



NDA/NA ENGLISH MASTERY SERIES

MODULE 17

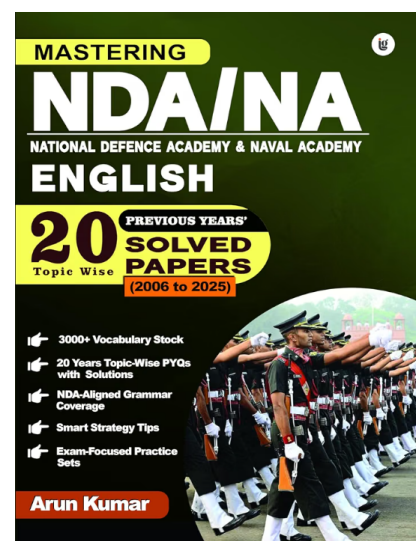
Word Class: One Word, Different Parts of Speech

Functional shift and identification of the same word in different grammatical roles.

From the book

MASTERING NDA/NA ENGLISH

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ONE WORD USED IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF SPEECH

English is a dynamic language where the same word can function in different grammatical roles, depending on how it is used in a sentence. This phenomenon is known as functional shift or zero-derivation, and it is a key feature of English vocabulary that allows words to shift between nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and sometimes even prepositions or conjunctions—without changing their form.

➤ Why Is This Important?

In competitive exams like NDA, questions often test your ability to recognize correct word usage. Understanding how a single word can serve different grammatical purposes helps in:

- ✓ Spotting errors in sentence correction
- ✓ Identifying parts of speech in grammar questions
- ✓ Improving sentence formation and comprehension
- ✓ Mastering vocabulary through contextual usage

Examples:

1. Light

- Noun: The room was filled with light.
- Verb: Please light the candle.
- Adjective: She wore a light jacket.

2. Run

- Verb: He can run very fast.
- Noun: He went for a run in the morning.
- Adjective (less common): The run stitch came loose.

As you can see, the meaning of the word changes slightly or significantly based on its function in the sentence. Recognizing this shift requires careful observation of sentence structure and context.

This list will not only enhance your grammatical understanding but also expand your vocabulary and prepare you for varied question types in competitive exams.

PART OF SPEECH	HOW TO IDENTIFY (QUESTIONS & CLUES)	EXAMPLE WORDS
Noun	- Is it a person, place, thing, idea, or event?	<i>dog, city, happiness</i>
	- Can you put a, an, the before it?	<i>a book, the apple</i>
	- Can it be singular/plural?	<i>cat/cats, child/children</i>
Pronoun	- Does it replace a noun?	<i>he, she, it, they</i>
	- Can you substitute it for a noun?	<i>John → he</i>
Verb	- Does it show an action or a state of being?	<i>run, eat, is, seem</i>
	- Can you change its tense? (past, present, future)	<i>run/ran, eat/ate</i>
Adjective	- Does it describe or modify a noun/pronoun?	<i>red, tall, beautiful</i>
	- Can you ask Which one? What kind? How many?	<i>Which book? The red book</i>
Adverb	- Does it describe or modify a verb, adjective, or another adverb?	<i>quickly, very, well</i>
	- Can you ask How? When? Where? To what extent?	<i>He runs quickly.</i>
Preposition	- Does it show relationship of a noun/pronoun to another word?	<i>in, on, at, under</i>
	- Usually followed by a noun/pronoun forming a phrase (object).	<i>on the table, under him</i>
Conjunction	- Does it connect words, phrases, or clauses?	<i>and, but, because</i>
	- Can you replace it with another conjunction and still make sense?	<i>I like tea and coffee.</i>
Interjection	- Is it an exclamation or sudden feeling?	<i>Wow! Ouch! Hey!</i>
	- Usually stands alone or at the beginning of a sentence.	

I One Word Used as Different Parts of Speech I

In the following list, you will find:

- A wide range of commonly used English words
- Their different grammatical roles (Noun, Verb, Adjective, Adverb, etc.)
- Clear example sentences for each usage

