

The Grammar Skeleton - Parts of Speech

A noun is an object or a thing, i.e. skull, spine, ribs are all nouns.
List two more nouns:

1. _____
2. _____

An adjective is a describing word. An adjective describes a noun. Big, funny, boney, scary, are all adjectives.
Underline the adjectives in the following sentence:
The tall, creaking, skeleton moved across the dark church yard.



When we want to join two ideas together we use a conjunction. Words like and, so, because, but, also are all conjunctions.
Underline the conjunctions in the following sentence:
The skeleton stood waiting because he wanted to frighten the visitors.

A verb is an action or a doing word, i.e. jump, think, eat, walk, fly.
Underline the verbs in these sentences:

1. The skeleton danced through the graveyard.
2. The bones rattled as the skeleton moved.

An adverb is like an adjective but it describes an action or a verb. Think 'add' and 'verb' - add to a verb. They usually end in -ly.
Quickly, shakily, horribly, suddenly are all adverbs. Underline the adverbs in the following sentence:
The boney skeleton danced creakily to the sound of the wind, which whistled sadly through the branches of the tree.

A pronoun refers to someone or something instead of using it's name. He, she, you, I, his, are all pronouns.
Underline the pronouns in the following sentence:
The skeleton lifted his hand and waved his boney fingers.

Now that you know the names for different parts of speech. Highlight the nouns and adjectives, verbs and adverbs, pronouns and conjunctions in the following passage:

The evil skeleton creakily turned its neck towards the young couple that had just entered the eerie graveyard trying to find their way to the Inn. He shook his ancient bones and dragged himself out of the cold and open grave and started creeping towards the rusted graveyard gates. One of the men coughed loudly and rubbed his hands to warm them. As the pair passed beneath the bare tree which stood out starkly against the moonlight, they heard a twig snap...

1. What is the atmosphere of this passage of writing?

2. How do you know?

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