

# CHAPTER VII

# INADEQUACIES OF

# PARTS OF SPEECH

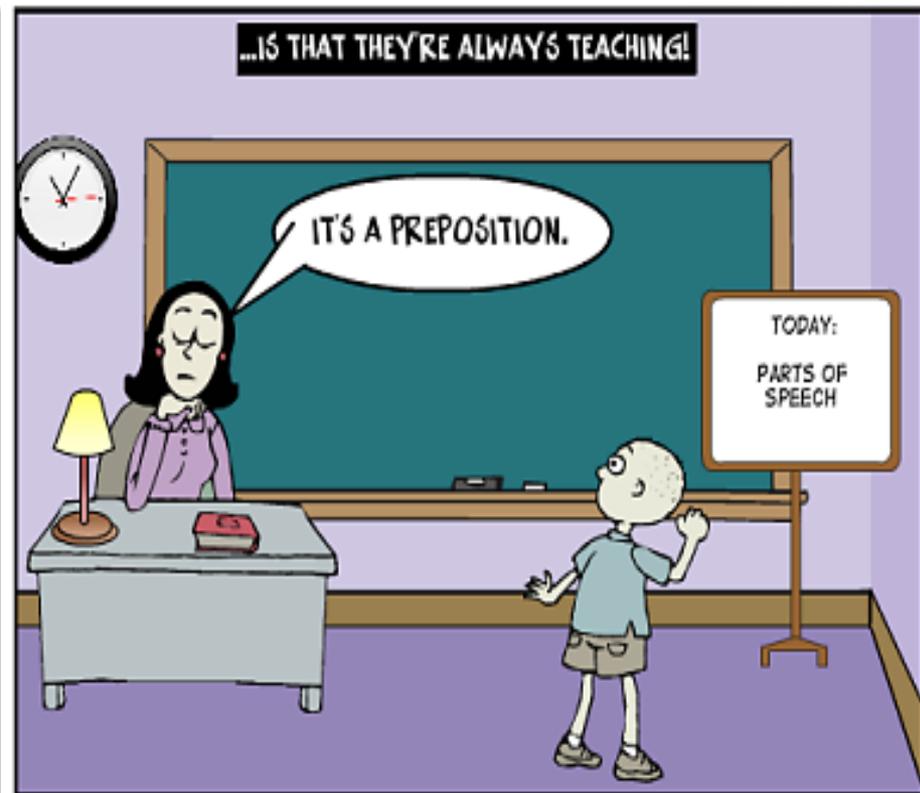
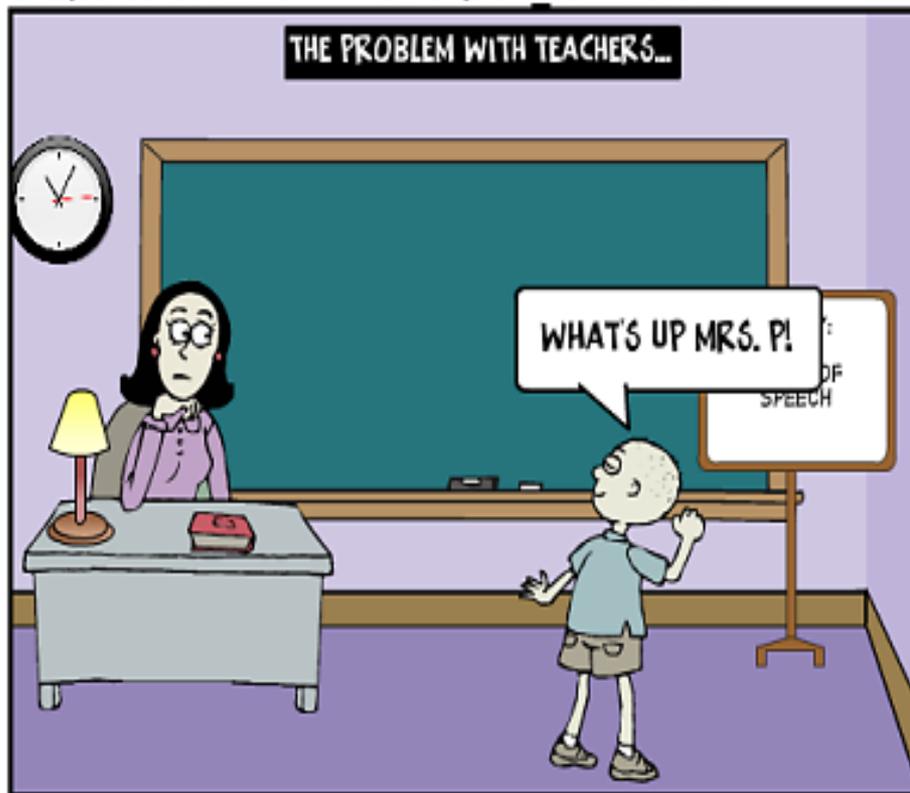
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**PARTS OF SPEECH - BY BRIAN THOMASTCI**

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What woman have?

