

Word forms can be troublesome for ESL writers. In detecting a word form, or part of speech, you must consider the morphological and syntactic frames of the word. In other words, (1) what word endings are commonly used with the word and (2) what is the position in which the word occurs within a sentence?

1. Noun: A word that names a person place or thing.

Endings: noun + plural 's' morpheme: cars Nouns can take the following endings:

-acy	-age	-al	-ance	-ence	-ant
-ent	-ate	-ation	-dom	-ee	-eer
-en	-er	-or	-ese	-ess	-ful
-hood	-ian	-an	-ia	-ic	-id
-in	-ine	-ing	-ion	-ism	-ist
-ite	-ity	-let	-ling	-ment	-ness
-ocracy	-ry	-ary	-ery	-ship	-ster
-tion	-tive	-y			

Typical word orders: determiner noun the **car** determiner adjective noun the big **plane**

Nouns can occur in the following positions within a sentence:

As subjects *The **doctor** came immediately.*

As complements *My mother is a **doctor**.*

As objects *We saw the **doctor**. The nurse gave the file to the **doctor**. The nurse stood beside the **doctor**.*

2. Verb: A word that expresses action, condition, or state of being of the subject.

Endings: verb + past tense ending **walked**

verb + 3rd person present singular ending **walks**

verb + progressive ending **talking**

Verbs can take the following endings:

-ate	-en	-ing	-ed	-er	-ify
-ize					

Typical word orders: auxiliary verb will **go**

Imperative sentence: (please) **study!**

***Did** you **walk** into the room.*

*Linda **ran** into the house.*

*On the shelf **is** his book.*

3. Adjective: A word that limits the meaning of a noun or pronoun. Adjectives have only one form, which is used with singular and plural nouns. With the exception of 'this'/'these', 'that'/'those', adjectives have no singular or plural form.

Endings : adjective +er/est taller, tallest

more/most + adjective more **studious**

Adjectives can take the following endings:

-al	-ial	-ical	-ant	-ate	-en
-ese	-ful	-ian	-ic	-ing	-y
-ed	-er	-able	-ile	-ish	-i've
-ative	-itive	-less	-like	-ly	-ous
-eous	-ious				

Typical word orders: determiner adjective noun □the **big** house; linking verb adjective. is **true**; adverb adjective very **tall**

4. Adverb: A word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. Adverbs may indicate manner (hurriedly), place/direction (outside), time (quickly), and frequency (seldom).

Ending: adverb [adjective+ ly] relatively

Other possible endings: -ward and -wise

Typical word orders: adverb adjective **extremely** hot
adverb verb or verb phrase **slowly** ambled
adverb adverb **quite** fast

Adverbs can be used in many positions in the sentence.

***Frequently** I eat out.*

*I **frequently** eat out.*

*I eat out **frequently**.*

5. Determiners: Precedes a noun or adjective + noun (a, the, many, all, my, her, our)

Typical word orders: determiner (adjective) Noun **the** bright light; **some** coffee; **John's** bike

6. Auxiliary verbs: Words which refer to actions or processes; they indicate tense and aspect. Ex: may, can, do and be

Typical word orders: Noun phrase auxiliary verb phrase The man **should** leave the room.

Auxiliary noun phrase verb phrase? **Can** Mary go to the movies?

Auxiliary +not□The Cowboys **will** not beat the Packers.

7. Prepositions: Appear before the noun phrase to show a relationship between that object and some other word in the sentence. Ex: on, to, with, of, for, at, in from

Word order: preposition noun phrase The boy **with** the suitcase.....

next preposition noun phrase He is sitting next **to** the boy.

Determiners	Prepositions	Auxiliaries
<i>Articles</i> : the, a, an	about, above, across, after,	have, has, had, having,
<i>Possessive nouns</i> : John's, my son's	against, along, among, around, before, behind, below, beneath,	be, is, are, am, was, were, been, being, can,
<i>Demonstrative pronouns</i> : this, that, these, those	between, beyond, but (except), by, concerning, down, during,	could, will, would, shall, should, may, might, must, ought to,
<i>Numbers</i> : one, two, three	for, from, in, into, near, of, off, on, onto, out, over, past,	do does, did
<i>Possessive pronouns</i> : my, your, his, her, its, our, their, whose	regarding, since, through, throughout, till, to, toward, under, underneath, until, up,	
<i>Quantifiers</i> : all, few, some, many, much, any, enough, fewer, more, most, less	with, within, without	
<i>Specifiers</i> : each, every, either, neither		

Unlike in the previous exercises you have completed thus far, in the following exercise, choose the answer that needs to be rewritten in order for the sentence to be correct. You should be particularly careful about word form problems. Once you have completed the exercise, click “Submit all and finish” to see the which answers needs to be rewritten and how it should be rewritten.