

ENGLISH GRAMMAR

3RD STAGE

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CHAPTER 3: PART OF SPEECH: STRUCTURE CLASSES

- In the previous lecture we talked about form-classes words and these words carry the meaning in a grammatical structure.
- In this lecture we are going to discuss structure class words, these are also called functional words.
- Function words are a category of words in linguistics that serve mainly as grammatical or structural markers in a sentence, and do not carry much semantic content on their own.
- These words are also referred to as "closed class" words because new words are rarely added to this category in modern English.
- These words are identified in a sentence mainly by their position in a sentence.

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- These functional words have several types which include but are limited to the following categories:-
 - a) Qualifiers
 - b) Prepositions
 - c) Determiners
 - d) Auxiliaries
 - e) Pronouns: personal, interrogative, and relative

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a) **Qualifiers:**

- A qualifier is a type of word that provides additional information about the degree or intensity of another word in a sentence. Qualifiers are often adverbs, but can also be adjectives or other parts of speech.
- There are several types of qualifiers, including:
 1. **Intensifiers:** These are words that increase or strengthen the meaning of another word. Examples include "very," "extremely," "totally," and "absolutely."
 2. **Downtoners:** These are words that decrease or weaken the meaning of another word. Examples include "somewhat," "a little," "kind of," and "almost."

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- **Qualifiers:**

3. Amplifiers: These are words that make the meaning of another word more precise or specific. Examples include "exactly," "completely," "utterly," and "thoroughly."
4. Approximators: These are words that indicate an approximation or estimate of a quantity or degree. Examples include "about," "nearly," "approximately," and "around."
5. Focusing adverbs: These are words that help to focus attention on a specific aspect of a sentence or idea. Examples include "only," "just," "merely," and "solely."
6. Emphatic adverbs: These are words that add emphasis or emphasis to a sentence or idea. Examples include "indeed," "certainly," "definitely," and "undoubtedly."

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- **Qualifiers:**

- Qualifiers that come before adjectives and adverbs are known as degree adverbs or degree modifiers. These words modify or intensify the meaning of adjectives or adverbs by indicating the degree or extent to which the quality or property they describe applies. Some common degree adverbs include:

1. **Very:** Used to indicate a high degree of intensity or quality. Example: "She is very happy."
2. **Extremely:** Used to indicate a very high degree of intensity or quality. Example: "The weather is extremely hot."
3. **Quite:** Used to indicate a moderate or considerable degree of intensity or quality. Example: "The coffee is quite strong."

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- **Qualifiers:**

4. **Rather:** Used to indicate a moderate or somewhat surprising degree of intensity or quality. Example: "The movie was rather boring."
5. **Fairly:** Used to indicate a moderate or reasonable degree of intensity or quality. Example: "The book is fairly interesting."
6. **Somewhat:** Used to indicate a moderate or slight degree of intensity or quality. Example: "The soup is somewhat salty."
7. **Little:** Used to indicate a small or minimal degree of intensity or quality. Example: "She has little experience with computers."

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- Sometimes form class words can form qualifiers in a sentence. For example
- The bottle is *bone* dry.
- The novel is *extremely* distasteful.
- The baby is a *month* old.
- He is *fighting* mad.

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b) Prepositions:

- Prepositions are a class of words that typically come before nouns, pronouns, or gerunds and indicate the relationship between these words and other elements in a sentence.
- Prepositions show the relationship of time, space, and direction, and often help to establish the relationship between the subject of the sentence and the other elements in the sentence.
- **Examples of common prepositions:**
 1. In: Used to indicate a location inside a space. Example: "The book is in the library."
 2. On: Used to indicate a location on a surface. Example: "The pencil is on the desk."

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3. **At:** Used to indicate a specific location or point in time. Example: "I will meet you at the restaurant at 7 pm."
4. **By:** Used to indicate proximity or close association. Example: "The bakery is by the park."
5. **With:** Used to indicate accompaniment or association. Example: "I am going to the movies with my friends."
6. **To:** Used to indicate direction or movement towards a place. Example: "I am walking to the store."
7. **From:** Used to indicate a point of origin or starting point. Example: "The train is coming from New York."

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- **Compound prepositions:**

- Compound prepositions are a type of preposition that consist of two or more words. These words often function as a single unit and act as a preposition in a sentence. Compound prepositions are formed by combining a preposition with a noun, adjective, or adverb. Examples include:-

1. **According to:** Used to indicate the source of information or the opinion of someone. Example: "According to the report, the economy is improving."
2. **In spite of:** Used to indicate that something happened or exists despite some obstacle or hindrance. Example: "In spite of the rain, we still went for a walk."
3. **Because of:** Used to indicate the cause or reason for something. Example: "The game was postponed because of the weather."

