

*Aegroto dum anima est, spes est.*¹

Parts of Speech

Basic Revision



If you have already studied English grammar using *the Mothers' Companion* or some other course you may be able to pass over most of this step. However, you must be certain that you understand the parts of speech. To do this look at the first volume of the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive and click on “The Nine Parts of Speech.” Here you will find a little rhyme or song which lists the parts of speech and tells you what they are. If you understand this and can recall what nouns, verbs, adjectives etc. are and can identify them in sentences you can skip the rest of this step. If not, or if you are rusty in this area, you still need to do the following exercises:

Mothers' Companion flashdrive

Volume 3 English: 3,

Volume 4 English Worksheets: 51 to 53,

Volume 5 English, Worksheets on Grammar and Other Topics; 3,

Volume 6 Grammar and Proof-reading Exercises: 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13.

Now here is an exercise that will help you gauge whether you understand the parts of speech. Indicate the parts of speech of every word in the following sentences:

1. Alas, poor Plato and the philosophers after him completely misunderstood the world.

Alas, [interjection] poor [adjective] Plato [singular proper noun] and [conjunction] the [article] philosophers [plural noun] after [preposition] him [pronoun] completely [adverb] misunderstood [verb] the [article] world [singular noun].

2. Aristotle was a thoughtful man.

3. Archimedes put the crown in a bath.

4. Slowly it sank.

5. Ah, he was wise and very clever.

¹ Where there is life there is hope.

One final thing you need to revise before you start is the difference between subject and object in a sentence. The subject of a sentence is the doer of the action. For instance, in the sentence *The bat hits the ball*, the bat is the subject because it does the hitting. The ball is the object because it receives the action. A sentence always has a subject but it may not have an object. The subject and the object may be nouns or pronouns. If you are uncertain print out “English Sheet 5: Sheepdog Trial” in the English section of Volume 3 of the *Mothers' Companion*. The first three example sentences have subjects but no objects. Underline the subjects. Sentences 4 and 5 have subjects and objects. Fill in the missing verbs and then identify the subjects and the objects. (Sentence six is a command which is a little different so we'll leave that for the moment!)

Answers on the next page.

Answers:

2. Aristotle [proper noun singular] was [verb] a [article] thoughtful [adjective] man [noun singular].
3. Archimedes [proper noun singular] put [verb] the [article] crown [noun singular] in [preposition] a [article] bath [noun singular].
4. Slowly [adverb] it [pronoun] sank [verb].
5. Ah, [interjection] he [pronoun] was [verb] wise [adjective] and [conjunction] very [adverb] clever [adjective].

Answers to questions from “English Sheet 5: Sheepdog Trial” in the English section of Volume 3 of the *Mothers' Companion*:

The subjects of sentences 1, 2 and 3 are: dog, sheep, dog.

The subjects of sentences 4 and 5 are: the shepherd, the shepherd.

The objects of sentences 4 and 5 are: his arm, the ground.

Notice that “is” is a verb. You will find it in other forms was, were, will be, etc.