Parts of Speech

1. Focus

Explain Parts of Speech

Say: The phrase parts of speech refers to the different types of words found in sentences. Some common parts of speech are nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. A noun is a person, place, or thing. A pronoun is a word that can stand for a noun. Verbs tell actions. Adjectives describe nouns and pronouns, and adverbs describe verbs. There are other parts of speech as well, including articles (which usually combine with nouns), prepositions (which show relationships between words), conjunctions (which connect words or sentence parts), and interjections (which express emotions briefly). Today we will focus on identifying nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs.

Display the following sentence on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources:

Cheerful students run from the building and begin their summer.

Read the sentence aloud.

Say: This sentence contains several different parts of speech. The words students, building, and summer are nouns. The words run and begin are verbs. The word cheerful is an adjective. The sentence also contains a preposition (from), an article (the), a conjunction (and), and a pronoun (their). Using different parts of speech is important to writers of persuasive essays, as it is to all writers.

Model Using Different Parts of Speech

Display the modeling text (without labels) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

1. Japanese students attend school for most of the year.

2. Compare American students with international students and you will quickly see the results.

Modeling Text

Read sentence 1. Say: I know that sentences must have nouns and verbs. I can start finding parts of speech by finding the nouns in the sentence: the words students, school, and year. These are all people or things. The verb in this sentence is the word attend. It tells what the students do. The word Japanese is an adjective that describes the students, and the word most describes the year. I don’t see any adverbs or pronouns in the sentence. The rest of the words are the prepositions for and of and the article the.
Read sentence 2. Say: This sentence has many parts of speech. This time the nouns are students and results. The word compare is an action the reader is supposed to take; the other verbs are will and see. The adjectives American and international describe the different types of students. This time, I also see the conjunction and joining two parts of the sentence. The pronoun you refers to the reader. And there is an adverb, quickly, that describes the verb see. I see that longer sentences often use many parts of speech.

2. Rehearse

Practice Using Parts of Speech

Display the practice text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources. Ask students to work with partners to identify the parts of speech in each sentence. (Students do not need to copy sentences.)

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

1. The situation has grave consequences for our future.
2. American students will compete fiercely for jobs.

Practice Text

Share Parts of Speech in Sentences

Invite pairs to share the parts of speech they identified in each sentence. Discuss their choices.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

Provide simple sentences that use everyday oral language for students to practice identifying the essential parts of speech: nouns (or pronouns) and verbs. For example, have them find the nouns, pronoun, and verbs in the following sentences:

Students read.
The boy plays.
We draw.

Intermediate and Advanced

Pair students with fluent English speakers to complete the practice sentences and the BLM. Provide the following sentence frames to help students with their oral language:

The nouns are ______.
The pronouns are ______.
The verbs are ______.
The adjectives are ______.
The adverbs are ______.

All Levels

If you have ELs whose first language is Spanish, share these English/Spanish cognates: adjective/el adjetivo; adverb/el adverbio; conjunction/la conjunción; preposition/la preposición; verb/el verbo.

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned that writers use sentences with many different parts of speech in their persuasive essays. The main parts of speech we learned about today were nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Remember to use a variety of parts of speech in your persuasive writing.

If you would like to give students additional practice naming parts of speech, have them complete BLM 6.

4. Share

Review and provide corrective feedback based on students’ answers to BLM 6. Ask students to share what they learned about parts of speech.