

**Technical English for Engineers**  
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**Lecture - 02**  
**Parts of Speech - Nouns**

Hello, friends. So, we will start with talking about Word classes. So, words, what are words? We will see, we will understand; but just like that. What do you understand by the term word and what are word classes? Now, see every word that is used in our writing, in our communication, in our speaking, the things we read, and the things we listen to. They are all words and every word as a class. We will soon see what are word classes.

Now see, the idea is that all of you are doing your various technical courses, engineering courses. The idea is that you should be well versed with the categories of words before you move on to more advance level of written and spoken English. So, that is what we are here for. So, we start from the fundamentals. Now there are 8 kinds of or 8 different kinds of words or parts of speech as we call them, and broadly speaking, I am very sure you know these things; they are nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, propositions, determiners and linking words. You get your 8 parts of speech. Each word, every word that you hear or that you speak can be classified thus. So, it is very important to understand especially in academic kind of English that, how we are using these words.

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## An Example

- *Ram has an important meeting at work tomorrow, so he is rather busy.*
- In this statement –
  - *Ram, meeting, work*, are Nouns;
  - *has, is*, are Verbs;
  - *an* is a Determiner;
  - *important* is an Adjective;
  - *at* is a Preposition;
  - *tomorrow, rather*, are Adverbs;
  - *so* is a Linking word, and;
  - *he* is a Pronoun.

Now, suppose I give you an example and you may take it down. Ram has an important meeting at work tomorrow so he is quite busy. I will repeat, Ram has an important meeting at work tomorrow, so he is quiet busy. Now where are the nouns? As you know, the **definition a** working definition of a noun is, **noun is** a name of a person, place or thing. So, Ram is a noun and Ram is a name and meeting also is a noun. Now, when I say I am meeting **so** **and so** today then this becomes a kind of verb. However, when we say Ram is in a meeting **today** or I am in a meeting today it becomes a noun we have to understand the categories. So, same word can be used as different kinds of parts of speech. This is important to learn.

Now, Ram has an important meeting at work tomorrow; again remember that work is also a noun. The reason is in this context is a noun. He is at work, but if you say, he works hard, then is the main verb; again remember we do not say he works hardly that is a wrong usage of English or wrong use of English. We do not say he works hardly, hardly has a negative connotation. So, it was; he hardly worked, **it** means he did not work at all. But when we mean someone works hard it means he is really very good worker, hard worker; that is what we mean. He works hardly means; he does not work at all; that is **a the** difference. Coming to the verbs in this sentence, again let us go back to the sentence. Ram has an important meeting at work tomorrow so he is quite busy. Now 'is'

and 'has' remember in the first part of the sentence 'has' is a verb in the second part of the sentence 'is' is a verb.

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We are going to see that, there is something called verb and the 'be' form, be. I will make it better the 'be' form is falls under this particular form. So, the 'be' form 'is' is a kind of verb has, have, had, these are verbs as well. Ram is the singular, therefore, has work. If boys are hard at work or boys have lot of work to do, **then** it becomes have; has and have, singular – plural. Now, an important meeting; 'an' is a determiner we will learn more about it. Now, important meeting we have already seen; meeting is a noun and important is something that adds to the meeting. What kind of a meeting? Not just casual meeting, not just any meeting is an important meeting. So, any thing that adds or that qualifies a noun becomes your adjective.

We learn more about that in detail in our subsequent classes. Now next word, at work tomorrow; so 'at' is a next word and that is a proposition. Proposition is a category, many people make lots of mistakes in this particular category but and in proposition; we have to be little more careful about it. So, he has meeting at work; we do not say. So, propositions are very specific kinds of words you cannot say meeting in work or meeting to work you have to say meeting at work. Tomorrow, tomorrow and quite both are adverbs, they add something to, they tell you the time **that** define **a** kind of time or the degree. So, quite busy, extremely busy degree extend to it therefore they become

adverbs; very interesting category of verb. 'So' is a linking word, see it links the two sections; Ram has an important **meeting** at work tomorrow so he is quite busy or rather busy. So, rather also becomes your adverb. Remember, quite often, rather word suggesting degrees they are adverbs. 'So' is a linking words which connects two sections, two part of a sentence and he is rather busy, he is quit busy. Who is busy? Ram is busy. So, we do not say Ram has an important meeting at work tomorrow. So, Ram is quite busy instead of Ram we use the word he. It is called the category pronoun; it is a referential word it refers to something that has already been said earlier.

