. (Confusing is the adjective—really gives more information about the adjective.)

Adjectives	Nouns	Verbs	Adverbs
strong	strength	to strengthen something	
born	birth	to give birth	

Adjectives	Nouns	Verbs	Adverbs
dead deadly (dangerous)	death	to die	
live (long "l" sound) lively (with energy)	life	to live (short "i" sound)	
free	freedom	to free someone	freely
married	marriage a wedding	to marry someone to get married	
identified	identification	to identify	
safe	safety	to save	safely

Adjectives	Nouns	Verbs	Adverbs

