

# LO: To classify words.

**Word class** is a category of words, which are grouped together due to similar form or function.



# Word class 1: Nouns

A noun is a naming word. It can name a place, person, thing or feeling.

**Common nouns** are the easy nouns to remember.  
For example, simple naming words like table, boat, man.

They are used to name **everyday things and kinds of people**.



## Quickfire

With a partner, go back and forth as fast as you can sharing nouns you know. You have **two minutes**.



# There are other types of nouns:

## Proper nouns

Proper nouns are used to name particular people and places. A proper noun always begins with a capital letter.

---

### *Examples*

**Names** - Jim, Betty, Mr Smith

**Days of the week** - Monday

**Months of the year** - April

**Significant events** -

Easter or Christmas

## Collective nouns

Collective nouns describe a group or collection of people or things.

---

### *Examples*

army, bunch, team, swarm, flock

## Abstract nouns

Abstract nouns describe things that cannot actually be seen, heard, smelt, felt or tasted.

---

### *Examples*

sleep, honesty, boredom,  
freedom, power, love, anger

# Word class 2: Verbs

Verbs are 'action' or 'doing' words. They describe what is taking place. In the example below, the **subject (noun)** in the sentence is doing the **action (verb)** and the **object (noun)** is having the verb done to them.

## Examples

Mr Pansini **threw** the ball towards **me**.

Threw is the **verb**. It is the past tense of throw.



A sentence needs **a verb** in order for it to make sense. Without a verb, it is a phrase.



# Word class three: Adjectives

- Adjectives are describing words. They describe and add detail about the noun/s in a sentence.
- Adjectives are usually before the noun  
e.g. **stunning** sunset

but they can also come after the noun.  
e.g. The sunset was **stunning**.



You can use adjectives in pairs or lists for impact too.  
You need to separate lists of adjectives with commas.

e.g. The **dynamic, enchanting** girl finally graced us with her presence.

# Adverbs

An adverb tells you more about the verb by describing it or modifying it – it 'adds' to the verb. It nearly always answers the questions: **How?** **When?** **Where?** **How often?** **How much?**

Many of the adverbs which tell us **how** end in -ly and come from adjectives.

The boy moved...

e.g. *soft* – **softly**; *slow* – **slowly**.



# Word class five: Pronouns

A **pronoun** replaces a noun, so that you do not have to keep on repeating the same noun.

It makes a text easier to read if you use pronouns.

A **possessive pronoun** shows belonging *e.g. his, hers*.



Proper Noun

Mrs Dirie

Pronouns

she her hers



Proper Noun

Mr Bennett

Pronouns

he him his



# Word class six: Prepositions

A **preposition** is used before a **noun** or a pronoun to explain **its position** to another noun.

e.g.

If you walk **over** here, you will see your dinner is **on** the **table**.





# Word class seven: Conjunctions

Clauses join parts of sentences together. There are two types of conjunctions.

