JUNIOR CYCLE ENGLISH · FREE REVISION SHEET

Parts of speech

↗ Léim

Learning outcomes (2015 specification): W10, W12, R11, OL12. Play the game: **leim.ie/word-sort.html**

1. Every word has a job

The job a word does in a sentence is its **word class** (or part of speech). Knowing the jobs helps you write accurately and talk about a writer's language.

2. The big four

Noun	a person, place, thing or idea: Maya, Cork, ball, courage
Verb	an action or a state: kicked, slept, is, seems
Adjective	describes a noun: the *muddy* ball, it was *empty*
Adverb	how, when, where, how often: ran *quickly*, *never* came

3. The glue words

Pronoun	stands in for a noun: I, you, she, it, we, them
Preposition	where or when: *under* the oak, *after* dinner
Conjunction	joins ideas: and, but, so, because, although

4. Quick tests

the ___ ? → **noun** (the fox) · they ___ ? → **verb** (they slept)
Describes a noun? → **adjective** · Tells you how / when? → **adverb** (many end in -ly)

5. Same word, different job

The class depends on the job **in that sentence**.

I **run** every day (verb) · a long **run** (noun)
a **fast** car (adjective) · she drives **fast** (adverb)
turn on the **light** (noun) · a **light** bag (adjective)

6. Stronger words

One strong verb beats a weak verb + adverb. Swap tired words for exact ones.

ran very fast → **sprinted** · ate hungrily → **devoured**
very tired → **exhausted** · nice food → **delicious** food
went across the road → **bolted** across the road

7. Adjective or adverb?

Telling us **how** something was done? Use the adverb.

He played ~~good~~ **well**. She sang ~~beautiful~~ **beautifully**.

Classic mistakes: "quick" for quickly · "good" for well · very + a weak word (very big) instead of one strong word (enormous) · calling every -ly word an adverb (friendly, lonely are adjectives).

Exam tip: when you write about a writer's language, quote the exact word and name it: "The verb 'howled' makes the wind sound like an animal."

PRACTICE · 49 QUESTIONS

Have a go

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A. Name the word class of the underlined word

1. The tired **fox** slept soundly under the old oak. _____
2. The tired fox **slept** soundly under the old oak. _____
3. She opened the **creaky** door slowly. _____
4. She opened the creaky door **slowly**. _____
5. Her **kindness** surprised everyone. _____
6. The bright moon **shone** through the window. _____
7. We waited **nervously** for the bus, but it never came. _____
8. The **huge** wave crashed against the rocks. _____
9. Tom and Aoife cycled to **Galway**. _____
10. The old fisherman mended his nets **patiently**. _____
11. Fear kept them **silent**. _____
12. The excited fans cheered **wildly**. _____

B. Sort the words into the table (questions 13–24)

flooded **happily** **hungry** **little** **robin** **sang** **seagulls** **stole** **storm** **sudden** **suddenly** **sweetly**

Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb

C. Pronoun, preposition or conjunction?

25. Her kindness surprised **everyone**. _____
26. Maya kicked the muddy ball **across** the pitch. _____
27. The team celebrated loudly **because** they won the cup. _____
28. Fear kept **them** silent. _____
29. Jack hid the present **behind** the sofa. _____
30. He whispered quietly, **although** the room was empty. _____

D. Same word, different job: name the class

31. I **run** every morning. _____
32. That was a long **run**. _____
33. My schoolbag is **light**. _____
34. She has a **fast** car. _____
35. She drives **fast**. _____
36. She worked **hard**. _____

E. Write one stronger word for the underlined words

37. The dog **went** across the road. _____
38. He **ate** the pizza. _____
39. The castle was **big**. _____
40. I was **very tired**. _____
41. The man **walked** into the room. _____
42. The music was **loud**. _____

F. Fix the mistake (adjective or adverb?)

43. He played **good** in the match. _____
44. The bus came **quick**. _____
45. Please drive **careful**. _____
46. They spoke **polite** to the visitor. _____
47. I did **bad** in the quiz. _____

G. Exam-style

> *The wind howled around the cottage. Inside, Nora crouched by the dying fire and listened. Something scratched slowly at the door.*

48. Pick out two verbs that make this scene tense. Explain each choice.

_____

_____

49. Rewrite with stronger words: "The girl went into the big room and looked at the nice painting."

_____

CHECK YOUR WORK

Answers

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A	1. noun · 2. verb · 3. adjective · 4. adverb · 5. noun · 6. verb · 7. adverb · 8. adjective · 9. noun · 10. adverb · 11. adjective · 12. adverb
B	Nouns: robin, storm, seagulls · Verbs: sang, flooded, stole · Adjectives: little, sudden, hungry · Adverbs: sweetly, happily, suddenly
C	25. pronoun · 26. preposition · 27. conjunction · 28. pronoun · 29. preposition · 30. conjunction
D	31. verb · 32. noun · 33. adjective · 34. adjective · 35. adverb · 36. adverb
E	Any strong, exact word that fits, e.g. 37. bolted · 38. devoured · 39. enormous · 40. exhausted · 41. stormed · 42. deafening
F	43. well · 44. quickly · 45. carefully · 46. politely · 47. badly (each tells us *how*, so it must be an adverb)
G	48. Any two of: "howled" (the wind sounds like a wild animal), "crouched" (Nora is hiding, afraid), "scratched" (something is trying to get in). Quote the word + say what it makes you see, hear or feel. 49. e.g. The girl **crept** into the **vast** room and **gazed** at the **stunning** painting.

Worked examples

2. slept
"The fox slept": try "they slept". It works, and it's something the fox does, so it's a **verb**.

11. silent
"Fear kept them silent": silent describes *them* (a pronoun standing in for people), so it's an **adjective**, even though it's at the end.

35. fast
"She drives fast": fast tells us *how* she drives, so here it's an **adverb**. In "a fast car" it's an adjective.

28. them
"Fear kept them silent": them stands in for the people, so it's a **pronoun**.

Got one wrong? Ask: what job is the word doing in *this* sentence? Then play **Word Sort** at leim.ie/word-sort.html: the "Go back over these" list at the end shows the reason for each mistake.

All sentences written by Léim. Léim is independent and not connected with the State Examinations Commission or the NCCA.