PARTS OF SPEECH
WHY DO I NEED TO KNOW THIS?

A. It will help you understand WHY a sentence is grammatically correct/incorrect
B. It will improve your own writing
C. It is on the SAT test
D. It is on the final exam 😊
There are three articles: a, an and the

Articles are always used with nouns and are meant to provide additional information.

**Indefinite articles** are indefinite or *general*: I lounged on a chair.

**Definite articles** are *specific*: I lounged on the chair.
A **noun** is any word which names a person, place, thing, idea, animal, quality, or activity. Examples include:

- person - Ian
- place - downtown
- thing - table
- idea - equality
- animal - walrus
- quality - height
- activity - navigation

**Proper nouns** are the names of specific things, people, or places, such as *Chicago* and *Charlie*. They usually begin with a capital letter.

**Common nouns** are general names such as *person*, *mansion*, and *book*. They can be either concrete or abstract.

**Concrete nouns** refer to things which you can sense (you can see, hear, taste, touch or smell them) such as *clock*, *grass* and *telephone*.

**Abstract nouns** refer to ideas or qualities such as *liberty* and *truth*.

**Collective nouns** refer to a group of individuals, such as *family* and *students*. 
A pronoun is a word which takes the place of a noun or stands in for an unknown noun. The noun which the pronoun replaces is called its antecedent.

Examples: Mary wondered whether she should go to the party.

"Mary" is the antecedent of the pronoun "she".

The test was difficult for Dave, who had not studied.

"Dave" is the antecedent of the pronoun "who".

A pronoun must agree with its antecedent. Therefore, if the antecedent is plural, use a plural pronoun; if the antecedent is feminine, use a feminine pronoun, and so on.

Incorrect: When the officer stopped my car, they got out their gun.

Correct: When the officer stopped my car, she got out her gun. When the officer stopped my car, he got out his gun.
Types of Pronouns

**Personal pronouns** represent people or things (I, you, he, she, it, we, they)
Ex: Last night, I stayed up late working on homework.

**Demonstrative pronouns** are used to demonstrate or indicate (this, that, these, those)
Ex: That batch of cookies was burnt, but still edible.

**Indefinite pronouns** do not refer to a specific person, place, thing, or idea – in other words, these pronouns are used when talking about items/people *in general* (another, anyone, someone, something, both, several, many, all, most, none)
Ex: Somebody must have seen the robber leave the bank.

**Interrogative pronouns** introduce a question (who, whom, which, what and how?)
Ex: Who told you to study for a test on pronouns?

**Possessive pronouns** are used to show possession/ownership and **serve as adjectives to nouns** (my, your, his, her, its, our, their)
Ex: My dog is taking obedience classes.
Types of Pronouns (Continued)

**Absolute possessive pronouns** also show possession but are not attached to nouns; they can stand by themselves (mine, yours, his, hers, ours and theirs)
Ex: The trophy is as good as *ours*.

**Relative pronouns** are used to add additional information into a sentence (which, that, who, whom, whose, where)
Ex: The character of Atticus Finch, *who* is often considered the hero of To Kill a Mockingbird, is an important one to analyze.

**Reciprocal pronouns** are used for actions/feelings that are reciprocated, or shared (each other, one another)
Ex: They talk to *each other* all the time.
Types of Pronouns (Continued)

**Reflexive pronouns** end in “self” or “selves” and refer to another noun or pronoun in the sentence (usually the subject) (myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves) Ex: Keep your hands to yourselves.

**Intensive or emphatic pronouns** refer back to another noun or pronoun in the same sentence to emphasize or stress its importance (to emphasize exactly who or what is carrying out the action) Ex: I will wash the dishes myself to make sure they are done correctly.
Things to remember when using pronouns

**Never use too many!**
Example: That happened when he and she went there for it. HUH?

**Make sure the pronouns matches its antecedent in quantity**
Everyone found their friend at the party – Incorrect
Everyone found his or her friends at the party – Correct

When the officer stopped my car, they wrote me a ticket – Incorrect
When the officer stopped my car, she wrote me a ticket – Correct

**To avoid confusion, a pronoun usually refers to the noun it is closest to in the sentence**
Example: Mr. Greenholt took George’s book to his office.
Whose office? Mr. Greenholt’s or George’s? According to this sentence, the office belongs to George.
A verb is a part of speech, a word or compound of words, that performs one of three kinds of tasks: it expresses action; it expresses a state of being; or it expresses the relationship between two things. In its rightful position, it follows a noun.

