

MY PART!

The Parts of Speech TV Show

(a class playscript for mid/upper primary & ESL)

by Hazel Edwards

for other playscripts <http://www.hazeledwards.com>

Running Time: Period length

Cast (Minimum 9 Maximum 30 plus. Male or female actors.)

Host charming, but not quick-witted

Parts of Speech (each labelled on T shirt or a sign) e.g.

- Noun, naming word
- Verb, doing word
- Adjective (who shadows/follows Noun)
- Adverb (Who follows Verb)
- Pronoun (instead of a Noun)
- Conjunction (which joins)

Punctuation Team (Optional Extras, shaped like their names)

- Apostrophe
- Commas
- Full Stop
- Question Mark
- Exclamation Mark

Audience (any number, who participate by voting, buzzing or actions)

Judges (2) who have to decide which parts of speech are the most important.

Assistant (Chris) good organiser

Techie Crew

TV Camera operator (optional)
Audio/sound technician

Props

Cardholders (actors) for Question Words

- Who?
- Why?
- How?

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T-shirts or Signs for Parts of Speech
Voting cards & pens for audience, so they can tick their favourite.
Sticky labels, for audience to put on actors playing parts of speech
Microphone for host
TV Camera for operator (optional)
Buzzers for audience votes.

SFX (Pre-recorded)

2 X 30 second TV commercials can have dancing/singing or topical satire. Or they can link to the parts of speech. These can be pre-recorded.

Tv Show Introductory Music

Setting

TV studio

Fast Research

Find out about each of the major parts of speech:

Follow Up Activity

Invite students to bring food to share which has a link to parts of speech or punctuation :

e.g. Nouns iced on cake, commas on cupcakes, alphabet soup, Question mark biscuits etc

The play- script

Setting

TV studio with audience.

Who? Why? How? Sign holders in a line to the side of Host with microphone.

SFX TV Intro Music

Host Welcome.

I am your T.V. host.

This is the top rating Parts of Speech Show

Tonight, we have two judges.

Parts must convince us, that one of them is the MOST important in a sentence.

Our studio audience will help.

Tell the audience about their buzzers, Chris.

Chris: Test your buzzer please!

(Audience hit buzzers)

HOST: You help the judges decide.

(Signholders lift their cards: host points to each as holder shouts the information.)

Who Who are you?

Why Why do you matter?

How How can you be used?

HOST Thankyou sign holders. Each Part-of-Speech has only one minute in which to answer as many of these questions as possible.

CHRIS: This is a show about choice.

So we offer different ways to vote or help the judges.

HOST:

You have a buzzer and under your seats are voting cards.

(Members of the audience squirm to find them)

Tick notes as the Part speaks.

:

(Audience check cards)

HOST: We'll be back after the break, ready to hit those buzzers FOR Parts of Speech!

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SFX FAST PACED 30 SECOND TV SONG& DANCE COMMERCIAL

HOST Let's welcome our first contestant.
What part do you play?

VERB I'm a Verb.

I do things.

I'm an action kind of guy or girl.

(Appeals to audience to act.)

Jump.

Stretch.

Clap.

(Audience do the actions)

HOST: Buzz, if you think verbs matter.

SFX (Audience buzz)

(Judges nod and make notes)

CHRIS: Buzz is a verb too.

Here are some Stick- on labels.
Write your favourite verb... and stick it on our Verb

AUDIENCE: What about Kick?

VERB: KICK is an action.

But there are better verbs.

Just stick them on me.

I'll run around now and collect a few from the audience.

CHRIS (sticks label on VERB) Here. I wrote VOTE as a verb.

I vote for you.

(Adverb clutches Verb)

ADVERB: I'm an adverb

I add to the verb.

That's why I'm following VERB

Jump...slowly...I'm slowly....

HOST *(Whispers to Chris)* Is 'think' a verb?

CHRIS: Yes. It's a doing word.

HOST: I don't think much.

CHRIS You think slowly. Slowly is the adverb.

(Adverb gives a thumbs up)

(Audience clap Verb followed by Adverb collects stick-on votes jogging around and Contestant 2 Noun comes out as judges chat)

HOST: Good evening. Who are you?

JUDGES (mutter) Can't the Host read her label?

NOUN: I'm a Noun.

I'm the name of something.

Like Studio. Or Host.

HOST: That's my name. (Alarmed) There's someone following you.

Are you being stalked?

(Noun looks around quickly)

NOUN: Just an Adjective. They're always following us nouns.

(Sign holders lift their cards: host points to each as holder shouts the information.)

Who Who are you?

Why Why do you matter?

How How can you be used?

HOST Thankyou sign holders.

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ADJECTIVE (following Noun closely)

I'm an Adjective.