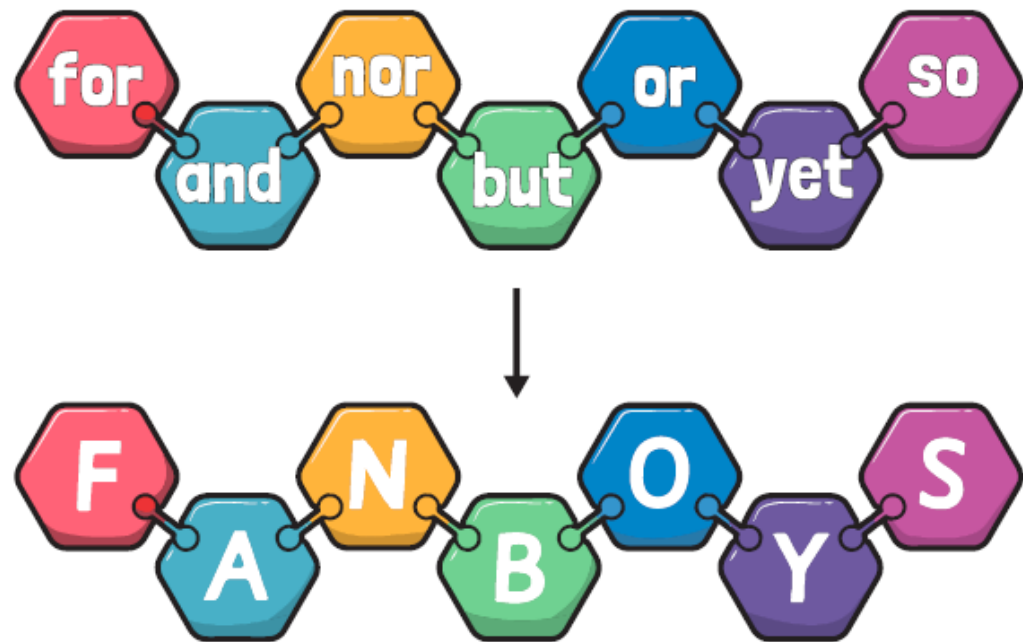
## Co-ordinating conjunctions

- join together clauses. They help us to create compound sentences by joining two main clauses together. (Main clauses make sense as sentences in their own right.)

You could put a full stop in between the main clauses and they would form two separate sentences, but by using a comma and a conjunction you make one longer (compound) sentence. It helps your writing to flow better, and shows writing maturity too!

*Example*

She went to the shops **and** she bought a box of chocolates.



## Subordinating conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions link a main (independent) clause with a subordinate (dependent) clause (a clause which does not make sense on its own).

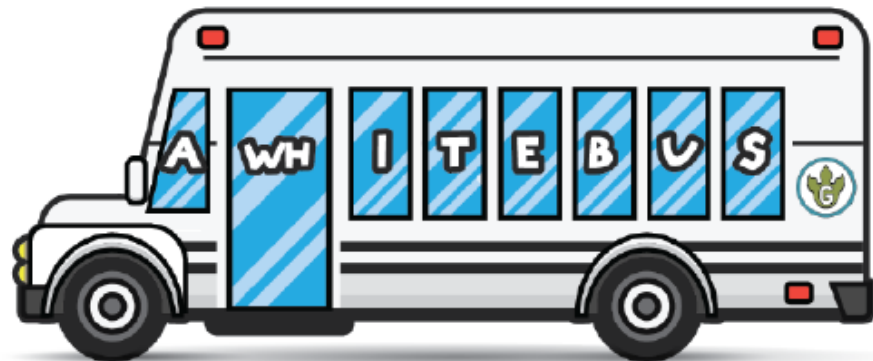
If a sentence starts with a subordinate clause, it needs a comma after the subordinate clause and before the main clause. If the subordinate clause is in the middle of the sentence, it does not need a comma to separate the clauses.

*Examples*

**When** we got home, we were hungry.

We were hungry **because** we hadn't eaten all day.

**In case** I forget to tell you later on, there will be no football on this Tuesday.



A	WH	I	T	E
although after as	when whenever whatever whether whereas which	if in order that in case	though till that	even though even if
	B	U	S	
	because before	until unless	since	

# Word class eight: Determiners

Determiners are words which specify **which noun we mean** and they tell us more information about that noun. Determiners can also be used as pronouns.

They come **before** the noun (but may be before any adjectives that describe the noun!)

## *Examples*

- **their** coats
- **that** small book
- **one** bad egg
- **his** own name
- **some** beautiful, scented flowers