I am writing on the board, the board is green, the board is big, the board belongs to this recording studio; the board, the recording studio is at IIT madras. Now, this is not the way, we use the link language. It may be correct, but it is not very effective. The board is large and it is green and it is very big perhaps that is the way you can use it and we are using the reference word; that is it. Rather than repeating the word board, which is the noun again and again. So, remember these things. Now let us talk about how words are used in sentences, some words could belong to different classes in different context.

For example, I work on my thesis for 6 hours every day and this work is really tiring. Now where do you use the verb and where do you use the noun. I am talking about word work. Let us say, I work hard, I work long hours you know any kind of any number of permutations combinations. I work late you can use all these words here, qualifies here. I work late, I work hard, I work long hours. Still the category of the word work this is important; would not change, it remains a main verb. However, the work is tiring, the work is boring, the work is demanding then it becomes your noun. So, work in the first sentence is a verb while the word work in the next sentence in the next context is a noun. So, we have to remember the categories and the context.

Sentences can also be without verbs. Now those are quite often used, but in a very different kind of a situation or context. So, you as engineers or as people who are pursuing technical degrees may not find much use for such kinds of sentences; however, you should know. Now when do we use sentences without verbs, I will give you an example; let us say he looks 50 years old full stop perhaps, older. Now he looks 50 years old full stop looks is a verb here full stop perhaps older, is a; is a sentence by itself, but it

has no verb in it. However, it depends on the first part of the sentence to or first sentence to give a complete meaning to itself. Those are some context, some situation, some circumstances when you can use sentences without a verb.

She has lost her mind full stop pretty that or alas. Now again, you are not using verb in the second sentence, but it depends on its meaning on the first sentence, so those are the instances where you can use a verb or you can have a sentence without a verb and these second sentences achieve their punch because of the contrast they mark with the first sentence used.

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### Exercise #1

- In the following paragraph, identify the class of the underlined words.
- *Aditya did not go to the café with the other students. Rani told him they were going there, but he wanted to finish his work. Aditya is not very sociable. He stays in his room and concentrates totally on his studies.*
- To start with, *to* is a preposition and *café* is a noun.

Now, I would like to draw your attention to this exercise, please read it. Here is a paragraph that I have done for you. Identify class or the class of the underlined words. I will read it for you. Aditya did not go to the cafe with the other students. Rani told him they were going there, but he wanted to finish his work. Aditya is not very sociable. He stays in his room and concentrates totally on his studies. I will repeat, Aditya did not go to the cafe with the other students. Rani told him they were going there, but he wanted to finish his work. Aditya is not very sociable. He stays in his room and concentrates totally on his studies. The first example is done for you, 'to' is **a** **the** proposition and 'café' is a noun, do the rest yourself. I will give you 2 minutes and then will get back, alright.

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the	determiner
told	verb
they	pronoun
there	adverb
he	pronoun
finish	verb
sociable	adjective
in	preposition
and	linking word
totally	adverb

Let us start solving the exercise and here the answers are given on this particular slide. You already know 'to' is a preposition 'café' is a noun is a name of a place. 'The' is determiner, 'told' is a verb, 'they' is a pronoun, it stands for other students. 'There' adverb suggesting the place, 'he' pronoun again referring to Aditya. You have finished as verb here. Sociable, he is not a very sociable person is an adjective. It adds something to Aditya's qualities he is not sociable, unsociable, unfriendly, very friendly so these are adjectives. 'In' again is a preposition, 'and' is a linking word just like so in the previous sentence and 'totally' suggest degrees and it is an adverb. So, I hope you got some understanding of what we are trying to do here.

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## Exercise #2

- Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

Now, again I will draw your attention to the second exercise, again you have to read the passage and answer the questions.

