The Functions of Words

Part Two of a Two Part Series

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Why Teach Grammar?

There are *five big reasons or aims*

1. To understand words and their functions
2. To improve and expand oral communication through proper grammatical usage
3. To improve and expand writing through appropriate grammatical usage
4. To act as one medium for analysis and evaluation of written works
5. To aid in the development of reasoning, analytic skills, and creativity.
also...

It can be fun!
What is meant by the *Functions of Words*?

The initial set of presentations and work introducing the parts of speech.

In English, Montessorians consider nine functions of words:

- Noun
- Article
- Adjective
- Conjunction
- Preposition
- Verb
- Adverb
- Pronoun
- Interjection
Functions of Words

- Noun
- Article
- Adjective
- Conjunction
- Preposition
- Verb
- Adverb
- Pronoun
- Interjection
The Sequence

- Noun
- Article
- Adjective
- Conjunction
- Preposition
- Verb
- Adverb
- Pronoun
- Interjection
The Children’s House

Usually, only six or seven functions are offered at this level.

Possibly not
Children’s House Nomenclature

- **naming word**
- **introducing word**
- **describing word**
- **joining word**
- **relationship word**
- **action word**

Names like these are usually used in the Children’s House. Then more formal names are introduced in elementary school.
Where to Put the Symbol

Symbols are placed above the words

Michael  Minnesota  table  love  kindness
The Adjective Picnic
The Six Roles of the Adjective

- Describe
- Count
- Point
- Distribute
- Show Ownership
- Question

- red, large, rough
- three, first, last
- this, that, those
- each, every
- his, her, my
- what, which

- Descriptive
- Numerical
- Demonstrative
- Distributive
- Possessive
- Interrogative
More on Adjectives

• Position and Transposition
• The Paper Game (attributes)
• The Detective Game of Triangles (attributes)
• Qualities of the Little Environment
• Which Quality or Qualities are Suitable? (sometimes called Logical Agreement)
• In Search of All Possible Qualities of One Object
Summarize the noun Family

- Make many phrases
- Use two or more adjectives
- Look at which adjectives are friends with an article and which are not.
- Try plurals
- Examine other activities
The Conjunction

The Functions
The flowers and the pink ribbon
The Symbol
Etymology
Transposition
The Little Environment
The Preposition

Story

Function and Etymology

Second Presentation: include transposition

The Little Environment
What can we parse now?

*Parsing* means “to describe a word grammatically by stating the part of speech.”
The Study of the Verb

This will introduce:

The Verb
Function
Name, Symbol, and Etymology
Compare the Noun and the Verb
Three Fundamental Tenses
Tenses
Conjugation
The Verb Family
And many activities and stories
The Noun and the Verb

The Noun and the Verb Meet
Energy Requires Matter
Action Disappears
More Verb Activities

Duration of the Present Tense
The Difference Between Present and Past Tense
Reading Commands
Auxiliary Verbs
Linking Verbs (See next Slide)
Phrasal Verbs
Hidden Movement
The Three Fundamental Tenses (See another Slide)
Logical Agreement
Some linking verbs are more difficult, like *feels*, as in *This sandpaper feels rough*. These may usually be reserved until later. Avoid using linking verbs as transitive verbs with direct objects as in “Andre’ feels the sandpaper.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Some other linking verbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>grow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>become</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>remain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>taste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sound</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### The Verb

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yesterday</td>
<td>today</td>
<td>tomorrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>last year</td>
<td>this year</td>
<td>next year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>previous</td>
<td>current</td>
<td>future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>before</td>
<td>now</td>
<td>later</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Fundamental Tenses**
The Adverb

Function
Name
Etymology
Symbol
Logical Agreement
Searching for All Possible Modifiers of One Verb
Transposition
Adjectives and Adverbs
What modifier is best?

- eat
- look
- walk

- hungrily
- slowly
- longingly
- awkwardly
- gracefully
- weekly
- weekly
- everywhere
- now
Searching for All Possible Modifiers of One Verb

dance slowly sensuously eagerly delicately lightly rhythmically sleepily noisily happily clumsily inventively

Blow your nose rudely silently noisily messily quickly
Some Adverbs are Irregular

- **quick**
- **bad**
- **good**
- **hard**
- **happy**
- **Etc.**

- **quickly**
- **badly**
- **well**
- **hard**
- **happily**
- **Etc.**
The Rebellious Prince
The Pronoun

- Function,
- Name,
- Etymology,
- Symbol
- Transposition
- Cases
Cases of the Pronoun

- Nominative
- Objective
- Possessive
The Verb Family

The Celestial Landscape
The Chart of Gears
The Verb Family

The Formal Grouping
One Day,
The Noun and the Verb Were Frustrated...
The Interjection

- Function
- Name
- Etymology
- Symbol

Montessori's original symbol was an equilateral triangle with a circle on top. It is a union of the symbol of the noun and the verb. This puts together energy and matter.

Mmm, I like hot curry!
The World of Grammar

The Earth and the Sky
A perfectly **round** figure is called a circle.

Today in music we sang a **round**.

**Round** your answers to the nearest tenth.
Skits: The Functions of Words

The Verb Family
Functions of Words

Noun
Article
Adjective
Conjunction
Preposition
Verb
Adverb
Pronoun
Interjection
This Ends Part Two

I hope that you have enjoyed the Functions of Words
Thanks for joining me!

Any questions?
The Deep Well of Time:

The Transformative Power of Storytelling in the Classroom

by Michael J. Dorer

From Parent Child Press

http://www.montessoriservices.com/the-deep-well-of-time

Paperback, 356 pages. $24.95 US
Let’s Keep in Touch!

Thank You!

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