

Unit 10 - Parts of Speech

Lesson 4 - A common characteristic of languages

Activity

- Make a list of what we all have in common on the board - characteristics and habits.
e.g. *We all eat. We all wear clothes.*
- Find differences within the commonalities.
e.g. *We all have hair, but some have brown, blond or straight, curly or long, short.*
- Call three students up to demonstrate different hair types. Then give each student a sign to hold with the name of a language on it.
e.g. *Portuguese, Swahili, Dutch*

Discuss

- Languages are like us; they have common characteristics and habits but individual ways of doing things.
- The common characteristic of languages that we will now study is the parts of speech.
- Once you know what they are in one language, you will know what they are when you study another language.

Activity

- Tell them that you are going to perform an experiment on one of them without warning.
- Ask one student to tell you about his/her last weekend or vacation or birthday.
- As the student is talking freely, copy on the board what he says verbatim, ums and all, until you run out of space.
- Ask the students to pick out the nouns, and erase them from the board. Read what is left. The facts are gone.
- Erase all of the verbs. The action is gone. Erase the adjectives. The description is gone.
- What is left? Identify the parts of speech of the remaining words, trying to figure out what function each is performing.
noun - adjective - preposition - pronoun - conjunction - adverb - verb - interjection
(perhaps do articles separately as a special type of adjective)

Show students how amazing it is that in their ordinary daily speech, they regularly use all of the parts of speech.

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Terms

parts of speech

preposition

adverb

conjunction

interjection

pronoun