

Grammar **Basics** You Need to Survive in Latin

The following are ESSENTIAL for understanding what we will do this year.

PART I PARTS OF SPEECH

A. **Noun**- person, place, thing

B. **Adjective**-describes a noun or pronoun

C. **Adverb**-describes a verb, adverb or adjective

D. **Action Verb**- indicates an action or something you can do

E. **Linking Verb**-acts as a link between the subject and another word or words. Functions like an equal sign. Sometimes these verbs are called *state of being verbs* because instead of describing an action they describe the state of being of the noun or pronoun.

F. **Helping Verb**-appears in a verb phrase in front of the main verb to help express the verb.

G. **Preposition**- a word that shows the relationship or position of a noun or pronoun to some other word in the sentence.

H. **Conjunction**-joins words or groups of words

I. **Pronoun**-replaces one or more nouns

PART II NOUNS: HOW THEY FUNCTION

A. Subject-does the action of the verb or is described

The soldiers fought bravely.

B. Possessive-shows who or what owns something. Uses apostrophe or the word *of*.

John's sister/ the sister of John.

C. Indirect Object-shows “to” or “for” whom or what something is done.

We gave the soldier help/We gave help to the soldier.

D. Direct Object-it is whatever is **verbed** or it receives the action of the verb.

The sailors made ready the ship to sail.

E. Object of a preposition- appears with little words like *in, on, over, under* to show the relationship or position of a noun or pronoun to another noun or pronoun.

The students always listened carefully in class.

Ask the following questions or look for the following clues to figure out the function of a noun.

A. **SUBJECT**-Ask who or what is doing X, or ask who or what is being described .

B. **POSSESSIVE**-Look for ‘s/s’ or the word “of”

C. **INDIRECT OBJECT** – Ask “to” or “for” whom the verb is done.

D. **DIRECT OBJECT**-Ask who or what is verbed

E. **PREPOSTIONAL PHRASE**-Look for prepositions or words which show position or relationships with other words.

PART III. VERBS

A. Action verbs- these are verbs that show action or things that the subject does.

The girls run fast.

B. Linking verbs-these are verbs that help describe a noun or pronoun.

The ones we will use the most this year are:

is, are, was, were, will be, have been, has been, will have been

Linking verbs usually link or join a noun or pronoun to an adjective or another noun.

The girls are beautiful.

C. Helping verbs.- these look a lot like linking verbs and that is what makes them confusing. The difference is they are followed by a verb not an adjective or noun or pronoun. They are used to help express the tense of an action verb. The ones we will use this year are:

is, are, was, were, will, have, has, had, will have

The girls are running fast.