Parts of Speech

Each word in a sentence serves a specific purpose and is
categorized as a part of speech based on its function:
1. Noun: a person, place, or thing (cat or weather)
2. Pronoun: a person, place, or thing which replaces a
   noun (he, their, or some)
3. Verb: a word showing action or state of being (run, was)
4. Preposition: word used to link a noun or pronoun to
   other words (across, by, of, or to)
5. Adjective: word which describes a noun (happy or red)
6. Adverb: word which describes or modifies a verb, an
   adjective, or another adverb (very or slowly)
7. Conjunction: word which links words or phrases
   (and or although)

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- Extensive homework and optional problems sets with
full explanations for every problem
- Customizable courses for schools and groups
- $1000 Perfect Score Scholarship
3. Write sample questions that have each type of error.
   You can find existing questions from *The Real ACT Prep Guide* grouped by content in the Blue Book Database on the book owner's website. Use these questions to write your own example questions, along with detailed explanations for your questions. The most effective strategy for learning information is to teach the information to someone else.

4. Have someone quiz you.
   Enlist a family member or friend to quiz you on each flash card. If you correctly identify or explain an error, place a check mark in the target on the flash card. Once an Alarm Bell is completely memorized, remove it from your stack of flash cards.
Two Dashes

**Common Error:** *Faulty subject verb agreement*
**Error Example:** The girls—including Tricia and the blonde—is here.
**Correction:** The girls—including Tricia and the blonde—are here.

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**The preposition “of”**

**Common Error:** *Faulty subject verb agreement*
**Error Example:** The results of the medical test was negative.
**Correction:** The results of the medical test were negative.

**Notes:** The subject of a verb is never in a prepositional phrase! On the ACT, the object of the preposition will usually agree with the verb, while the true subject of the sentence is in disagreement.

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**“There” or “here” (expletives)**

**Common Error:** *Faulty subject verb agreement*
**Error Example:** There is three students assigned to each station.
**Correction:** There are three students assigned to each station.

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**Long phrase between subject and verb**

**Common Error:** *Faulty subject verb agreement*
**Error Example:** The dog that ran away into the woods were found.
**Correction:** The dog that ran away into the woods was found.

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**The number of, the amount of, the percent of**

**Common Error:** *Faulty subject verb agreement*
**Error Example:** The number of volunteers were overwhelming.
**Correction:** The number of volunteers was overwhelming.

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**(1) “each” or “every”**

**Common Error:** *Faulty subject verb agreement*
**Error Example:** Every boy and girl are invited to the party.
**Correction:** Every boy and girl is invited to the party.
ALARM BELL:

Long phrase between the subject and verb

ALARM BELL:

Two dashes

ALARM BELL:

“The number of,” “the amount of,” “the percent of”

ALARM BELL:

The preposition “of”

ALARM BELL:

(1) “each” or “every”

ALARM BELL:

“There” or “here” (expletive construction)
(2) “each” or “every”

Common Error: Faulty pronoun antecedent agreement
Error Example: Each of the girls wants their own room.
Correction: Each of the girls wants her own room.

Common Error: Faulty subject verb agreement
Error Example: The committee of doctors are meeting today.
Correction: The committee of doctors is meeting today.

(1) “had” + main verb

Common Error: Incorrect verb tense
Error Example: He had called for help by the time she had returned.
Correction: He had called for help by the time she returned.
Note: Only the first event to occur receives had.

Common Error: Incorrect verb tense
Error Example: In 1912, the massive boat would sink.
Correction: In 1912, the massive boat sank.

(2) “had” + main verb

Common Error: Incorrect irregular verb form
Error Example: The deputy had spoke to the owner of the store.
Correction: The deputy had spoken to the owner of the store.

Common Error: Incorrect verb form (fragment)
Error Example: The lady next door having a garage sale.
Correction: The lady next door is having a garage sale.
Notes: In order for a verb ending in -ing to function as a real verb, it must be accompanied by a helping verb.

Dates or time periods

Common Error: Incorrect verb tense
Error Example: The committee of doctors are meeting today.
Correction: The committee of doctors is meeting today.

Collective nouns

Common Error: Faulty subject verb agreement
Error Example: The committee of doctors are meeting today.
Correction: The committee of doctors is meeting today.
ALARM BELL: Collective nouns ("choir," "group," etc.)

ALARM BELL: "Each" or "every"

ALARM BELL: Dates or time periods

ALARM BELL: "Had" + Main verb (i.e. had waited)

ALARM BELL: Verb ending in "-ing"

ALARM BELL: "Had" + Main verb (i.e. had waited)
(1) The pronoun “one”

Common Error: Faulty subject verb agreement
Error Example: One of the cats are chasing a leaf.
Correction: One of the cats is chasing a leaf.

(2) The pronoun “one”

Common Error: Faulty pronoun antecedent agreement
Error Example: At our gym, one may rent a locker for a monthly fee.
Correction: At our gym, we may rent a locker for a monthly fee.

