

In the following sentences, the groups of words in italics are Clauses :

People *who pay their debts* are trusted.

We cannot start *while it is raining*.

I think that *you have made a mistake*.

CHAPTER 4

PARTS OF SPEECH

8. Words are divided into different kinds or classes, called **Parts of Speech**, according to their use ; that is, according to the work they do in a sentence. The parts of speech are eight in number :

1. Noun.
2. Adjective.
3. Pronoun.
4. Verb.
5. Adverb.
6. Preposition.
7. Conjunction.
8. Interjection.

9. A **Noun** is a word used as the *name* of a person, place, or thing; as,

Akbar was a great *King*.

Kolkata is on the *Hooghly*.

The *rose* smells sweet.

The *sun* shines bright.

His *courage* won him *honour*.

Note—The word *thing* includes (i) all objects that we can see, hear, taste, touch, or smell; and (ii) something that we can *think of*, but cannot perceive by the senses.

10. An **Adjective** is a word used to *add something* to the meaning of a noun ; as,

He is a *brave* boy.

There are *twenty* boys in *this* class.

11. A **Pronoun** is a word used *instead of a noun*; as,

John is absent, because *he* is ill.

The books are where you left *them*.

12. A **Verb** is a word used to express an action or state; as

The girl *wrote* a letter to her cousin.

Kolkata *is* a big city.

Iron and copper *are* useful metals.

13. An **Adverb** is a word used to *add something* to the meaning of a verb, an adjective, or another adverb ; as,

He worked the sum *quickly*.

This flower is *very* beautiful.

She pronounced the word *quite* correctly.

14. A **Preposition** is a word used with a noun or a pronoun to show how the person or thing denoted by the noun or pronoun stands in relation to something else; as,

There is a cow *in* the garden.

The girl is fond *of* music.

A fair little girl sat *under* a tree.

15. A **Conjunction** is a word used to *join* words or sentences; as,

Rama *and* Hari are cousins.

Two *and* two make four.

I ran fast, *but* missed the train.

16. An **Interjection** is a word which expresses some sudden feeling; as,

Hurrah ! We have won the game.

Alas ! She is dead.

17. Some modern grammars include **determiners** among the parts of speech. Determiners are words like *a, an, the, this, that, these, those, every, each, some, any, my, his, one, two, etc.*, which determine or limit the meaning of the nouns that follow. In this book, as in many traditional grammars, all determiners except *a, an* and *the* are classed among adjectives.

18. As words are divided into different classes according to the work they do in sentences, it is clear that we cannot say to which part of speech a word belongs unless we see it used in a sentence.

They arrived soon *after*. (Adverb)

They arrived *after* us. (Preposition)

They arrived *after* we had left. (Conjunction)

From the above examples we see that *the same word can be used as different parts of speech*.

EXERCISE IN GRAMMAR 2

Name the part of speech of each italicized word in the following sentences, giving in each case your reason for the classification:

1. *Still* waters run deep. 10. Muslims *fast* in the month of Ramzan.
2. *He still* lives in that house. 11. He kept the *fast* for a week.
3. *After* the storm comes the calm. 12. He is *on* the committee.
4. *The after* effects of the drug are bad. 13. Let us move *on*.
5. *The up* train is late. 14. Sit down and rest a *while*.
6. It *weighs* about a pound. 15. I will watch *while* you sleep.
7. He told us all *about* the battle. 16. They *while* away their evenings with books and games.
8. He was only a yard *off* me.
9. Suddenly one of the wheels came *off*.