

Nouns (N)

This is a large class. It contains all the words that name something or somebody. There are different types of nouns:

Proper nouns

These are the names of particular people, places or things. These nouns always start with a capital letter e.g. *David, September, Newcastle.*

Common nouns

These are the names of ordinary things e.g. *sister, cat, shop.*

Abstract nouns

These are the names of feelings and other things that can be thought about but not seen e.g. *love, truth.*

Collective nouns

The names of groups of objects e.g. *crowd, flock, herd.*

Some nouns can be **singular** or **plural** e.g. *dog/dogs, table/tables.* These are called **count-able nouns** because you can count more than one. Other nouns, like *money, butter* and *cotton* do not change when they are in the plural. These are called mass nouns.

Adjectives (A)

This is another large class of words.

Adjectives are words that are used to **de-
scribe a noun or pronoun**. They can become
before or after a noun.

e.g. *the **tall** man or the man was **tall**.*

Adjectives can make comparisons

e.g. *the **tall** man, the **taller** man, the **tallest**
man.*

Pronouns (n)

Pronouns are words that can be used in place
of a noun. You can write:

*The boy ran away. The boy ran too fast and
fell over.*

You can use a pronoun instead:

*The boy ran away. **He** ran too fast and fell
over.*

Examples of pronouns are:

He She it them they his my
yourself who what.

Verbs (V)

This is an important word class because every sentence must have a verb in it.

Verbs tell us two things:

- An action by a noun
E.g. Dan **kicked** the ball.
The builder **lifted** the bricks.
- A state of being a noun
e.g. Dan **is** tired.
The builder **has** a pile of bricks.

Verbs can show when things happen.
These are called **tenses**.

Present tense: Dan **kicks** the ball.
The action is happening now.

Past tense: Dan **kicked** the ball.
The action has already happened.

Future tense: Dan **will kick** the ball.
The action is going to happen.

Conjunctions (c)

Conjunctions connect parts of a sentence

They can do different jobs. **Co-ordinating conjunctions** can be used to join two simple sentences

*e.g. Fred went to the shops **and** he bought some stickers.*

There are four co-ordinating conjunctions :

and so or but

Subordinating conjunctions can be used to join a sentence and a subordinate clause

*E.g. Fred went to the shop **although** he did not have any money.*

*Fred went to the shop **because** he wanted some stickers.*

*Fred went to the shop **when** the rain stopped.*

Adverbs (Av)

Adverbs give more information about verbs and sometimes about adjectives.

Many verbs end in *ly*'

They often answer these questions

How? (*quietly*),

How much? (*very*),

Where? (*outside*),

When? (*soon*),

How often? (*never*).

Determiners (d)

These are some of the most common words in the English language

e.g. *a, an, the*

Determiners refer to a noun

e.g. *the dog, that table, a girl.*

Sometimes there may be other words between the determiner and the noun

e.g. *the big dog, that old table.*

Many words can be included in more than one class depending on their job in a sentence.

e.g. *Hit* can be a noun:

*The **hit** of the week was 'The Tide is High' by Atomic Kitten.*

Or a verb:

*She **hit** the ball into the net.*

*Blue can be a noun (**Blue** is a colour),*

*An adjective (the bottle is **blue**)*

*Or an adverb (She was feeling **blue**.)*