**GRAMMAR MINILESSON #5: Parts of Speech Continued**

**NOUNS:** “person, place, thing, or idea”

You’re probably pretty confident about identifying nouns…but have you thought much about the different *types* of nouns?

**singular nouns** vs. **plural nouns** (cat vs. cats)

**common nouns:** nouns that identify people, places, etc. that are not specific

**proper nouns:** these name particular, specific people or places and *must be capitalized:* the Cascade Mountains, South Eugene High School, Andy Dey, the Willamette River, France

**concrete nouns:** refer to things that exist in the physical world/that you can perceive with your physical senses—table, chair, floor, stench, sunbeam

**abstract nouns:** refer to abstract things that you can’t perceive with your physical senses: pride, honor, love, faith

**collective nouns:** refer to groups of things—crowd, family, flock, heavy metal band—note that these function grammatically in American English as singular things: “The flock of sheep grazes peacefully,” because “flock…grazes”

**count** vs. **mass nouns** (or countable and uncountable nouns): count/countable nouns refer to things that can be counted: cups of coffee, train cars, grains of rice. Mass/uncountable nouns refer to things that are considered in quantity/aren’t individually countable: coffee, rice, rain.

**PRONOUNS:** words that function in place of a noun.

The range of pronouns is slightly terrifying to an English teacher who is trying to move quickly through grammar basics.

**personal pronouns:** this is what we usually think of when we think “pronoun.” Examples (when functioning as a subject): *he, she, I, you, they*. When personal pronouns function as objects, they usually change form: *him, her, me, you, them.*

**possessive pronouns:** pronouns that show possession—*mine, yours, his, hers*—not to be confused with possessive adjectives—*my, your, their*

**interrogative pronouns:** introduce questions to which a noun is the answer—*what, which, who, whom*—e.g. “Which do you prefer?” “What do you want to do?” “Who is your math teacher?”

**demonstrative pronouns:** *this, that, these, those* (when functioning as nouns rather than as adjectives—“This is my favorite chair,” not, “This chair is my favorite.”)

**reflexive pronouns:** refer back to the subject of a sentence or clause: *himself, herself, myself, ourselves*

**indefinite pronouns:** do not refer to a specific person or thing—*everyone, nobody, either, none, something*

**GRAMMAR PRACTICE**

**A. Review from minilesson #1:**

*Circle the SIMPLE SUBJECT of each sentence.*

*Put a box around the SIMPLE PREDICATE of each sentence.*

*Underline the COMPLETE SUBJECT of each sentence.*

*Double-underline the COMPLETE PREDICATE of each sentence.*

1. My bicycle’s tires are completely flat.

2. Anastasia eagerly perused her favorite book.

**B. Review from minilesson #2:**

*Mark each of the following P if it’s a phrase, D if it’s a dependent clause, or I if it’s an independent clause.*

3. In the rain.

4. The athlete stretched.

5. When pigs fly.

**C. Review from minilesson #3:**

*Identify each of the following as a simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex sentence.*

6. Because I was late, I missed the bus, and I had to ask my neighbor for a ride.

7. Petula and Petra, although they are friends, haven’t seen each other in years.

8. Sven confidently grasped the discus, stepped forward, and started to spin.

**D. Review from minilesson #4:**

*Label each word in the following sentence as a noun, pronoun, adjective, verb, adverb, preposition, conjunction, article, or interjection.*

9. Rats! I left my math homework in my locker.

**E. Practice minilesson #5:**

*10. Write a sentence that uses at least one of each of the following: abstract noun, concrete noun, proper noun:*

*11. Write a sentence that uses at least one of each of the following: collective noun, possessive pronoun:*

*12. Write a sentence that uses at least two types of nouns and at least two types of pronouns:*