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4. Due to: Used to indicate the cause or reason for something. Example: "The delay was due to a technical issue."
5. Along with: Used to indicate that something exists or occurs together with another thing. Example: "I went to the park along with my friends."
6. In addition to: Used to indicate that something is being added to something else. Example: "In addition to my job, I also take care of my family."
7. On behalf of: Used to indicate that someone is acting or speaking for someone else. Example: "I am speaking on behalf of the entire team."

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- **Exercise:**
- Indicate the prepositions in the following sentences:
 1. The car stopped at the station.
 2. The plumber is in the house.
 3. This is the farm he came from.
 4. The rose by the window was watered.
 5. The boy is up at the camp.
 6. He came along with his father.

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c) **Determiners:**

- Determiners are a class of words that are used before nouns to indicate which or how many nouns are being referred to. Determiners are important because they provide information about the number and identity of the noun being referred to, as well as the relationship of the noun to other elements in the sentence.
- **Common types of determiners:**
 1. Articles: "a", "an", and "the". These are used to indicate the specificity or nonspecificity of a noun.
 2. Demonstratives: "this", "that", "these", and "those". These are used to indicate the proximity or distance of a noun in relation to the speaker.
 3. Possessives: "my", "your", "his", "her", "its", "our", and "their". These are used to indicate ownership or possession of a noun.

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4. Quantifiers: "some", "any", "many", "few", "several", "all", "both", "either", "neither", "enough", "plenty of", etc. These are used to indicate the quantity or amount of a noun.
5. Numbers: "one", "two", "three", etc. These are used to indicate the exact number of nouns.
6. Indefinite pronouns: "each", "every", "either", "neither", "somebody", "anybody", "nobody", "everyone", "someone", "no one", etc. These are used to refer to a non-specific noun.

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- **Examples:**

1. Do you like my new hat?
2. The weather is cold today.
3. Its roots grew under the pavement.
4. That boy is smart.
5. Have you seen my car?

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d) Auxiliaries:

- Auxiliaries, also known as auxiliary verbs or helping verbs, are a class of verbs that are used in combination with other verbs to form verb phrases that express various grammatical functions. Auxiliaries can be used to indicate tense, mood, voice, aspect, or negation.
- **Common types of auxiliaries:**
 1. "Be" (am, is, are, was, were, been, being): Used to indicate progressive or continuous aspect, passive voice, or to form the progressive passive.
 - Example: "I am studying for my exams."
 2. "Have" (has, have, had, having): Used to indicate perfect aspect or to form the perfect tense.
 - Example: "I have finished my homework."

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3. "Do" (does, do, did, doing): Used to form questions and negatives, or to add emphasis.
 - Example: "Do you like pizza?"
4. "Will" (would, will): Used to indicate future tense or to form the conditional mood.
 - Example: "I will go to the gym tomorrow."
5. "Can" (could, can): Used to indicate ability, permission, or possibility.
 - Example: "I can speak Spanish fluently."

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e) **Pronouns: personal, interrogative, and relative**

- Pronouns are words that are used in place of nouns to avoid repetition and make sentences more concise. Personal, interrogative, and relative pronouns are three types of pronouns that are commonly used in English.
- 1. **Personal Pronouns:** Personal pronouns are used to refer to people or things. They can be used as subjects or objects in a sentence. There are two types of personal pronouns: subject pronouns and object pronouns.
 - Subject Pronouns: I, you, he, she, it, we, they
 - Object Pronouns: me, you, him, her, it, us, them

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2. **Interrogative Pronouns:** Interrogative pronouns are used to form questions. They are used to ask for information about people or things. The most common interrogative pronouns are who, whom, whose, what, and which.
3. **Relative Pronouns:** Relative pronouns are used to join clauses or phrases together in a sentence. They are used to connect a dependent clause to an independent clause. The most common relative pronouns are who, whom, whose, that, and which.
 - Most common types of relative pronouns:
 1. Who - Used to refer to people
 - Example: The man who is standing there is my neighbor.

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2. Whom - Used to refer to people (as the object of a verb or preposition)
 - Example: The woman whom I met yesterday was very friendly.
3. Whose - Used to indicate possession by someone
 - Example: The dog whose tail is wagging belongs to my friend.
4. That - Used to refer to people or things
 - Example: The book that I am reading is very interesting.
5. Which - Used to refer to things
 - Example: The car which I bought last year is still in good condition.