

Chapter Five

Assessment Preparation: Determining Parts of Speech

Determining the part of speech of a word is very important for assessments, but also for determining the definitions and usage in everyday written language. If you can determine the part of speech for a word you have never seen before, you may also be able to distinguish the word's meaning.

Read the following sentence.

Suzie was a parsimonious person; she never went out without saving enough money first.

In order to determine a new word's meaning,

- 1) find the subject(s) of the sentence: Suzie
- 2) find the predicate(s) (verb) of the sentence: was; went
- 3) determine how the vocabulary word fits into the sentence: since "Suzie" is the subject and "was" and "went" are the verbs, I know that the vocabulary word is more than likely *not* a noun or verb. Since it is next to the word "person" I can assume that the word is describing Suzie. Additionally, I know that the suffix "-ous" means "full of," and it changes a noun to an adjective, so I am able to determine that the word is an *adjective*.
- 4) From here, I can use the other context clues in the sentence to find the correct definition. *Note: you may not always have context information to guess a word's meaning. When that is the case, you may want to read a few sentences before and after the vocabulary word in order to see if you can infer the word's meaning. (For this exercise, page numbers have been given to help you. If you still need help, refer to a dictionary.)*

Directions: Read each sentence from Chapter Five, Determine the part of speech in context for each underlined vocabulary word as you complete the chart. An example has been done for you.

Word in Context		"From outside came the clang of horseshoes on the playing [1] peg and the shouts of men, playing [2], encouraging, <u>jeering</u> ." (pg. 82)	
Subject(s)	Predicate(s)	Part of Speech of Vocabulary Word	Definition of Vocabulary Word
men	came	verb	laughing at or mocking scornfully

(In this example, playing [2], encouraging, and jeering are all "participles", not verbs)

Word in Context		(1) "He picked up the pup and <u>hurled</u> it from him." (pg. 83)	
Subject(s)	Predicate(s)	Part of Speech of Vocabulary Word	Definition of Vocabulary Word

Name _____ Period _____

Word in Context	(2) "He looked <u>sullenly</u> up at her." (pg. 84)		
Subject(s)	Predicate(s)	Part of Speech of Vocabulary Word	Definition of Vocabulary Word
Word in Context	(3) "Then all of Lennie's <u>woe</u> came back on him." (pg. 84)		
Subject(s)	Predicate(s)	Part of Speech of Vocabulary Word	Definition of Vocabulary Word
Word in Context	(4) "She <u>consoled</u> him." (pg. 85)		
Subject(s)	Predicate(s)	Part of Speech of Vocabulary Word	Definition of Vocabulary Word
Word in Context	(5) "His face was <u>contorted</u> ." (pg. 88)		
Subject(s)	Predicate(s)	Part of Speech of Vocabulary Word	Definition of Vocabulary Word
Word in Context	(6) "Her feet battered on the hay and she <u>writhed</u> to be free; and from under Lennie's hand came a muffled screaming." (pg. 88)		
Subject(s)	Predicate(s)	Part of Speech of Vocabulary Word	Definition of Vocabulary Word

Name _____

Period _____

Word in Context		(7) <i>"Her feet battered on the hay and she writhed to be free; and from under Lennie's hand came a <u>muffled</u> screaming." (pg. 88)</i>	
Subject(s)	Predicate(s)	Part of Speech of Vocabulary Word	Definition of Vocabulary Word
Word in Context		(8) <i>"For a moment he seemed <u>bewildered</u>." (pg. 89)</i>	
Subject(s)	Predicate(s)	Part of Speech of Vocabulary Word	Definition of Vocabulary Word
Word in Context		(9) <i>"He <u>pawed</u> up the hay until it partly covered her." (pg. 89)</i>	
Subject(s)	Predicate(s)	Part of Speech of Vocabulary Word	Definition of Vocabulary Word
Word in Context		(10) <i>"She whimpered and <u>cringed</u> to the packing box, and jumped in among the puppies." (pg. 90)</i>	
Subject(s)	Predicate(s)	Part of Speech of Vocabulary Word	Definition of Vocabulary Word
Word in Context		(11) <i>"He <u>sniveled</u>, and his voice shook." (pg. 93)</i>	
Subject(s)	Predicate(s)	Part of Speech of Vocabulary Word	Definition of Vocabulary Word