Parts of Speech

Definitions and Examples

**Noun** – the name of a person, place, thing, or idea  
   Ex: *The cat is playing with the ball.*

**Pronoun** – a word that replaces one or more nouns  
   Ex: *He left them standing there.*

**Verb** – a word that describes what the subject is, does, or has. There are two different types of verbs: action verbs and linking verbs.

   - **Action verbs** tell what action a subject is doing.  
     Ex: *Nina always reads before she goes to bed.*

   - **Linking verbs** are used to link the subject of the sentence with another word. The other word either renames or describes the subject. The most common linking verbs are forms of the verb “be”: be, is, am, are, was, and were.  
     Ex: *Greg is a good friend.*

**Adjective** – a word that describes a noun or a pronoun.  
   Adjectives usually answer one of the following questions: What kind? Which one(s)? How many? How much?  
   Ex: *Misty has beautiful eyes.*

**Adverb** – a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.  
   An adverb usually answers questions like: How? To what extent? Adverbs often end in *ly.*  
   Ex: *Tamara quickly runs to help those who are in trouble.*
   - It is fairly easy to ride a bike.

**Preposition** – a word that shows the relationship between a noun or pronoun and another word in the sentence  
   Ex: *In the middle of the night, I was awakened by the sound of a dog barking.*

**Conjunction** – a word that connects words or groups of words  
   Ex: *Beverly is kind, gentle, and intelligent.*
   The most common conjunctions can be easily remembered by using the following acronym:
   - F.A.N.B.O.Y.S.
   (For - And - Nor - But - Or - Yet - So)

**Interjection** – a word that expresses strong feeling or emotion  
   Ex: *Wow! Ouch!*