I add news to the Noun.

That's why I keep close.

Like if the Noun is studio

I'm cool to go in front of studio.

This is a cool studio.

HOST (shivering) Yes it is cool in here.

JUDGES: It is also a small, noisy, dark, smelly studio. Small and noisy are also adjectives.

(Adjective gives a thumbs up)

ADJECTIVE: Hey Noun, I make your life more meaningful.

NOUN: (pushes away) You're just an extra.

ADJECTIVE: But I add colour and emotion to spice up your life.

NOUN: I'm just a name like the word for house

Adjective I'm the renovated house or the expensive house, or the designer house.

I make your life more meaningful.

NOUN ...or the dog house....

ADJECTIVE: (annoyed) Maybe. I could be the dog part of your house, but... 'dog' on its own is just a noun, the name of something.

HOST Man's best friend.

ADJECTIVE: I'm the best part of best friend.

AUDIENCE: buzz

(Preposition & Conjunction creep in.)

HOST: Who are you?

PREPOSITION: I'm a Preposition. A sort of at, in, out kind of guy. I get followed by nouns and pronouns. They're always following me up hills, down stairs, behind doors.... Hey audience, want to vote for me? Stick up for me?

AUDIENCE: buzz

CONJUNCTION: I'm a Conjunction. I'm a joiner, great on linking people. Parts of Speech need me to link them. That's my job. Otherwise they'd be all over the place.

(moves the Parts into a line)

Are all the parts of a sentence here? Get in line. Make a sentence.

CHRIS: Anyone missing?

QUESTION MARK (*runs on to end of sentence.*)

Sorry I'm late. I'm a Question mark.

This sentence is a question, isn't it?

AUDIENCE (NOD) Yes.

CHRIS: Maybe the audience can form their bodies into a question mark shape? Try?

(Audience shape themselves like a question mark)

QUESTION MARK;(*admiringly*) Great shape!

(Pronoun pushes Noun out of the line.)

HOST Who are you?

PRONOUN: I'm a Pronoun.

I can stand in for a noun in a sentence. I'm like He or She or It, or even They....

CHRIS: Just a stand-in, like in the movies?

PRONOUN An important stand in. I stop boring, boring, boring repetition

(*Remaining Parts rush on stage*)

You forgot us.

APOSTROPHE: (*pushes in line and jumps around in protest*) Hey,

CHRIS: We've had a late request for the APOSTROPHE because most people don't know where she should go.... in front, behind the s or.... just perch on the top...

APOSTROPHE: I'm an Apostrophe.

I know where I should go,

But most people forget me, or they can't spell my name

A.P.O.S.T.R.O.P.H.E. that's me.

EXCLAMATION MARK I'm an exclamation mark.

I draw attention to something special.

But I'm over-exposed.

People use me too often.

CHRIS: Let's move

SFX (To Hokey Pokey)

(Audience encouraged to follow dance-fit actions)

You put a comma here,
You put a full stop there
A question there and you turn it all around.
You do the sentence fit
And you turn around
That's what it's all about!

HOST Time has run out.
Thank you Parts of Speech
Judges and audience must now decide.
From those presented, who is to be our most important part of speech tonight?
Fill in your voting cards now.

Chris Ready? I'll collect the cards.

(Allow audience time to fill in the cards. Then Chris adds them up quickly, Judges chat)

HOST: We'll be back after the break, with the Judges' report.

FAST PACED 30 SECOND TV SONG& DANCE COMMERCIAL

HOST: Form a line. Make a sentence.

Then we'll ask the judges.

(OPENS ENVELOPE)

The judges have decided that All Parts of Speech matter equally.

It's a tie.

The prize goes to the whole sentence.

Take a bow.

(All bow)

CHRIS Tomorrow night, we will be talking about the contributions of THE PUNCTUATION TEAM!

(All tumble onto stage)

Full stop!

Commas

Question Marks

AND

Exclamation Marks!

SFX TV Show music fading out.

QUESTION MARK What is the prize?

HOST You come back as a judge?

Acting out in the classroom has multiple value.

- improvisation,
- reading experience
- group activities,
- content provokes discussion amongst actors and audience.

- Active students have fun, and exercise as well as using all senses!
- 'The Parts of Speech TV Show' can be used more than once, and provide models for students' own script writing.
- When content links to curriculum, such as Grammar, students gain from new perspectives on an issue, especially when characters may be non human, like Verbs or Question Marks!

Plays offer triple value: a chance to read aloud, to act and for the audience to think about the ideas content.

Classroom scripts need a range of reading abilities and lengths This script has been trialled in schools. Appropriate for male or female casts, with minimal props or elaborate productions.