WORD	PART OF SPEECH	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
Above	Adverb	Look above for the ceiling fan.
	Adjective	The above lines are difficult to read.
	Noun	Blessings come from above.
	Preposition	Birds soared high above the clouds.
After	Adverb	You go first; I'll come after.
	Preposition	She ran after the bus.
	Conjunction	He slept after he returned.
	Adjective	The after party was a blast.
Air	Noun	The air is fresh today.
	Verb	Let's air the room for a while.
Arm	Noun	He broke his left arm.
	Verb	Soldiers armed themselves for battle.
About	Adverb	He looked about in confusion.
	Preposition	Tell me more about the book.
Any	Adjective	Any student can apply for the course.
	Adverb	I can't walk any faster.
	Pronoun	Any of them could win.
All	Noun	He lost his all in the flood.
	Adjective	All children need care.
	Adverb	The room was all quiet after the guests left.
	Pronoun	All of them passed the test.
Age	Noun	She reached the age of 90.
	Verb	Stress aged him quickly.
Better	Adjective	A better offer came later.
	Adverb	She sings better than before.
	Verb	Try to better your performance.
	Noun	Respect your elders and betters.
But	Adverb	He can but try his best.
	Preposition	None but she knew the truth.
	Conjunction	He tried, but failed.
	Noun	No ifs or buts were allowed.
Back	Noun	His back was hurting.
	Verb	I will back your idea.
	Adjective	Use the back gate.
	Adverb	She looked back and smiled.
Both	Pronoun	Both are correct.
	Adjective	Both players scored goals.
	Conjunction	Both John and James were absent.
Before	Preposition	We met before lunch.
	Adverb	He had never seen such a thing before.
	Conjunction	Finish it before you leave.
Break	Noun	Let's take a break.
	Verb	Don't break the rule.

I One Word Used as Different Parts of Speech I

WORD	PART OF SPEECH	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
Close	Verb	Close the window now.
	Adjective	They are close friends.
	Noun	The meeting came to a close.
Clean	Verb	Clean the board after class.
	Adjective	Keep your hands clean.
	Noun	Give the room a good clean.
Down	Adverb	Sit down, please.
	Preposition	The cat rolled down the stairs.
	Adjective	The down train left late.
	Noun	The bird's down was soft.
Fast	Adjective	He drives a fast car.
	Adverb	Time moves fast.
	Noun	He observed a religious fast.
	Verb	They fast on special days.
Fine	Adjective	The weather is fine.
	Noun	He paid a parking fine.
	Verb	The court fined him for speeding.
Fly	Noun	A fly buzzed around.
	Verb	Planes fly above the clouds.
Hard	Adjective	He gave a hard punch.
	Adverb	She studied hard for the exam.
Head	Noun	He injured his head.
	Verb	She heads the committee.
Last	Verb	The show lasted three hours.
	Adjective	This is the last warning.
	Noun	He came in last.
	Adverb	At last, peace returned.
Light	Noun	The light is too bright.
	Verb	Light the candle.
	Adjective	This box is very light.
	Adverb	He travels light to save time.
Like	Verb	I like that dress.
	Preposition	He talks like a leader.
	Conjunction	Do it like I did.
	Noun	I've never seen its like before.
Left	Verb	She left early.
	Adjective	Turn at the left gate.
	Noun	He writes with his left.
Match	Noun	The cricket match was exciting.
	Verb	This shirt matches your jeans.
Near	Adverb	Come near and listen.
	Adjective	He is my near relative.
	Preposition	He sat near the door.
	Verb	We are nearing the station.
Open	Verb	Open the gate slowly.
	Adjective	The shop is open till 10.
	Noun	We waited in the open.
Right	Noun	Everyone has equal rights.

I One Word Used as Different Parts of Speech I

WORD	PART OF SPEECH	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
	Adjective	That is the right answer.
	Adverb	Turn right at the junction.
	Verb	Let's right the wrongs.
Round	Noun	He advanced to the next round.
	Adjective	She has round glasses.
	Preposition	Walk round the table.
	Verb	We rounded the bend slowly.
Run	Verb	He runs every day.
	Noun	He went for a morning run.
Show	Verb	Show me your ID card.
	Noun	The show starts at 7 p.m.
Sound	Noun	A loud sound came from the room.
	Verb	That sounds familiar.
	Adjective	He gave sound advice.
Still	Adjective	The lake was still and calm.
	Adverb	He is still sleeping.
	Conjunction	She was ill, still she attended school.
	Noun	Not a sound broke the still of the night.
Well	Adverb	He speaks well.
	Adjective	She isn't well today.
	Noun	The well ran dry.
	Interjection	Well, let's begin!
Watch	Verb	Watch the movie carefully.
	Noun	He gifted me a wrist watch.
Work	Noun	He has much work to complete.
	Verb	She works from home.
Order	Noun	He received a new order.
	Verb	She ordered coffee.
Present	Noun	He gave her a present.
	Verb	He will present his project.
	Adjective	All are present in class.
Mind	Noun	His mind is sharp.
	Verb	Do you mind if I leave early?
Train	Noun	The train left on time.
	Verb	He trains daily for the marathon.
Plant	Noun	The plant needs water.
	Verb	They plant flowers in spring.
Park	Noun	Children played in the park.
	Verb	Please park the car here.
Hope	Noun	Hope kept him going.
	Verb	I hope you succeed.
Change	Verb	Change your habits.
	Noun	A change in weather is expected.
Play	Verb	Let's play football.
	Noun	We watched a Shakespearean play.
Cook	Verb	She cooks dinner daily.
	Noun	The cook prepared pasta.
Around	Preposition	We walked around the lake.

