**Nouns:** Nouns are the names of people, places, or things. Words like *boy, George, dog, winter, night, San Francisco, democracy,* and *idea* are some examples. Nouns often appear after articles like *a, the,* or *our*

- Most nouns have both a singular form (*boy*) and a plural form (*boys*).

**Adjectives:** Describe or modify the nouns. Words like *cold, tall, blue, expensive, ugly, this, some,* and *three* (used to tell what kind, which one, how much, or how many).

- Adjectives usually appear before the nouns they modify (a *cold* day) or after a verb like "is" (The day was *cold!*).
- Descriptive adjectives can have an intensifier before them (a *very* cold day).
- Shorter descriptive adjectives usually have three different forms (cold, colder, coldest; pretty, prettier, prettiest).

**Verbs:** Verbs are actions words like *run, be, have,* and *write.* Examples are in italics in the following sentences:

- She *laughed.* *Listen!*
- Fish *were jumping.*
- *Finish* your homework.
- The Romans *must have built* it.
- He *has* mumps.
- I *will be* fifteen next month.

- Almost all one-word verbs change in form to show a change in time (laughs, laughed, jumps, jumped, is, was, has, had been.)
- In verbs that consist of more than one part, the last word is the "main" verb, and the others are "auxiliaries," or "helping verbs" (were *laughing,* must have *built,* have been *wondering*).
**Adverbs:** Adverbs modify verbs. Words like *carefully, gracefully, now, twice, and not* (used to tell such things as how, when, where, and how often, or to make a statement negative).

- Adverbs often appear right next to the verbs they modify.
  
  He *never* laughs
  
  I do *not* agree.
  
  Drive *carefully*.

- Sometimes other words come between the adverb and the verb.
  
  *Yesterday* I hit a homerun; I hit a homerun *yesterday*.

- Several adverbs end in *-ly* (carefully, frequently).

- Most adverbs, like most adjectives, can have an intensifier before them (*very carefully; quite often*).

**Intensifiers:** A special kind of adverb: Words like *rather, quite,* and *very* (used to regulate the force of adjectives and other adverbs).

- Intensifiers always appear directly in front of the adjective or adverb they modify (*very tall, quite slow*).

**Pronouns:** Pronouns are used in place of the nouns. Words like *I, you, he/she, myself, this, who,* and *someone* (noun substitutes).

**Prepositions:** A preposition shows the relationship between nouns (or pronouns) and the rest of the sentence. They can show comparison, location, purpose, and time. Words like the ones in italics in these phrases:

- *in the dresser* (location)
- *after supper* (time)
- *for me* (purpose)
- *by the captain of the football team* (purpose, possession)
Conjunctions: Conjunctions join words and phrases together. Words like the ones in italics in these examples:

Tom, Dick, *and* Harry
beautiful *but* dumb
for me *or* against me
He talked, *and* I listened.

Interjections: Interjections show surprise or an abrupt remark. Words like *Darn!* *Awesome!* *Oh,* and *Good grief.*

Exercise 1

Read the following sentences, and decide whether each of the *italicized* words is a noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, adverb, or preposition.

1. I felt like a fish out of water *in* that neighbourhood.
2. The apples were *delicious,* and the applesauce was great.
3. So he reached into his pocket and *pulled* out a dime.
4. Somehow he always *gets* his way back into Dad's good graces.
5. Insults roll off *him* like water off the back of a duck.
6. Winslow *greedily* took a third piece of cake.
7. Jimmy *ducked,* and the snowball whizzed by over his head.
8. The frost had left a *spidery* pattern on the windowpane.
9. It's a surprise party, so *don't* let the cat out of the bag.
10. I can't stand those *romantic* movies he always stars in.
11. Dad *worked* on the faucet for a while, and now it drips even worse than before.