While you were hunting, I  
was gathering — parts of speech.  
Here, try a pronoun.



1-29-07



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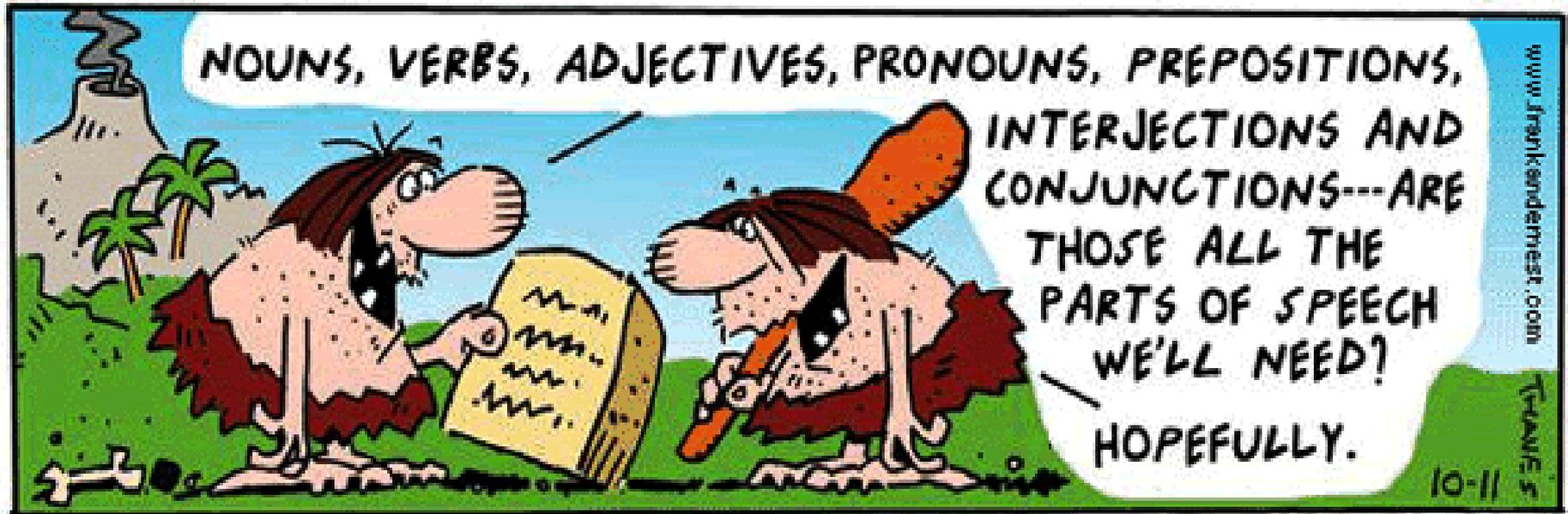
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**TENSE? MOODY?  
IRREGULAR?**



**YOU MUST BE A VERB.**

# Frank and Ernest



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# 8 parts of speech in one sentence

**Alas!** **The** **clever king** **rode**  
(Interjection) (adjective) (noun) (verb)  
**on** **a horse** **and** **reached**  
(preposition) (conjunction)  
**quickly** **as** **he** **planned.**  
(adverb) (pronoun)

- \* As a matter of fact, it is not difficult to see that the list of “parts of speech” is far from enough. Some of the problems with it could simply be improved by greater specification e.g. the class of conjunctions is far from homogeneous (it’s heterogeneous, guys 😊 ).

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- \* Some conjunction such as “AND” badly needed to appear/occur between the sentences they relate, while others (such as “IF” or “BECAUSE”) may also be positioned at the beginning of the whole sentence. Please note the difference between (1) and (2) below:



SAMIDI, THE COOL BOY

(1)	A	Samidi turned off the switch <b>and</b> the light went out.
	B	<b>*and</b> the light went out and Samidi turned off the switch.
(2)	A	We can still go <b>if</b> Samidi comes.
	B	<b>If</b> Samidi comes we can still go.

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- \* If we wish to frame the definitions of the parts of speech so as to take account of distinctions like that, we could refine the classification of conjunctions, distinguishing co-ordinating conjunctions, (such as “AND”, BUT,OR”) from subordinating conjunctions (such as IF, THAT,BECAUSE).

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- \* Other inadequacies of the list are, however, more problematic. The semantic characteristics of the parts of speech confess of an alarming number of exceptions (**too much exceptions !!!**). Among the previous examples, all seem to fall outside the semantic definitions of their parts of speech and the semantic specifications of the various categories involve terms which are themselves hard to define and understand.

