Parts of Speech I: Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives and Adverbs

Purpose: Learning parts of speech can help you with spoken and written communication skills. Knowing parts of speech will help you eliminate grammatical problems and write essays more easily. There are only eight parts of speech, one we rarely use in academic writing (interjections), so let’s learn these once and for all. This DLA will cover four parts of speech. This DLA should take approximately 30 to 45 minutes to complete.

STEP 1: Access the Powerpoint “Parts of Speech DLA Part I”. Read through and understand the slides on nouns. Then, underline seven nouns in the first sentence on the next page of this DLA. You will want to print out that page to go over it with an instructor at the end (you don’t need to print this page).

***Remember, you can ask questions at any point in this process. Write down your questions as you go along, or go and ask an instructor each time you have a question. This is a self-paced activity, so make it work for you.

STEP 2: Return to the Powerpoint, and understand the slides on pronouns and play the game. Then, underline seven pronouns in the second question on the next page.

STEP 3: Return to the Powerpoint, and understand the slides on adjectives and play the quick game. Then, underline the seven adjectives in the third set of sentences on the next page.

STEP 4: Return to the Powerpoint, and understand the slides on adverbs. Then, underline the seven adverbs in the fourth set of sentences on the next page.

STEP 5: Finally, complete the exercises on the following page by writing original sentences and underlining the words that you have used. Then, print that page only and bring it to an instructor to go over your answers and talk about any difficulties or discoveries you might have.
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1. **Underline seven nouns** in the following sentence (there are more than seven):
   
   The clown took a long time to get to his car in the center of the tent, but when he arrived, the audience smiled at the expression on his face.

2. **Underline seven pronouns** in the following sentences (there are more than seven):
   
   George's video was hysterical, and it was well received in the classroom. The students laughed, and they talked about it afterwards. I wish that my video had been as funny as his, but mine was on a much more serious topic, and it didn’t make them laugh at all.

3. **Underline seven adjectives** in the following sentences (there are more than seven):
   
   The extremely hungry elephant went into the wide field to eat the long, green grass and was distracted by a large, yellow butterfly. The butterfly flew into one of the elephant’s sensitive ears and sang a high-pitched song.

4. **Underline seven adverbs** in the following sentences (there are more than seven):
   
   The gently aggressive elephant often took walks through an extremely small village and tripped repeatedly on all the bicycles. The villagers were quite upset and never wanted to see the elephant because their bikes were so important to them. The elephant became painfully lonely until he learned to pick up his feet more gracefully.

5. Write a sentence with two nouns and two adjectives. Underline each and mark them as nouns or adjectives.

6. Write a sentence with two adverbs and a pronoun. Underline each and mark them as pronouns or adverbs.

7. Write down any questions you may have about these four parts of speech, and bring those questions to the instructor on duty in the WRC. Have the instructor go over your answers above and sign this sheet when you are done discussing these parts of speech.

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Instructor Name           Instructor Signature            Date