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## Mind your Language

(Source: Education Times, 21 July, 2008)

Change is often met with suspicion, and the rapidly raging SMS culture is no exception. As the world and its children went 'mobile', the cell phone's most-loved feature- Short Message Service (SMS)- became the handiest tool of communication

Beside convenient templates like 'I'll be late', 'I'm busy right now', and even 'I'm sorry' SMS is now to convey all kinds of emotions, jokes, SOS alerts, news and entertainment information. The language, which converted 'too' to '2', 'you are' to 'ur' and take care'' to 'tc', among the million other sms-isms, may well have begun to save space and cost. However, the conundrum of figuring out newly coined short forms caught on with such fervor that despite the rapidly declining rates offered by phone companies, the trend continues.

Read the passage very carefully. I read it out for you. Change is often met with suspicion, and the rapidly raging SMS culture is no exception. As the world and its children went 'mobile', the cell phone's most-loved features- Short Message Service (SMS) became the handiest tool of communication.

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Students and young professionals often employ this 'half baked' language to almost all aspects of their lives. "five out of 10 resumes I see are prepared with SMS languages", reveals an HR executive adding, "beside coming across as highly unprofessional, these CVs are instantly rejected, even though the qualifications may be up to the mark."

SMS lingo has also invaded the usually meticulous examination system, with students of all classes almost subconsciously using short forms in their answer papers. "We have made it a policy to cut half a mark per short forms in class and unit tests. Children have failed, but the trend continues," laments an English teacher at a suburban school.

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Complete the summary of the passage by filling the appropriate words

(a)..... is a way of life and the (b)..... and its children have adopted the (c)..... tool of adaptation which is referred to as (d)..... . In fact SMS language has become a (e)..... and parcel of their life which has also not spared the (f)..... system which is supposed to be a meticulous system.

Now, here is your exercise, please look at it and then I will go back or I will take you back to the passage. Dash is a way of life and the dash and its children have adopted to dash tool of adaptation which is referred to as dash. In fact, SMS language has become a dash and parcel of their life which has also not spared the dash system which is supposed be a meticulous system.

I will take you back to the; if you want you may take it down, note down this very short passage and the exercises. You should complete the summary of the passage by filling the appropriate words. Will go back to those earlier slides.

The change is a way of life and the world and its children have adopted, adopted what? Is a rather lengthy word, right? Short Message Service, it has become the handiest tool of communication. So, what are you going to write in c? Adapted the handiest tool of adaptation which is referred to as Short Message Service that is your answer d you can even use SMS for it. In fact, SMS language has become a pattern parcel.

A pattern parcel any way is an idiom, standard idiom which is also not spared the, what system? The examination system, which is supposed be a meticulous system. So, this the way you are so; you do an exercise where whatever words you have filled in change, handiest, SMS, part, examination look up a dictionary and try to figure out what parts of

speech these words are? This is important, because this is an online course and we are here to help you, but I would strongly suggest that you do some part of this course **you know some part of** learning yourself. So, it should be a blend of what we are doing here online as well as self learning.

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So, a good dictionary for this kind of an exercise and for many other things would be **A**dvanced **E**nglish **L**earners **D**ictionary. This is an **O**xford **D**ictionary, **O**xford **D**ictionary for **A**dvance **E**nglish **L**earners - AELD. So, this is one of the seminal dictionary you can also use Cambridge **A**dvance English **L**earners **D**ictionary. So, these are very standard dictionaries and I would suggest that all of you have a copy of this, it would be a great help it would come in extremely handy to use the word **try** which we have just seen in this passage. So, we end today's class at this point and I will see you soon.

Thank you very much.

### **Tags**

Reading English, English for Engineers, English words, English Exercise, Exercises in English, Grammar usage, English Grammar, vocabulary, words and phrases, spoken

communication, written communication, English writing, English speaking, scientific English, report writing, CV, formal letter,

Essay writing, word categories, word formation, formal tone, paragraph writing, tone in writing, speaking tone, signal words, Letter writing, understanding essays, Mechanics of Essays, publishable essays, nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, propositions, determiners, linking words, 'be' form, linking words