

## CC Quick Grammar Guide: Parts of Speech

Parts of speech, also called word classes, are the types of words that make up sentences. Each part of speech or word class performs a specific function in a sentence or phrase.

Most grammar reference books define the 9 parts of speech shown in the following table.

	PART OF SPEECH	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE (italicised)
LEXICAL (CONTENT) WORDS	Noun	a naming word	The <i>ballerina</i> performed 16 <i>pirouettes</i> in a <i>row</i> . Her <i>expertise</i> was obvious.
	Verb	a doing or being word	The ballerina <i>performed</i> 16 pirouettes. She <i>is</i> petite and graceful.
	Adjective	a word describing a noun or pronoun	The <i>graceful</i> ballerina performed 16 pirouettes in a row.
	Adverb	a word describing a verb, adjective, other adverb, phrase, clause or whole sentence	That ballerina dances <i>beautifully</i> . She is <i>very</i> graceful.
GRAMMATICAL WORDS	Pronoun	a substitute for a noun	<i>She</i> is petite and graceful.
	Determiner	a word that specifies (or determines) the noun or pronoun being referred to	<i>Those</i> ballerinas are dancing gracefully across <i>the</i> stage.
	Conjunction	a joining word	The ballerina is petite <i>and</i> graceful.
	Preposition	a word that positions	A ballerina danced <i>on</i> pointe <i>across</i> the stage.
	Interjection	a word expressing a strong feeling or sudden emotion	<i>Wow!</i> That ballerina just performed 16 pirouettes in a row.

