Parts of Speech and Their Function

Noun: house

Article: a, an, the

Pronoun: I, you, he, she, it, we, you, they

Adjective: small, exhausted, disgusting

Verb: is building, moves, bought, has lived, had expected

Adverb: very, unusually, fast, quickly

Preposition: in, on, at, over, under, etc.

Conjunction: and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet (coordinting conjunctions); if, while, after, because, etc. (subordinating conjunctions)

Generally speaking verbs (vb) describe an action or a condition and nouns (n) describe the agent or "doer" and the result of the action:

- He (n) is building (vb) a house (n).
- He (s) is building (vb) a house (obj).

Nouns function as subject and object in the sentence, and the verb connects the two by describing the action. So the grammatical function of subject, verb and object basically is to tell you 'who did what'.

- The father (n) is clearing (vb) the mess (n).

If you want to add details describing the subject or the object you add adjectives (exhausted/disgusting), and if you want to say how the action was performed you use adverbs (quickly). This process of adding specific details is called modification.

- The **exhausted** father is **quickly** clearing the **disgusting** mess on the floor.

When you want to say where, when or how the action occurs, you use prepositional phrases (a preposition plus a noun) such as 'on the floor.'

Finally, you can make your statement even more specific by modifying adjectives with both adverbs and adjectives.

The following sentence

- The blue (adj) colour (n) is (vb) bright (adj).

can become

- The pale (adj) blue (adj) colour (n) is (vb) unusually (adv) bright (adj).

The chain of modification looks like this:

- **Nouns** → may be modified by
- **Adjectives** → which may be modified by
- **Adjectives** → which may be modified by
- **Adverbs** → which modify
- **Verbs**

  The exhausted father (s) is (v) quickly clearing (v) the disgusting mess on the floor.

  The pale blue colour (s) is (v) unusually bright.

The last part of speech is the conjunction which joins two clauses. (A clause is a grammatical unit with a subject and a verb). There are two kinds of conjunctions: the

coordinating conjunctions and the subordinating conjunctions. Coordinating conjunctions join two main clauses:

In the morning I study at home, **and** in the afternoon I go to the library.

Subordinating conjunctions connect a subordinate or dependent clause to a main clause by establishing a logical relationship.

Because I enjoy good films, I go to Gen-X to rent videos.