

Hurray, English Language Practice 9

PARTS OF SPEECH – ONE

Vocabulary = The whole SET of WORDS present in a LANGUAGE; TERM(S) = Word(s) in a specific field

SENTENCES are made up of WORDS. In a sentence any number of words can be used.

Examples: 1. She went to the cinema. 2. Whenever I see Tamara I go quite excited.

Words can be combined with each other in many ways to make new sentences.

Examples: 1. I can dance. 2. Can I dance with you?

GRAMMAR describes how this is done. Depending on how a word is used, it will belong to a particular CLASS or SET of speech. CLASSES are parts of speech.

ALL sentences begin with a CAPITAL LETTER and end in either a FULL STOP, an EXCLAMATION MARK, or a QUESTION MARK. We talk about PUNCTUATION when describing the use of these marks, e.g. brackets, commas, full stops, question marks, semicolons, and so on.

The term **CLAUSE** is used to describe a group of words that contains a **VERB**, the **SUBJECT** of that verb, and often some other words such as an **OBJECT**, a **PLACE**, and some **TIME**.

SINGLE CLAUSE sentences are called simple sentences. However, sentences can contain one or more CLAUSES. A clause ALWAYS contains a verb.

Example: Whenever you want to talk to someone, just call me and see if I am available.

Note, a sentence does not always have to be a clause. A **PHRASE** only is a group of words.

The term PHRASE is usually kept for words which go together easily or naturally.

Examples: 1. Certainly not. 2. Until the day after tomorrow. 3. My brother James.

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Many words can refer to one item or thing only or to more items or things than one. The term **SINGULAR** refers to one thing, whereas the term **PLURAL** refers to MANY NUMBERS of the thing the speaker refers to in her/his speech.

NOUNS and PRONOUNS can be plural or singular in grammatical number. The regular plural ending of English nouns is '-s'.

In grammar, when the speaker wants to identify the person spoken about, he/she uses the **FIRST PERSON** to mean herself/himself; the **SECOND PERSON** to mean the person who is spoken to, and the **THIRD PERSON** to mean the person who is spoken about.

An **ADJECTIVE** gives further information about a noun. Adjectives are called '*describing words*' sometimes.

Examples: 1. A *tall* man; 2. the *greenish* car; 3. their *rusty old* hot-water-system;

An **ADVERB** gives information about the way that an action is performed, or when and where it takes place. Some adverbs can also be used to modify adjectives, or introduce a sentence. Many adverbs are formed from adjectives by adding '-ly'.

Examples: 1. Albert ran *quickly* down the stairs. 2. It is *unusually* cold today. 3. Honestly, I can't help you in this matter. 4. It was a *fairly* good performance by the dancers.

It is **NOT UNUSUAL** for an English word to be a NOUN in one sentence, and a VERB in another sentence. *Examples:* 1. Henry is in the *play* which is on next week. 2. Maureen and Oliver *play* tennis together. 2. Shawn scored five *runs*. The doctor *runs* four kilometres each Monday.

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A **PREPOSITION** is one of a small group of words that can be used with nouns and verbs. Prepositions give information about MOVEMENT and POSITION. When a preposition is used in front of a noun, the two together do the work of an adverb.

Examples: 1. *At* the gate; 2. *On* the pathway; 3. *Over* the water surface; 4. The food delivery will arrive *in the morning*. 5. We found the keys *near the gate*. 6. *In the autumn*, it gets foggy.

A **CONJUNCTION** joins two or more words or clauses to each other. Conjunctions are called 'joining words' sometimes. *Examples: AND, BUT, (either) OR, neither, nor, YET.*

'**AND**' is used where there is no choice or contrast. E.g., 1. Anne went to the bank AND withdrew AUD 200.00. 2. The house has a yellowish wall AND a brownish-coloured roof.

'**BUT**' is used where there is a contrast. E.g., 1. Mary planned to buy a new dress BUT she could not find a nice one at (or 'in') the shops. 2. ... a difficult BUT intriguing task.

'**OR**' is used where there is a choice or contrast. E.g., 1. Thomas EITHER stays at home OR visits his grandmother and grandfather. 2. I like to eat two slices of cake OR drink some milk.

'**YET**' is used to join CLAUSES where there is a contrast that is of a somewhat surprising nature. For example, Max gets up early, YET Susan who never gets up before 8 o'clock, usually gets to work in the garden earlier.

You can use **OR** on its own to join two or more clauses but you cannot use **EITHER** on its own.

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HINT or TIP 1:

Look around you and SEE how many OBJECTS, SUBJECTS or THINGS you could NAME or associate with an English word and its features.

HINT or TIP 2:

Make FLASHCARDS for yourself with an English word on one side and the corresponding Chinese word on the other side.

HINT or TIP 3:

Alternatively, use your mobile phone if you have WORD PROCESSING SOFTWARE loaded on it.

HINT or TIP 4:

Play SCRABBLE with up to three other people when you have some spare time available.

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