**adverb**

a doing or action word

**verb**

a word that modifies a verb,  
adverb or adjective

**proper noun**

a word that stands in for nouns

**adjective**

the name of specific objects, people and places

**preposition**

part of a sentence

**pronoun**

a word that tells you where or when  
something is in relation to another

**noun**

a word that describes nouns

**clause**

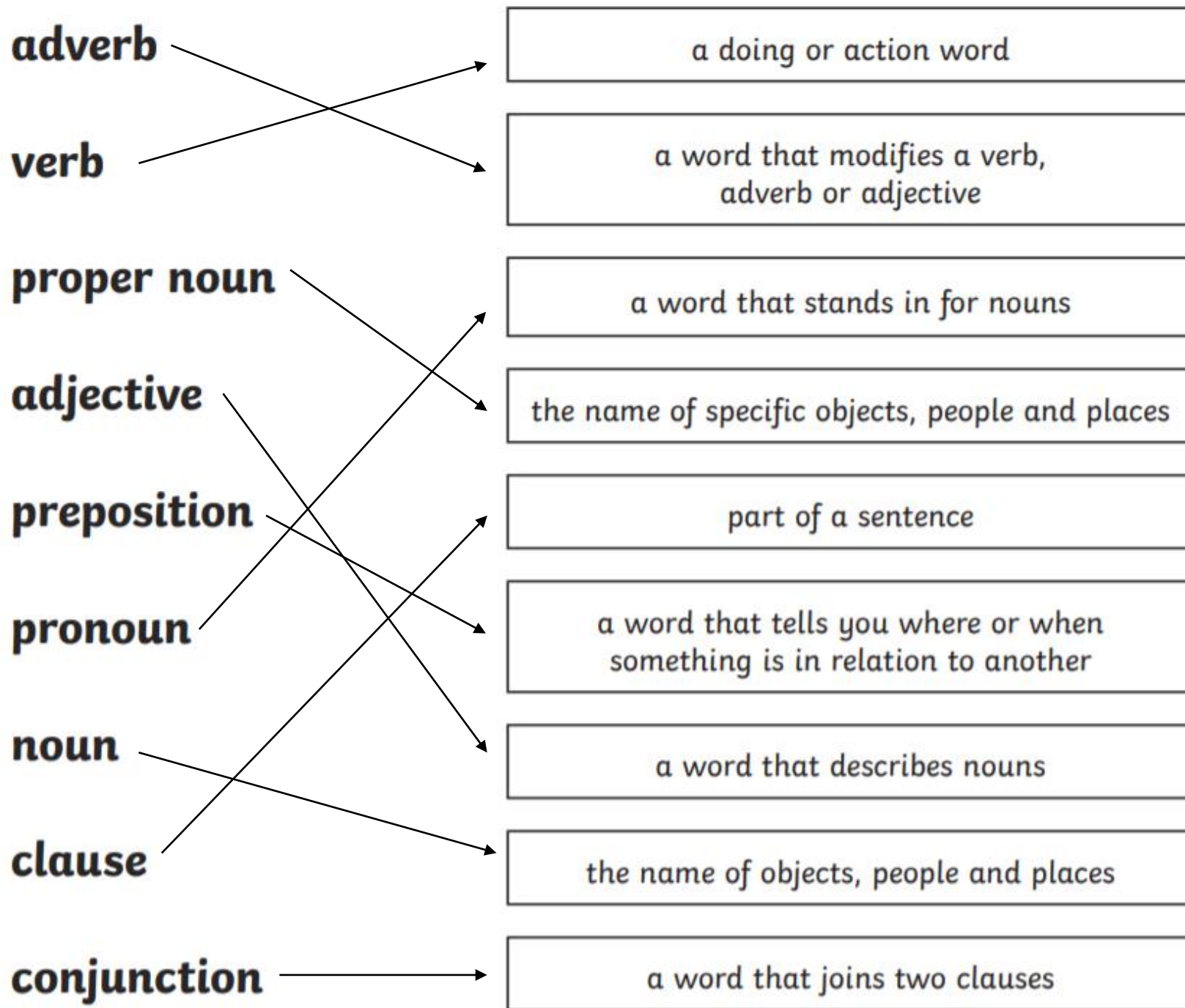
the name of objects, people and places

**conjunction**

a word that joins two clauses

Match  
each word  
class to  
the  
definition

How did  
you do?



Classify each word in the sentences into the right word class.

You can either underline in eight different colours or use the following code:

Nouns = N

Adjectives = **ADJ**

Verbs = V

Determiners = D

Preposition = **PREP**

Conjunction = C

Adverbs = **ADV**

Pronouns = **PRO**

- 1) Every time I go to Kings Cross Train Station, I see tourists looking for platform 9<sup>¾</sup>.
- 2) Do you ever think about the fact people once thought the earth was flat?



**3)** If you go down to the woods today, you are certain to see the leaves falling from the trees and toddlers stomping all over them!