Big Four Word Classes

The four word classes every sentence is built from. Each has its own colour - the same colours we use on every sheet.

Noun



My job: I name a person, place, thing or idea.

🔍 **Ask:** Can I put "the" or "a" in front of it?

teacher · London · dog · football · happiness · team · idea

The **dog** chased the **ball** across the **park.**

Verb



My job: I am a doing or being word.

🔍 **Ask:** Can I put "I" or "they" in front of it?

run · jump · think · is · was · have · eat · shout

The lion **roared** and **chased** the zebra.

Adjective



My job: I describe a noun - what it is like.

🔍 **Ask:** Does it tell me what kind?

huge · tiny · red · scary · happy · shiny · cold

A **huge,** **hairy** spider crawled past.

Adverb



My job: I tell you more about a verb: how, when, where or how often.

🔍 **Ask:** Does it answer how, when, where or how often?

quickly · quietly · soon · here · often · never · yesterday

The mouse crept **quietly** away.

Top tip: the same word can do different jobs. "Run" is a **verb** in "I run fast" but a **noun** in "I went for a run". Look at what the word is **doing** in the sentence.

Big Four Word Classes

All four in one sentence

The **tired** (ADJECTIVE) **puppy** (NOUN) **slept** (VERB) **peacefully** (ADVERB) on the **soft** (ADJECTIVE) **rug.** (NOUN)

Same word, different job

Word	Job 1	Job 2
run	I **run** every day. (verb)	We went for a **run**. (noun)
fast	a **fast** car (adjective)	She runs **fast**. (adverb)
play	We **play** outside. (verb)	The school **play** was funny. (noun)

Quick sort

castle · whispered · gloomy · slowly · teacher · jumped · enormous · tomorrow

Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb

Answers: noun - castle, teacher · verb - whispered, jumped · adjective - gloomy, enormous · adverb - slowly, tomorrow

Next: the "Word Class Detectives" sheet covers pronoun, preposition, conjunction and determiner.