Word Class Detectives

Four word classes that come up again and again in Year 5 grammar. Each one has a colour - look out for it!

Pronoun

~~Mia~~ → she

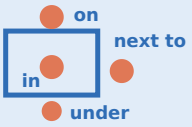
My job: I take the place of a noun, so you don't keep repeating it.

🔍 **Ask:** Can I swap it for a name or a thing?

I · you · he · she · it · we · they · me · him · us · them

Mia found a shell. **She** kept **it.**

Preposition



My job: I tell you where or when something is.

🔍 **Ask:** Where is it? When did it happen?

in · on · under · behind · between · through · near · after · before · during

The cat hid **under** the bed **during** the storm.

Conjunction



My job: I join words and ideas together.

🔍 **Ask:** Is it gluing two ideas into one sentence?

and · but · or · so · because · when · if · although · until · while

I was tired, **but** I finished my book.

Determiner

the → dog

My job: I come before a noun and tell you which one, how many or whose.

🔍 **Ask:** Is there a noun straight after me?

a · an · the · this · those · my · their · some · every · three

Those **two** puppies are **my** favourite.

Top tip: a word's class depends on its **job in the sentence**. Turn over to see all four detectives at work - and the tricky words that can do more than one job, like **my** and **mine** (**mine**, **yours**, **ours** are **possessive pronouns**).

Word Class Detectives

All four detectives in one sentence

After (PREPOSITION) school, my (DETERMINER) friend and (CONJUNCTION) I (PRONOUN) hid behind (PREPOSITION) the (DETERMINER) big tree because (CONJUNCTION) it (PRONOUN) was raining.

Don't get tricked! Same word, different job

Word	Job 1	Job 2
before	I left **before** lunch. just a noun after it = **preposition**	I left **before** the bell rang. a whole idea after it = **conjunction**
this	**This** book is mine. a noun after it = **determiner**	**This** is mine. stands alone = **pronoun**
my / mine	**My** bag is red. a noun after it = **determiner**	The red bag is **mine**. stands alone, shows who owns it = **possessive pronoun**
her	**Her** coat is red. a noun after it = **determiner**	I waved to **her**. stands alone = **pronoun**
since	I've lived here **since** 2020. a time after it = **preposition**	I stayed in **since** I felt ill. a whole idea after it = **conjunction**

Quick sort: which detective?

we · under · but · those · during · if · our · them

Pronoun	Preposition	Conjunction	Determiner

Answers: pronoun - we, them preposition - under, during conjunction - but, if determiner - those, our