The pronouns “I” and “me”

Common Error: Incorrect pronoun choice
Error Example: My mother would like to come with Anne and I.
Correction: My mother would like to come with Anne and me.

Common Error: Incorrect pronoun choice
Error Example: I visited my uncle, whom is a famous author.
Correction: I visited my uncle, who is a famous author.

he/him, she/her, they/them, we/us

Common Error: Incorrect pronoun choice
Error Example: I think us girls should be allowed to play football.
Correction: I think we girls should be allowed to play football.

Common Error: Implied pronoun
Error Example: At the salon, they said my hair was too long.
Correction: At the salon, the barber said my hair was too long.
ALARM BELL:

(2)
The pronoun “one”

ALARM BELL:

(1)
The pronoun “one”

ALARM BELL:

The pronouns
“who” and “whom”

ALARM BELL:

The pronouns
“I” and “me”

ALARM BELL:

The pronoun “they”

ALARM BELL:

The pronouns
he/him, she/her,
they/them, and we/us
(1) Possessive nouns

Common Error: *Implied pronoun*
Error Example: Since meeting Fred’s mom, I have liked him more.
Correction: Since meeting his mom, I have liked Fred more.

(2) Possessive nouns

Common Error: *Incomplete comparison*
Error Example: My book has a thicker spine than Logan’s.
Correction: My book has a thicker spine than Logan’s book.
Note: If you do not clarify the spine of Logan’s book, the comparison might be to the spine in Logan’s back.

Introductory modifying clause

Common Error: *Misplaced modifier or dangling modifier*
Error Example: Preparing for camp, my shoes were washed.
Correction: Preparing for camp, I washed my shoes.
Notes: If a sentence begins with a modifying clause, the noun being modified should immediately follow the clause.

(1) “Either” or “neither”

Common Error: *Incorrect pairing of correlating conjunctions*
Error Example: I am neither angry or disappointed.
Correction: I am neither angry nor disappointed.
Notes: When used as conjunctions, *either* must be paired with *or* and *neither* must be paired with *nor*.

(3) “Either” or “neither”

Common Error: *Faulty subject verb agreement*
Error Example: Either the ladies *or* the dog are riding with me.
Correction: Either the ladies *or* the dog is riding with me.
Notes: When *either..or* or *neither..nor* is used with a compound subject, the noun closest to the verb dictates whether the noun is singular or plural. This is only tested in Hard level questions.

(2) “Either” or “neither”

Common Error: *Faulty subject verb agreement*
Error Example: Either of the apples are fine.
Correction: Either of the apples is fine.
Notes: As indefinite pronouns, *either* and *neither* receive a singular verb.
ALARM BELL:

(2) Possessive nouns (i.e. “Jan’s” or “the band’s”)

ALARM BELL:

(1) Possessive nouns (i.e. “Jan’s” or “the band’s”)

ALARM BELL:

(1) “Either” or “neither”

ALARM BELL:

Introductory modifying clause

ALARM BELL:

(2) “Either” or “neither”

ALARM BELL:

(3) “Either” or “neither”
(5) “Either” or “neither”

Common Error: Faulty parallel structure
Error Example: He is either running or he will jump in the track meet.
Correction: He is either running or jumping in the track meet.
Notes: When either..or and neither..nor are used as correlating conjunctions, the words or phrases following each part of the conjunction must be in parallel form.

(4) “Either” or “neither”

Common Error: Faulty pronoun antecedent agreement
Error Example: Neither of the men asked for their attorneys.
Correction: Neither of the men asked for his attorney.
Notes: As indefinite pronouns, either and neither are singular antecedents.

(1) “not only..but also,” “both..and,” “as..as,” and “whether..or”

Common Error: Incorrect pairing of correlating conjunctions
Error Example: I am not only hungry but thirsty.
Correction: I am not only hungry but also thirsty.

(2) “not only..but also,” “both..and,” “as..as,” and “whether..or”

Common Error: Faulty parallel structure
Error Example: I am both exhausted and feeling relief.
Correction: I am both exhausted and relieved.
Notes: The words or phrases following each part of a correlating conjunction must be in parallel form.

A semicolon (;)

Common Error: A dependent clause on either side of the semicolon
Error Example: She was stunning; and he was awed by her beauty.
Correction: She was stunning; he was awed by her beauty.
Notes: A semicolon must separate two independent clauses.

Apostrophes

Common Error: Error in possessive noun or pronoun formation
Error Example: I finally learned who’s car is parked outside.
Correction: I finally learned whose car is parked outside.
ALARM BELL:

(4) “Either” or “neither”

(5) “Either” or “neither”

ALARM BELL:

(2) “not only..but also,” “both..and,” “as..as,” and “whether..or”

(1) “not only..but also,” “both..and,” “as..as,” and “whether..or”

ALARM BELL:

An apostrophe

ALARM BELL:

A semicolon (;)