

Marcella Frank

MODERN ENGLISH

EXERCISES
FOR
NON-NATIVE
SPEAKERS

Part I

PARTS OF SPEECH

Second Edition

second edition

MODERN ENGLISH

**exercises for
non-native speakers**

**PART I:
parts of speech**

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1

Nouns

STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION OF NOUNS

Function	Sentences	Position
1. subject of verb	<i>John loves Mary.</i>	before the verb
2. object of verb		after the verb
a. direct object	<i>John loves Mary.</i>	
b. indirect object	<i>John sent Mary money.</i>	
c. retained object	<i>Mary was sent some money.</i>	
3. object of preposition	<i>I took it from John.</i>	after a preposition
4. complement		after the verb
a. subjective (after verbs like be)	<i>John is the president.</i>	
b. objective	<i>They elected John president.</i>	
5. noun adjunct	<i>John waited at the bus stop.</i>	before a noun
6. appositive	<i>John, president of his club, gave a speech.</i>	after a noun
7. direct address	<i>John, come here.</i>	usually at the beginning of the sentence

Form		Markers
Inflectional Endings	Derivational Endings	Determiners:
-s for plural	-ment; -ion;	<i>The</i> _____ (articles)
's or s' for possessive	-a(e)nce;	<i>My</i> _____ (possessives)
	-ure; -age;	<i>This</i> _____ (demonstratives)
	-th; -ness;	<i>Four</i> _____ (numbers)
	-hood; -ship;	<i>Some</i> _____ (indefinite pronouns)
	-ity; -ing	
	for a person <i>who</i> :	Descriptive adjectives:
	-er; -or;	<i>Large</i> _____
	-ist; -ant; -ian	
		Prepositions:
		<i>In</i> _____
		Other nouns:
		<i>Bus</i> _____

nucleus _____

syllabus _____

thesis _____

focus _____

formula _____

appendix _____

hypothesis _____

emphasis _____

1-4

INFLECTED POSSESSIVE FORMS

1. Use 's for all nouns not ending in s.
 - a. *singular nouns*—The **girl's** dress is expensive.
 - b. *irregular plurals of nouns*—The **children's** dresses are expensive.
2. Use ' for all nouns already ending in s.
 - a. *plural nouns*—The **girls'** dresses are expensive.
 - b. *singular nouns, especially proper nouns*—**Dickens'** (also **Dickens's**) novels are excellent.
3. Use 's at the end of a group of nouns—The **Queen of England's** throne; the **boy from Canada's** mother.

The inflected possessive form is generally preferred for words referring to animate beings, the **of** phrase for words signifying things or ideas. However, the inflected form may also be used with nouns that represent: time (**a day's journey**), natural phenomena (**the earth's atmosphere**), political entities (**Japan's industrialization**), **groups of people working together** (**the company's new refinery**).

Change the **of** phrases in the following sentences to inflected possessive forms.

EXAMPLE: a. The parents *of the students* were invited to the graduation.

The students' parents were invited to the graduation.

b. It has always been the policy *of this newspaper* to report the news honestly and accurately.

It has always been this newspaper's policy to report the news honestly and accurately.

1. The house *of Mr. Jones* has recently been sold.

2. The crew *of the ship* decided to go on strike.

3. He was irritated by the attitude *of his friends*.

4. The rays *of the sun* shine on all.

5. The courteous service *of the waiters* pleased all the guests in the restaurant.

Add the noun suffixes to the words given below. Make whatever changes are necessary.

bury + al _____

vary + ety _____

apply + cation _____

lovely + ness _____

marry + age _____

lively + hood _____

try + al _____

lazy + ness _____

holy + day _____

likely + hood _____

handy + man (exception)⁷ _____

busy + ness _____

1-10

DERIVATION (5)

CHANGING THE STEM BEFORE NOUN SUFFIXES

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate noun forms. Because the first part of each of the words in this exercise changes when the noun suffix is added, you may need the help of a dictionary.

Nouns from Verbs

1. The (maintain) _____ of that building is the responsibility of Mr. Jones.
2. He gave a vivid (describe) _____ of his home town.
3. The child was punished for his (disobey) _____.
4. His (succeed) _____ in business was the result of hard work.
5. Everyone would like a (reduce) _____ in taxes.
6. We must find a (solve) _____ to this problem.
7. His wife's constant (suspect) _____ of infidelity irritated him.
8. The judge's (decide) _____ is final.
9. The tornado caused a great deal of (destroy) _____.
10. That gas can easily cause an (explode) _____.
11. What is the (pronounce) _____ of this word?
12. The (omit) _____ of a few words in the contract caused a great deal of trouble.

⁷The y is kept before endings that form compounds, such as *-man* (laundryman), *-side* (countryside).

EXAMPLES: a. a book about grammar a grammar book

b. the end of the week the weekend or the week-end

1. a room for dining _____
2. a store that sells drugs _____
3. a bomb powered by atomic energy _____
4. a salesman who travels _____
5. the lids that cover the eyes _____
6. a board for ironing clothes _____
7. a person who keeps books _____
8. gum for chewing _____
9. a store that sells hardware _____
10. seeing the sights _____
11. control of birth _____
12. stew with lamb _____
13. production of steel _____
14. a person who tends bar _____
15. a person who witnesses a scene with his or her own eyes

16. a store that sells books _____
17. a gown worn at night for sleeping _____
18. checks for travelers _____
19. a mine of gold _____
20. a carriage for a baby _____

1-13
AGREEMENT WITH VERBS (1)

The verb must agree in number with the subject.

The girl is resting.
The girls are resting.

If the subject includes modifiers, the verb agrees with the noun head in the subject.

His **technique** for solving crimes **is** very simple.

The **advertisements** in the front part of a newspaper **are** usually the most expensive.

14. The number of people who understand Einstein's theory of relativity (be) _____ very small.¹⁰
15. A number of people (be) _____ waiting at the airport to greet the movie star.
16. The spirit in which these things are done (be) _____ very important.
17. The people who live in this building (seem) _____ very friendly.

1-14 AGREEMENT WITH VERBS (2) NOUNS ENDING IN S

Some nouns ending in *s* may cause problems in agreement.

- Some are singular noncountable nouns—**news, billiards, economics** (name of a field of study)

The **news** about the increase in jobs is good.
Physics is a difficult, but fascinating, subject.

The name used for a field of study may be plural if it refers to a practical matter.

The **acoustics** in this room are not good.

- Some nouns have the same form for *singular or plural*—**series, means, species**.
- Some nouns are plural only and require *plural verbs*—**brains, riches, goods, clothes, premises, proceeds**. Included in this group of plurals are nouns signifying two-part objects—**scissors, trousers, eyeglasses**.
- Some nouns may be *singular or plural*—**headquarters, barracks, measles** (name of a disease).
- Nouns representing quantities and amounts that are considered as one unit are usually *singular*—**five dollars, three quarts**.

Five dollars is too much to pay for that pen.

Underline the correct form of the verb. Consult the dictionary in case of doubt about whether the noun ending in *s* is singular or plural.

- Mathematics (has, have) never been my favorite subject.
- The news printed in that paper (is, are) never accurate.
- A second series of books on American literature (is, are) being planned by the publisher.
- Several means of accomplishing our purpose (was, were) proposed at our meeting.

¹⁰The number is usually singular, a number is plural.