- \* This is part of a consequence of the fact that so many exceptions to these semantic definitions: there is a great temptation (godaan besar) to render the definition vaguer and vaguer so as to include more and more exceptions, but then they tend to become **really meaningless**. For example An author named Nesfield had wrote a book entitled “Manual of English Grammar” which defined a verb as “word used for saying something about something else”. What does it mean actually? 😞 “Facepalm”



- \* In spite of such inadequacies, this short categorization is a remarkably effective tool for the analysis of English syntactic structure. It performs two essential tasks on one hand
- \* (1) it provides a **framework** into which the great majority of English words may be fitted, after a little practice.
- \* On the other hand, (2) it is an essential pre-requisite for the statement of **possible word combination in English**. These may be formulated in quite traditional way, along the following lines:

- 1 Adverbs always precede the adjective in English (e.g. horribly inadequate, it cannot be \*inadequate horribly, amazingly nice and it cannot be \*nice amazingly).
- 2 Adjective always precede the noun and follow the article in English (e.g. the big picture, it cannot be \*picture big the or \*the picture big).
- 3 English sentences have the order of NOUN-VERB-NOUN (e.g Samidi likes cheese and it cannot be \*likes Samidi cheese).



The definition by function as well as by form is necessary in English if different/distinct word categories are to be defined, since there are few formal markers left in English. If, for example nouns are defined in English only by the inflexions they can take, difficulties soon arise, firstly and secondly because there are so many exceptions that such a definition would make artificial distinctions between words which clearly belong to the same category.

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- \* This becomes very clear if we take a few examples. Most words which we should want to call as NOUNS in English are inflected in two ways: firstly for showing the so-called “possessive” case, that is the **apostrophe/ 'S**, and secondly to mark **the plural**. In the written language this also usually takes the form of –S, but in speech its pronunciation varies according to the phono-tactic rules.

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- \* If we then define a noun as a word which takes these two inflexions it will serve very well for a large number of English nouns, but it would leave so many words which functions as ‘nouns’ uncounted for that.
  - \* However, English has nouns which cannot take those inflexions, e.g **CHAOS** or **HAPPINESS**. Apart from that, some nouns have one and not the other: **SHEEP** and **DEER**, for example, have no inflexion for plural. Some words also are **grammatically plural but semantically singular/mufrad** and thus have no grammatical singular form: **SCISSORS**, **OATS**, and **TROUSERS**.

- \* We then have to consider all the verbal nouns such as **WALKING, TALKING**, etc. not to mention the infinitive form. It is in fact impossible to define parts of speech in English adequately by means of only inflectional forms.
- \* This is true **not only of nouns** but of other forms of speech as well.
- \* For example not all adjectives form the comparative by adding -ER, not do all adverbs end in -LY. Words can function as different parts of speech with no change in form. A good example is the form of FAST: (**there is no \*FASTLY as ADV.**)

1	Because of their Islamic beliefs they FAST twice a week.	FAST=Verb
2	Today is a FAST and so we shall eat nothing	FAST=Noun
3	Their work is FAST, but they easily get FURIOUS.	FAST=Adjective
4	He runs FAST.	FAST=Adverb
	Monday and Thursday are Voluntary or nafil fast days for Muslims.	FAST=Noun
	<b>Why Do Muslims Fast During the Month of Ramadan?</b>	FAST=VERB

1	I found out an open window at your house.	Verb, adjective, Noun ?
2	The city of purwodadi OPENS a port for international trade.	
3	Vacations in the OPEN are fine for the entire family.	
4	OPEN NOW Matahari Dept.store	
5	Is the museum OPEN on Sundays?	
6	I declare this festival OPEN.	
7	ICCR scholarship is a nice open opportunity	

NO	SENTENCE	VERB OR NOUN?
1	<i>The sudden clap of thunder caused everyone to START.</i>	
2	<i>The horse won his first two STARTS.</i>	
3	<i>The bride's parents gave the couple a START by buying them a house.</i>	
4	<i>The record STARTed the young singer on the road to stardom.</i>	
5	<i>The START of the book was good but the last half was dull.</i>	

1	I miss the come and GO of the seasons in India.	Interjection, Verb, adjective, Noun ?
2	NASA engineers has been preparing all the devices 100 minutes before the launching of the satellite and all systems are GO.	
3	Anna: Do you wanna build a snowman? It doesn't have to be a snowman... <i>[8-Year-Old Elsa:] GO away, Anna.</i>	
4	<i>(in calling the start of a race)</i> start the race; leave the starting line: <i>On your mark! Get set! GO!</i>	

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- \* So, it is **impossible** to define a word such as this **by its form**. We can only decide on its category when it occurs in a sentence . In other words, when we see what its function is in syntactical perspective.

## ANSWER THE QUESTION: WHICH ONE IS THE CORRECT LOGICS? A or B?

1A	Samidi jumped the horse and rode it.	A or B?
1B	Samidi rode the horse and jumped on it.	
2A	Paijo broke the camera and dropped it.	A or B?
2B	Paijo dropped the camera and <del>broke it.</del> 	

## IS IT THE SAME THING BETWEEN THESE TWO SENTENCES?

3A	Genduk Nicole had a baby boy and got married	Which one is Islamic and which one un-islamic?
3B	Genduk Nicole got married and had a baby	