Sometimes, a word can be more than one part of speech. You can identify the part of speech by identifying the job the word does in the sentence.

A noun names a person, place, thing, or idea. The underlined word in the sentence below is a noun.

I caught the basketball.

An adjective is a word that describes a noun or pronoun. The underlined word in the sentence below is an adjective.

I watched the end of the basketball game.

Read each sentence below and look carefully at the underlined words.
• If the word names a person, place, thing, or idea, it is a NOUN. Write N in the line.
• If the word describes a noun, it is an ADJECTIVE. Write A in the line.

1. _______ Papa wore his red coat because it was chilly outside.
2. _______ Lucy’s favorite color is red.
3. _______ Grandpa says he likes peace and quiet.
4. _______ The library is usually a very quiet place.
5. _______ Begin writing your story on a clean piece of paper.
6. _______ We brought three packages of paper plates to the picnic.
7. _______ Snow cones are a cold, frosty treat on hot days.
8. _______ Darla missed the party because she had a bad cold.
9. _______ My uncle plays in a country music band.
10. _____ My family likes to take long drives into the country.
11. _____ Have you ever written your name in wet concrete?
12. _____ The house was built with concrete blocks.

Challenge Questions:
★ In sentence #6 above, is the word three a noun or an adjective? _____________
★ List three nouns in sentence #8. ____________, ____________, ____________
★ Is the word name a noun or an adjective in sentence #11 above? _____________
ANSWER KEY

Parts of Speech: Nouns vs. Adjectives

Often, a word can be more than one part of speech. You can identify the part of speech by identifying the job the word does in the sentence.

A noun names a person, place, thing, or idea.
The underlined word in the sentence below is a noun.

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An adjective is a word that describes a noun or pronoun.
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Read each sentence below and look carefully at the underlined words.
• If the word names a person, place, or thing, it is a NOUN. Write N in the line.
• If the word describes a noun, it is an ADJECTIVE. Write A in the line.

1. A Papa wore his red coat because it was chilly outside.
2. N Lucy’s favorite color is red.
3. N Grandpa says he likes peace and quiet.
4. A The library is usually a very quiet place.
5. N Begin writing your story on a clean piece of paper.
6. A We brought three packages of paper plates to the picnic.
7. A Snow cones are a cold, frosty treat on hot days.
8. N Darla missed the party because she had a bad cold.
10. N My family likes to take long drives into the country.
11. N Have you ever written your name in wet concrete?
12. A The house was built with concrete blocks.

Challenge Questions:
★ In sentence #6 above, is the word three a noun or an adjective? adjective
★ List three nouns in sentence #8. Darla, party, cold
★ Is the word name a noun or an adjective in sentence #11 above? noun