



Understanding word types

Words belong to different groups or **word types**. The main word types are:

nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, pronouns and connectives

Each type of word has a different role in a sentence. Look at the following sentence:

**The young child quickly followed his parents into
the room and then he sat down.**

The **nouns** are child, parents, room.

Nouns are names for things. **Child** is the subject of the sentence and tells us who carried out the action. **Parents** are the object and tell us who the child followed.

The **verbs** are followed and sat.

Verbs are doing words. **Followed** and **sat** tell us what the child did. They can also be used for actions of the mind - eg think, believe, remember - and for describing existence - eg be, own, belong, exist.

The **adjective** is young.

Adjectives describe nouns. **Young** tell us something about the child.

The **adverbs** are quickly and then.

Adverbs describe the way the verb is carried out. **Quickly** tells us how the child followed. **Then** tells us when he sat down. Adverbs can tell us how, when, how much something is done.

The **prepositions** are into and down.

Prepositions can tell us about place, time and movement. **Into** and **down** tell us about the child's movement. They can also be used to connect two words - eg interested in football, afraid of spiders. Other prepositions include: at, by, to, in, for, between etc

The **pronouns** are his and he.

Pronouns are used to avoid repeating a noun. **His** and **he** are an alternative to repeating 'the child's' and 'the child'. Other pronouns include: it, she, her, they, them, we, us, that, this.

The **connective** is and.

Connectives are used to join two ideas. Here **and** tells us that the boy did another thing. Other connectives include: but, or, so, although, therefore.