Grammar Concepts, Part One

Who cares whether that word is a coordinating conjunction, a preposition, or a linking verb? Writing is about communication, not about knowing the obscure technical jargon of cranky grammarians, right? You’re partly correct, but there are at least two key reasons to learn the basic vocabulary and concepts of grammar:

1. Communicating about your writing with instructors, tutors, and peers requires a shared vocabulary.
2. Understanding how language works enables you both to understand and to communicate more complex and challenging ideas.

For some of you, this may be review, but for others, this may be the first time you've encountered these terms. Take your time to absorb and review the terms during another, separate session at the WRC: Ask an instructor for other exercises or resources that explain the material in a different way.


2) View the “Parts of Speech” PowerPoint presentation and answer the following questions:
   a) A noun names a person, place, thing, or ________________
   b) Name the 2 main kinds of verbs:
      i) ____________
      ii) ____________
   c) A pronoun replaces a ________________.
   d) An adjective modifies what 2 kinds of words?
      i) ____________
      ii) ____________
   e) Write down the 3 questions answered by adjectives:
      i) ____________
      ii) ____________
      iii) ____________
   f) An adverb modifies what 3 kinds of words?
      i) ____________
      ii) ____________
      iii) ____________

SLO: Eng 60-2a
g) Write down the 4 questions answered by adverbs:
   i) 
   ii) 
   iii) 
   iv)

h) Name 3 common prepositions:
   i) 
   ii) 
   iii) 

i) A conjunction is a word that ____________________ words or groups of words.

j) Write down the 2 examples of interjections:
   i) 
   ii) 

3) Test yourself with the quiz titled “Identifying Sentence Parts.” Print out or handwrite at least 3 difficult sentences to review with a WRC tutor.

4) Click on the link “Subjects” in the table titled “Sentence Parts: Function and Usage Notes” at the bottom of the page. Read the explanation and then take the quiz “Identifying Simple & Compound Subjects.” Copy down at least 3 difficult sentences by hand or pasted into a Word document.

5) Review your answer sheet and the 6 difficult sentences with an instructor or tutor at the WRC. Attach a confirmation sheet or get a signature below:

   Instructor/Tutor Signature

   Date

6) Turn in the following items stapled together:
   a) This completed answer sheet with signature or confirmation sheet.
   b) Printed or handwritten quizzes:
      i) At least 3 difficult sentences from “Identifying Sentence Parts”
      ii) At least 3 difficult sentences from “Identifying Simple & Compound Subjects”