

# Words Used as Different Parts of Speech

You cannot tell which part of speech a word is until you see it used in a sentence. A single word may be used in different ways, acting as several different parts of speech. Look at these examples:

- A *parade* marked the beginning of the festival. (noun)
- Do you know the *parade* route? (adjective)
- The Olympic winners *parade* around the stadium. (verb)

- Jerry and Phil built a warm *fire* after they had set up their tent. (noun)
- They *fire* employees often at that company. (verb)
- The *fire* department arrived soon after I called them. (adjective)

**Identify the parts of speech.** In the blank after each sentence, write the part of speech of the italicized word.

1. The Smiths *hose* their car down weekly.
2. The *hose* is on a hook by the faucet.
3. *That* is a fielder's mitt.
4. *That* exit is closed.
5. *Nerve* gas is outlawed.
6. The dentist hit a *nerve* and apologized.
7. Water *ruins* velvet.
8. Looters searched the *ruins* of the store.
9. Nick fell *behind* on the hike.
10. The spy was captured *behind* enemy lines.
11. Tanya can sing the high notes as well as the *low* notes.
12. Anna wore the floppy hat *low* over her eyes.
13. *That* is my coat.
14. We should walk toward *that* tower.
15. Do you know the *speed* limit on the expressway?
16. The *speed* of light is 186,282 miles per second.
17. *Which* TV stations caption programs for the deaf?
18. *Which* of these activities do you enjoy most?
19. We took our car to the *service* station for an oil change.
20. Tips are rewards for good *service*.

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# Review: Using the Parts of Speech

Identify the parts of speech. Write the part of speech of each italicized word.

1. Nobody *but* Nicole can tune that television. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The snail was ugly *but* harmless. \_\_\_\_\_
3. *Plants* give more oxygen than they take. \_\_\_\_\_
4. He *plants* a garden in the courtyard yearly. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Joan is *usually* here. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Helen is a *fast* talker. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Danny turned the knob too *fast*. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The prisoner ate no food during his *fast*. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The team went to *Mexico* in the winter. \_\_\_\_\_
10. *Terrific!* We'll have a live band. \_\_\_\_\_
11. *Neither* of them knew their schedule. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Curt straightened his *straw* hat. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Jan *or* Kate will change the ribbon. \_\_\_\_\_
14. *Who* has a brown belt in karate? \_\_\_\_\_
15. Kent is *cheerful* today. \_\_\_\_\_
16. *Those* are termites. \_\_\_\_\_
17. *This* key might work. \_\_\_\_\_
18. The brothers never *hit* each other. \_\_\_\_\_
19. The song was an instant *hit*. \_\_\_\_\_
20. Many *Cuban* refugees live in Miami. \_\_\_\_\_
21. *What* makes you angry? \_\_\_\_\_
22. Does Billy Joel have a *fan* club? \_\_\_\_\_
23. I spent *too* much time on that project. \_\_\_\_\_
24. Ask Kristin *about* her hobby. \_\_\_\_\_
25. *Wow!* This pie is delicious! \_\_\_\_\_