Words can be divided into word classes according to the way they are used in sentences. There are eight main word classes in English: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and articles. These are also known as the parts of speech.

**Nouns**

A noun is the name of anything, like car or soap or love or ring.

A noun is the name of a person too, like Jason, Wasim, Jill, or Sue.

A noun is also the name of a place – Pakistan, Glasgow, Mars, or Space.

A noun’s any kind of naming word – bluebottle, Bill, Bolton, bird.

**Spot the Nouns**

Can you find the ten nouns in this sentence?

A boy called John, who lived in Carlisle, kicked a football over the fence into the garden of his neighbour, breaking a window in the greenhouse and knocking over some flowerpots.

1. ____________________________ 6. ____________________________

2. ____________________________ 7. ____________________________

3. ____________________________ 8. ____________________________

4. ____________________________ 9. ____________________________

5. ____________________________ 10. ____________________________

**Answers: Spot the Nouns**

VERBS

A verb is a special kind of word. It tells you of things being done,
Like swim or talk, eat or walk, creep, or crawl or run.
A verb is a word that tells you what people and things are doing,
Like shining or glowing, swallowing, or chewing.

Spot the Verbs

Can you find ten verbs in this sentence?

Verbal Tennis

Player 1 says a verb e.g. take. Player 2 has to reply with another verb beginning with the second letter of that verb a, e.g. add. Player 1 then has to reply with a verb beginning with d e.g. dare. The game continues until one player is unable to answer. The following rounds can be played with other sets of verbs, or with nouns, adjectives, or adverbs instead.

When John kicked a ball, which broke a window in his neighbour's greenhouse and damaged some flowerpots, he ran and hid, until his father found him, dragged him home, and made him knock on his neighbour's door to apologise.

1. ........................................ 6. ........................................
2. ........................................ 7. ........................................
3. ........................................ 8. ........................................
4. ........................................ 9. ........................................
5. ........................................ 10. ........................................

Answers: Spot the Verbs

1. kicked, 2. broke, 3. damaged, 4. ran, 5. hid, 6. found, 7. dragged, 8. made, 9. knock, 10. apologise.
Add an Adjective: Aunt Agatha’s Cat

A word game for groups of four or more

The aim of the game is to think of as many adjectives as you can which start with the same letter of the alphabet.

Choose a letter of the alphabet and each player in turn has to think of an adjective beginning with that letter to describe a particular animal or object. Say you’ve chosen the letter A and the chosen animal is a cat. The first player might say ‘Aunt Agatha’s cat is an angry cat’, then the next player might say ‘Aunt Agatha’s cat is an active cat’. You keep going until someone can’t think of an adjective beginning with A or suggests a word which is not an adjective. Have fun using adjectives and think of unusual ones, e.g. you could say that ‘Aunt Agatha’s cat is an accurate cat’ or an ‘alternative cat’.

When you’ve played the game with one letter, try it with another letter e.g. for the letter B think of adjectives to describe Billy Bunter’s boat or for F to describe Freddie Forest’s fox.

ADJECTIVES

An adjective describes a noun, For example, its colour: blue or brown. It can show a size – huge, great, small; Or tell a length – long, short, or tall. It can describe a shape – round or flat, Wide or narrow, or thin or fat.

Adjectives describe other features too, Whether things are ancient, old, or new; Whether a person’s strong or brave; How they look – cheerful, sad, or grave. An adjective is a describing word, Like weird, ridiculous, or absurd.
I Love My Love

The aim of the game is to think of nouns, verbs, and adjectives which begin with the same letter.

You take it in turns to tell each other about your love. Player 1 starts with the letter A: I love my love with an A because his name is Andrew and he lives in Aberdeen. I love my love with an A because he adores apples. I love my love with an A because he is adventurous.

The second player follows with B, the third with C, and so on through the alphabet. When someone cannot think of a word beginning with the right letter, they drop out and the last player left is the winner.

People often leave out the letters Q, X, and Z, because they are so difficult to do. To help you with these letters, some examples are given at the bottom left corner of the page.

Suggestions: I Love my Love

Q: I love my love with a Q because his name is Quentin and he lives in Quebec. I love my love with a Q because he quells quarrels. I love my love with a Q because he is quaint.

X: I love my love with an X because her name is Xanthe and she lives in Xeres. I love my love with an X because she X-rays xylem. (Xeres is a town in Spain. Xylem is a type of plant tissue.)

Z: I love my love with a Z because his name is Zak and he lives in Zanzibar. I love my love with a Z because he zaps zillions. I love my love with a Z because he is zany.

The shortest sentence in the English language is 'Go!'