IDENTIFYING PARTS OF SPEECH

VERB: A word denoting action, occurrence, or existence.

Examples: ran, jump, shout, sweat, thinks, feels, sleeps, eat, laugh, are, is, was, has

The President **met** with foreign diplomats on Tuesday.

NOUN: A word that *names* a person, place, thing, idea, animal, quality, or action. Nouns function as the subject of the sentence. They also function as objects, complements, appositives, and modifiers, as well as in direct address.

Examples: child, John, New York, books, pizza, love, pony, generosity

Edwin, my brother, is a professional musician.

PRONOUN: A word that takes the position of a noun and functions as nouns do.

Examples: he, she, it myself, me, theirs, ours, we, you, yours

<u>He</u> attended a luncheon in <u>his</u> honor on Wednesday.

ADJECTIVE: A word that modifes, qualifies or describes nouns and pronouns. Generally, adjectives appear immediately before the words they modify.

Examples: pretty girl, talented doctor, young athlete, blue book

The small child begged for a bedtime story.

ADVERB: A word that modifies verbs, adjectives and other adverbs. An "ly" ending almost always changes an adjective to an adverb.

Examples: spoke quickly, ran <u>hastily</u>, worked <u>frantically</u>

Kelly reluctantly agreed to serve on my committee.

Many adverbs do not end in "ly." However, all adverbs identify when, where, how, how far, how much, etc.

Examples: hang low, stand straight, added wrong, study hard

Kelly never loses her temper.

PREPOSITION: A word that establishes a relationship between its object and another word in the sentence.

The relationship can be one of time, space, direction, place accompaniment, cause, or manner.

Examples: on, between, down, in, of, since, to (not a complete list)

Jack sat <u>beside</u> Jill <u>on</u> the bus.

CONJUNCTION: A word that functions as a connector between words, phrases, and clauses. There are

coordinating, correlating, and subordinating conjunctions.*

Examples: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so (coordinating)

when, until after, before, although (subordinating) *I work part-time although I don't need the money.*

ARTICLE: A word that is used before a noun and functions as an adjective

Examples: The (definite article), a and an (indefinite articles)

<u>The</u> bees that were on the flowers stung Kaye.

 \underline{A} man gave us directions to the airport.

[A is used before a noun beginning with a consonant sound]

An article in the paper caught my attention.

[An is used before a noun beginning with a vowel sound]

INTERJECTION: An exclamation expressing emotion.

Examples: Wow! Help! Stop! Ouch!

Wow! Look at all the snow.

TIPS TO HELP YOU RECOGNIZE PARTS OF SPEECH

VERB The word is probably a verb \underline{if} :

• You can use will, shall, can, could, may, might, must, should, or would in front of the word. Examples: will come, could go, would miss

NOUN The word is probably a noun \underline{if} :

- You can make it plural or singular (one book, two *books*)
- You can make it possessive (book, book's pages; girl, girls' dresses)
- It can follow a prepositional phrase such as *to the*, *with the*, *from the*.
- You can place the word a, an, or the in front of it.

PRONOUN The word is probably a pronoun if:

You can substitute the word for a noun

Examples: me, mine, you, he, her, it, we, these, one, everybody (not a complete list)

ADJECTIVE The word is probably an adjective <u>if</u>:

- You can add *er* or *est* to the word (happy--happier--happiest)
- You can use *more* or *most* in front of it (beautiful--more beautiful--most beautiful)
- You can use the words *very* or *quite* in front of it (she wore a very bright, daring costume)

ADVERB The word is probably an adverb <u>if</u>:

- There is an *ly* suffix (happily)
- The word or phrase can be moved to another place in the sentence and still make sense

Examples: He usually goes to school. -or-

Usually, he goes to school. -*or*-He goes to school usually.

PREPOSITION These words must be followed by a noun object. Prepositions only occur in

prepositional phrases. (This is <u>not</u> a complete list)

above	as	by	except	over	upon
across	because of	concerning	near	past	via
against	before	despite	of	since	with
along	behind	down	off	from	within
amid	between	due to	on	below	throughout
among	beyond	during	out	under	through
around	but	at	outside	until	for

CONJUNCTION The word is probably a conjunction <u>if</u>:

• The word serves as a connector between words, phrases, or clauses. (There are coordinating correlating, and subordinating conjunctions.*)

Example: He was not handsome, **yet** he was a very successful actor.

The young boy ran quickly down the street, and he yelled, "Help!"

art. adj. noun verb adverb prep. art. noun conj. ∴ verb interjection pronoun