Help Centres – English Support

CAMOSUN COLLEGE

Parts of Speech - Definitions

A) Noun: A person, place, thing, or idea

1. A ***noun*** comes before a verb in **subject** position**:**
   - ***Dogs*** eat dog food***.***
2. A ***noun*** comes after a verb in **object** position:
   - Dogs eat ***dog food*****.**
3. A ***noun*** often comes after a determiner such as a, the, some, this, his, our…
   - His ***dog*** eats dog food.
4. A ***noun*** can come after an adjective that describes it**.**
   - His big, brown ***dog*** eats dog food.
5. A ***noun*** comes after prepositions as the object of the preposition**.**
   - His big, brown dog eats dog food in ***the yard*****.**

B) Verb: An action (run, sleep, jump) or a state of being (is/are, feel, look)

1. A ***verb*** usually comes after a noun.
   - The baby ***cried***. (action verb)
2. A ***verb*** usually comes before an adverb that describes it.
   - The baby ***cried*** loudly.
3. A ***verb*** can come between two nouns.
   - I ***am*** a student. (stative verb)

C) Adjective: Describes a noun

1. An ***adjective*** usually comes before a noun to describe it.
   - The ***blue*** house**.**
2. An ***adjective*** comes after a stative verb (is/are, feel, look)
   - The woman looks ***happy.***

D) Adverb: Describes a verb, an adjective, or another adverb

1. An ***adverb*** usually comes after a verb.
   - She talked ***quietly*****.**
2. An ***adverb*** can come before an adjective***.***
   - The cake was ***incredibly*** delicious***.***
3. An ***adverb*** can come before another adverb
   - She talked ***very*** quietly.

E) Determiner: Tells us what thing, person, place or idea we are talking about

1. A ***determiner*** comes before a noun and can be:
    - **a)** An ***article*** (a, an, the)
        - ***The*** car is new.
    - **b)** A possessive ***pronoun*** (my, his, your…)
        - ***My*** hair is longer than ***your*** hair.
    - ***c)*** A ***demonstrative*** (this, that, those…)
        - You can use ***that*** pen***.***
    - ***d)*** A ***quantifier*** (some, any, two…)
        - I ate ***two*** sandwiches***.***