**Types of Verbs:**

**Transitive** verbs take objects. They carry the action of a subject (noun) and apply it to an object (another noun). They tell us what the subject does to something else.

*She (noun) brushes (verb) her golden locks (noun) every night before bed.*

**Intransitive verbs** do not take an object; they express actions that do not require the subject to do something else.

*Tom (noun) danced (verb).
They (pronoun) ran (verb) down the road.*
**Adverbs** are words that modify (change slightly) a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

Common adverbs include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where?</th>
<th>When?</th>
<th>In What Way?</th>
<th>To What Extent?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fell <em>below</em>, went <em>there</em>, move <em>aside</em>, climbs <em>down</em></td>
<td>Arrived <em>today</em>, should have spoken <em>before</em>, left <em>early</em>, begins <em>then</em></td>
<td><em>Happily</em> ran, danced <em>awkwardly</em>, will end <em>abruptly</em>, had been sung <em>loudly</em></td>
<td><em>Partly</em> understands, have <em>not</em> completed, wash <em>completely</em> <em>hardly</em> would have known</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adjectives are words used to describe a noun or pronoun or to give a noun or pronoun a more specific meaning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT KIND?</th>
<th>Red boat, sick passenger, silver jewelry, cool water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHICH ONE?</td>
<td>Third chance, this train, any piece, those apples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOW MANY?</td>
<td>Six cars, both answers, several reasons, few letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOW MUCH?</td>
<td>Enough space, no rain, more energy, little effort</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A **preposition** shows the relationship between a noun or a pronoun (the **object of the preposition**) with some other word or expression in the sentence.

The dog crawled **under** the fence. (The preposition “under” links the subject (dog) to the verb (crawled).

Common prepositions:
- about
- below
- in
- over
- until
- above
- beneath
- inside
- past
- up
- across
- beside
- into
- since
- upon
- after
- between
- near
- through
- with
- against
- by
- of
- throughout
- within
- among
- down
- off
- till
- without
- around
- during
- on
- to
- at
- except
- onto
- toward
- before
- for
- out
- under
- behind
- from
- outside
- underneath

**Prepositions can be more than one word.** Some examples include:
- according to
- as well as
- in addition to
- across from
- because of
- with regard to
Conjunctions join words, phrases, or clauses.

Coordinating conjunctions join sentence parts of equal grammatical status. They are known as FANBOYS: For ■ And ■ Nor ■ But ■ Or ■ Yet ■ So

Nor, for, and so can only join independent clauses or ideas.

Do you want to study science or English?
The coordinating conjunction "or" is linking two nouns.

Coordinating words that work in pairs are called correlative conjunctions. They join words, phrases, and clauses, as well as whole sentences. The most common correlative conjunctions are:
both ... and neither ... nor either ... or not only ... but also

We can study either science or English.
I not only lost his phone number, but also forgot where he lived.
**Interjections** are exclamatory words with no grammar relationship to the rest of the sentences and usually express an intense emotion or feeling. For example: eh, okay, say, oh, no, ouch, yuck

- *It's great to be a Canadian, eh?*
- *Say, do you think she would let us do that?*
- *Yuck! That tastes disgusting.*
- *Okay, my mom will let me go too.*

Most interjections use an exclamation point immediately following the word or words. Some interjections that are not as strong may be followed by a comma instead of an exclamation point.

- *Oh, I forgot to finish that worksheet last night. I'll turn it in tomorrow.*
- *Alas, the poor man died one day before his ninetieth birthday.*