

# THE BASICS

## ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR GRAMMAR

### Parts of Speech

Verbs = Action

Nouns = Things

Pronoun = Take the place  
of nouns

Adjective = Modify nouns

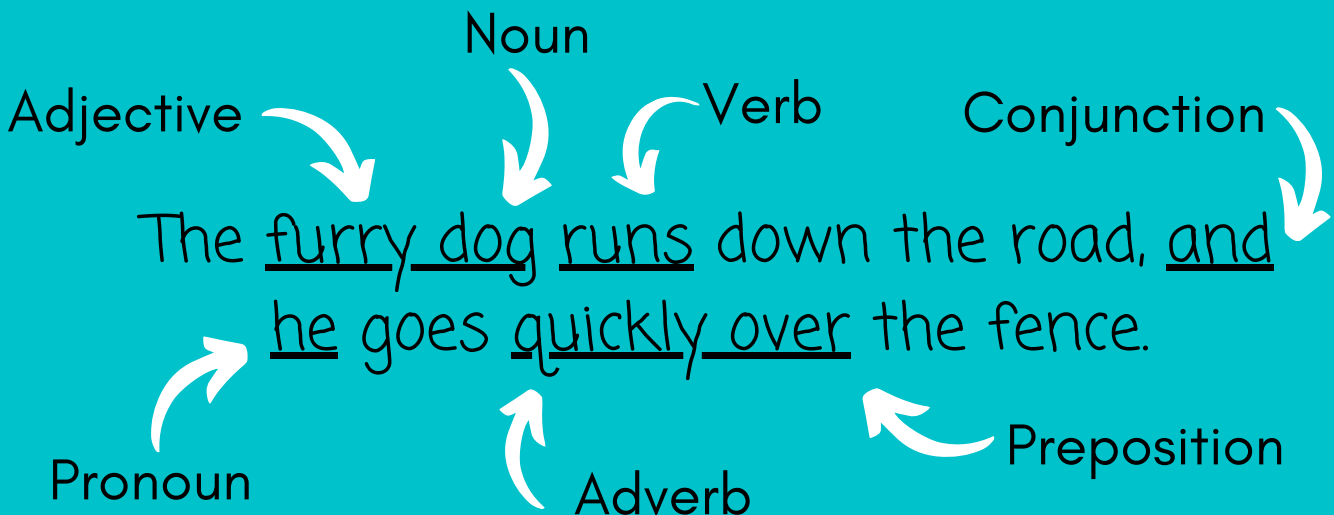
Adverbs = Modify verbs

Prepositions = Represent  
relationships

Conjunctions = Act as  
connections



Helpful Tip:  
Learning the  
parts of speech  
will help you  
construct  
better  
sentences!




# Types of Sentences

Simple = 1 independent clause

Compound = 2+ independent clauses

Complex = 1 independent clause and at least 1 dependent clause

Compound-Complex = 2+ independent clause and at least 1 dependent clause



Helpful Tip: Writing a variety of sentences will make your paper sound way better!

Simple →

The furry dog runs down the road.

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The furry dog runs down the road, and he goes quickly over the fence. ← Compound

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As the dog runs down the road, he goes quickly over the fence. ← Complex

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Compound-Complex → The furry dog runs down the road, and he goes over the fence, which was very tall.

Colons are useful when you list items, such as: dogs, cats, birds, and fish.

A semicolon can be helpful; it can be used to connect related clauses.

## Types of Punctuation

- Commas (,)
- Semicolons (;)
- Periods (.)
- Apostrophes (')
- Colons (:)
- Quotation Marks (" ")

A period ends a sentence.

The writing coach says, "Quotation marks are used to show direct quotes."

The apostrophe's use is to show possession.

## Comma Uses

- To set off an introductory phrase/word/clause
- To join clauses in compound sentences with the use of a conjunction
- To separate items in a list
- To set off unnecessary information, interjections, contrasting statements, and quotes

In the morning, the dog runs down the road.

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The dog runs down the road, and he is very fast.

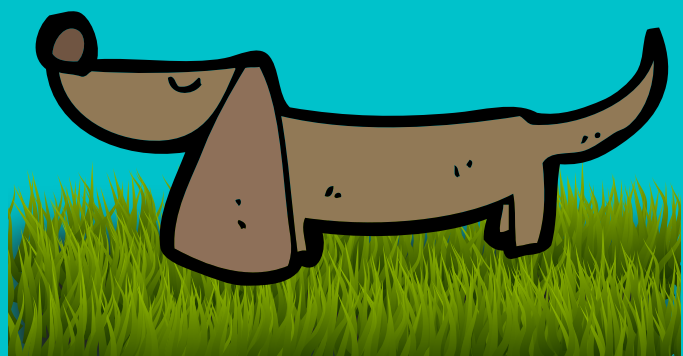
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The dog runs in the field, street, parking lot, and yard.

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The dog, which was brown, runs down the road.

Match each comma type to its example!



Helpful Tip: Don't be afraid to ask for help!  
Check in with your Writing Center if you want a helping hand.

Comma Splice:

The dog runs fast, he is the best dog ever.

Correct:

The dog runs fast, and he is the best dog ever.

Run-on Sentence:

The dog eats all morning he runs after that he is super tired by the evening.

Correct:

The dog eats all morning, runs after that, and is super tired by the evening.

Fragment:

When it stops raining.

Correct:

When it stops raining, the dog will run very fast.

## Common Mistakes

- Comma Splices

- Run-on Sentences

-Fragments

-Possessives/Plural

Possessive instead of

Plural:

The street's are where the dog runs.

Correct:

The streets are where the dog runs.

Plural instead of

Possessive:

The dogs collar is shiny.

Correct:

The dog's collar is shiny.