

## Describing Language – Corrections ex. pp.6-7

Exercise 1: To which part of speech do the underlined words belong?

"I am by birth a Genovese, and my family is one of the most distinguished of that republic. My ancestors had been for many years counsellors and syndics, and my father had filled several public situations with honour and reputation. He was respected by all who knew him for his integrity and indefatigable attention to public business." (Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, 1818)

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| – Genovese: <b>(proper) noun</b> | – public: <b>adjective</b>            |
| – most: <b>adverb</b>            | – with: <b>preposition</b>            |
| – and: <b>conjunction</b>        | – his: <b>(possessive) determiner</b> |

Exercise 2: To which part of speech do the underlined words belong?

"This hobbit was a very well-to-do hobbit, and his name was Baggins. The Bagginses had lived in the neighbourhood of The Hill for time out of mind, and people considered them very respectable, not only because most of them were rich, but also because they never had any adventures or did anything unexpected: you could tell what a Baggins would say on any question without the bother of asking him. This is a story of how a Baggins had an adventure, and found himself doing and saying things altogether unexpected. He may have lost the neighbours' respect, but he gained – well, you will see whether he gained anything in the end." (J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*, 1937)

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|---|---|
| – This: <b>(demonstrative) determiner</b> | – any: <b>determiner</b>                            |
| – very: <b>adverb</b>                     | – could: <b>modal verb functioning as auxiliary</b> |
| – well-to-do: <b>(compound) adjective</b> | – This: <b>pronoun</b>                              |
| – people: <b>noun</b>                     | – unexpected: <b>adjective</b>                      |
| – them: <b>pronoun</b>                    | – but: <b>conjunction</b>                           |
| – because: <b>conjunction</b>             | – in: <b>preposition</b>                            |

Exercise 3: Adverb or adjective? Circle the word(s) modified by the underlined word and give the latter's function.

- 1) What a lovely **day**! – **adjective**
- 2) Don't **come** too late. – **adverb**
- 3) They had a friendly **chat**. – **adjective**
- 4) **They** are always late for school. – **adjective**
- 5) They use some costly **equipment**. – **adjective**

- 6) We got home safely. – **adverb**
- 7) That's awfully expensive. – **adverb**
- 8) Their living-room is pretty ugly. – **adverb**
- 9) Please stand still for a moment. – **adverb**
- 10) The plane was flying too low. – **adverb**

Exercise 4: Preposition or adverb?

- 1) Haven't we seen that film before? – **adverb (at an earlier time, in the past, already)**
- 2) What's hidden behind that door? – **preposition**
- 3) The station isn't very far. – **adverb**
- 4) They met in Italy and have been happy ever since. – **adverb (continuously since the time mentioned)**
- 5) What dictionary are you working with? – **preposition**
- 6) Don't worry, I'll be around. – **adverb (present in a place, available)**
- 7) What was the factory destroyed by? – **preposition**
- 8) I wonder who that child takes after. – **preposition**

Exercise 5: Conjunction or preposition?

- 1) They left after dinner. – **preposition (before a noun phrase, indicates time)**
- 2) They left after paying the bill. – **conjunction (before a clause)**
- 3) They left after they had paid the bill. – **conjunction (idem)**
- 4) They sang during the dinner. – **preposition (for the entire duration of dinner)**
- 5) They sang while dinner was being prepared. – **conjunction (of time)**
- 6) We didn't go because it was too expensive. – **conjunction (links two clauses)**
- 7) We didn't go because of the price. – **preposition (before a noun)**
- 8) Refrigerators are for keeping food. – **preposition (indicates reason)**

Exercise 6: Decide the grammatical function of the word *fast* in each of the sentences below.

- 1) If you take the fast train, you should be there in under an hour. – **adjective (rapide)**
- 2) Many religions require their followers to fast at certain times of the year. – **verb (jeûner)**
- 3) The car got stuck fast in the wet sand so we just left it there. – **adverb (fermement, solidement)**
- 4) When it started raining, we all ran inside as fast as we could. – **adverb (rapidement)**
- 5) Some prisoners began a fast to protest against the appalling conditions. – **noun (un jeûne)**
- 6) By the time I got home, the children were fast asleep. – **adverb (profondément endormi, dormir à poings fermés)**