

Determining Parts of Speech

14i. The way a word is used in a sentence determines what part of speech the word is.

- EXAMPLES** Will you please find another station on your **radio**? [noun]
 The newest **radio** station in town plays country music. [adjective]
 We gave a party for **those** of our friends who were leaving. [pronoun]
Those friends of ours recently moved to the East Coast. [adjective]
Before the pop quiz, we hardly knew what questions to expect. [preposition]
 I sharpened the only pencil I had **before** the class began. [conjunction]

EXERCISE A In the following paragraphs, identify the part of speech of each underlined word by writing above it *N* for *noun*, *ADJ* for *adjective*, *PREP* for *preposition*, *PRON* for *pronoun*, *ADV* for *adverb*, *CONJ* for *conjunction*, *V* for *verb*, or *INTJ* for *interjection*.

Example June [1] has written an essay [2] about the rise of cities.

[1] From the sixteenth century on, the Industrial Revolution [2] caused many cities around the world to experience [3] tremendous growth and [4] change. Particularly in Europe [5] and North America, these cities [6] quickly became centers of [7] large-scale manufacturing. As a result, [8] many social problems developed in [9] them.

Early on, [10] skilled craftspeople had [11] difficulty finding work [12] because machines did their jobs [13] more quickly and inexpensively. Many [14] city people began working [15] in factories where conditions were poor. Improved [16] agricultural methods [17] reduced the need for farmworkers. Cities grew [18] as factories attracted more and more workers. [19] Unfortunately for many, living [20] conditions were unhealthy and [21] unsuitable. Many lived in crudely built houses, [22] apartment buildings, and even cellars. In early industrial cities, [23] alas, widespread disease and pollution caused the death [24] rate to rise dramatically. Over time, the quality of life in most industrial cities got [25] better.

EXERCISE B In each sentence below, underline all the words that function as the italicized part of speech given before the sentence.

Example 1. *conjunction* We lacked neither pen nor paper.

26. *pronoun* These are your books, and those are mine.

27. *verb* By the time the bus arrives, Nadine will have been waiting for an hour.

28. *adjective* When I was little, four hours seemed long.