I One Word Used as Different Parts of Speech I

WORD	PART OF SPEECH	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
	Adverb	He looked around but found nothing.
Along	Preposition	Walk along the riverbank.
	Adverb	Come along if you want to join us.
Before	Conjunction	Call me before you leave.
	Preposition	She arrived before dinner.
	Adverb	Have you seen this before?
Beyond	Preposition	The house is beyond the hill.
	Adverb	He went beyond the limits.
But	Conjunction	She tried, but failed.
	Preposition	None but the brave deserve success.
	Adverb	He can but try.
Down	Adverb	The sun went down.
	Preposition	The cat jumped down from the table.
For	Preposition	This gift is for you.
	Conjunction	Wait here, for I will return soon.
If	Conjunction	If it rains, we will stay home.
	Noun	The if in his statement caused confusion.
Into	Preposition	She went into the room quietly.
Like	Preposition	He sings like a professional.
	Verb	I like chocolate.
	Conjunction	Do it like I told you.
Near	Adjective	She is my near neighbor.
	Preposition	The store is near the school.
	Adverb	Come near to see better.
Of	Preposition	The cover of the book is red.
Off	Adverb	The plane took off on time.
	Preposition	The picture fell off the wall.
On	Preposition	The book is on the table.
	Adverb	Please turn on the lights.
Out	Adverb	She went out for a walk.
	Preposition	He got out of the car.
Over	Preposition	The plane flew over the mountains.
	Adverb	Come over for dinner.
Since	Preposition	I have known him since childhood.
	Conjunction	Since you are here, help me.
Than	Conjunction	She is taller than her brother.
	Preposition	I prefer tea rather than coffee.
Through	Preposition	The train went through the tunnel.
Till	Preposition	Wait till I return.
	Conjunction	Stay here till I come back.
Under	Preposition	The keys are under the sofa.
Up	Adverb	She woke up early.
	Preposition	The balloon rose up into the sky.
	Adjective	The up elevator is out of order.
	Noun	The company is on the up.
Without	Preposition	He left without his phone.
	Adverb	We cannot manage without.
Yet	Adverb	She hasn't finished yet.

I One Word Used as Different Parts of Speech I

WORD	PART OF SPEECH	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
	Conjunction	He is poor, yet happy.
	Adjective	The as-yet decision will be made tomorrow.
	Adverb	I just saw her arrive.
Just	Adjective	That was a just decision.
	Conjunction	Just as I thought, he arrived.
	Adverb	I just saw her arrive.
Only	Adjective	She is the only person here.
	Adverb	I only wanted to help.
	Conjunction	Only if you agree, we will proceed.
Like	Verb	I like ice cream.
	Preposition	He looks like his father.
	Conjunction	It's like you don't care.
	Noun	There's a like for every dislike.
Since	Preposition	We've been friends since childhood.
	Conjunction	Since you're here, help me.
	Adverb	I haven't seen her since.
Over	Preposition	The cat jumped over the fence.
	Adverb	Come over here.
	Adjective	The over budget was brought to the minimum.
Off	Adverb	The plane took off.
	Preposition	The picture fell off the wall.
	Adjective	The off switch is broken.
Through	Preposition	The river flows through the city.
	Adjective	It was a through train, no stops in between.
Right	Adjective	You gave the right answer.
	Adverb	Turn right at the corner.
	Noun	Everyone has the right to speak.
	Verb	They righted the capsized boat.
Light	Noun	The light is bright.
	Verb	Please light the candle.
	Adjective	This box is light.
Fast	Adjective	He is a fast runner.
	Adverb	She runs fast.
	Verb	They fast during Ramadan.
Clear	Adjective	The sky is clear today.
	Verb	Please clear the table.
	Adverb	The message came through clear.
Well	Adverb	She sings well.
	Adjective	He is well now.
	Noun	They drew water from the well.
	Interjection	Well, I didn't expect that!
Match	Noun	They played a match yesterday.
	Verb	These colors match perfectly.