



# **English Class 1**

**Notes Handout**

# Parts of Speech

## The Basic Ones

- **Nouns** are things (boy, chicken, school, happiness)
- **Verbs** show action (laugh, think, run, live)
- **Adjectives** describe nouns (blue, confused, exciting)
- **Adverbs** describe verbs or adjectives (quickly, very, usually)

Young dogs run quickly.

# Nouns

## Nouns are things.

- People (boy, hairdresser, Norma)
- Places (school, kitchen, California)
- Things (cow, spoon, head, happiness)
- Subjects of sentences
- -ing verb forms (smoking)
- Sometimes use articles (a/an, the)

Young **dogs** run quickly.

# Verbs

## Verbs show actions.

- Actions done by the nouns
- Physical actions (move, swim, jump)
- Unseen actions (think, feel, understand)
- Many forms

Young dogs **run** quickly.

# Adjectives

## Adjectives describe nouns.

- Can go before nouns : The **happy** girl laughed.
- Can go after verbs : The joke was **funny**.
- Can use comparative forms: He is **taller** than his brother. I am the **oldest**.

**Young** dogs run quickly.

# Adverbs

**Adverbs describe verbs or adjectives.**

- Can go before or after verbs: We talked **loudly**. We **loudly** talked.
- Go before adjectives: They are **extremely** intelligent.
- Usually end in **-ly**.

Young dogs run **quickly**.

When I was 32 years old, I found  
1) \_\_\_\_\_ living in a Volkswagen  
camper van with my boyfriend and our  
dog, 2) \_\_\_\_\_ south on the  
Pan-American Highway. It was the  
3) \_\_\_\_\_ of a lifetime, a journey  
during which we saw beautiful  
4) \_\_\_\_\_, experienced  
spectacular 5) \_\_\_\_\_, and  
learned many random things.

In Mexico, we learned that the 6) \_\_\_\_\_ way to cross the Sea of Cortes is also the best way— via commercial ferry. In Guatemala, we stayed at an orchid reserve containing 7) \_\_\_\_\_ species named after the reserve's founder, an orchid enthusiast. In Chile, we were pleased to discover that some of the gas stations have 8) \_\_\_\_\_—good ones. And in Costa Rica, I learned that I wanted to be an English teacher.



In Costa Rica, we found a lovely brewery-and-hotel near Lake Arenal. It was the 9)\_\_\_\_\_ season for tourists, so we struck a 10)\_\_\_\_\_ with the hotel to camp in their yard free of charge in 11)\_\_\_\_\_ for eating a 12)\_\_\_\_\_ or two a day in the hotel. We also got to use their pool and the 13)\_\_\_\_\_ by the pool. It was a good setup, so we stayed for a week.

While staying there, I got to know one of the hotel groundskeepers. My Spanish was 14) \_\_\_\_\_, so I was always trying to practice with anyone 15) \_\_\_\_\_ enough to speak with me. He told me that he was trying to learn English so that he could get a better job. The Costa Rican 16) \_\_\_\_\_ relies heavily on 17) \_\_\_\_\_, so the ability to speak English means many more job 18) \_\_\_\_\_. Groundskeeping was a good job for someone whose English was not very good. If he improved his English, however, he could get a more highly paid job as a 19) \_\_\_\_\_, a receptionist, or even as a tour guide. Once a week, he told me, he took a bus to San Jose, more than 3 hours away, to go to an English class. He had 20) \_\_\_\_\_, which he showed me, and asked me if I could help him with it.

That week, I met with the 21) \_\_\_\_\_  
several times to help him with his English  
homework. We had met a large number of people  
on our trip, but usually we were 22) \_\_\_\_\_  
help rather than giving it. The groundskeeper was  
a very 23) \_\_\_\_\_ student and  
24) \_\_\_\_\_ for my assistance. I was glad to  
be useful to someone after so many  
25) \_\_\_\_\_ of aimless wandering. When it  
came time to move on from Lake Arenal, I was  
sad that I would no longer be able to help the  
groundskeeper with his English lessons. That's  
when I knew.

I have always loved 26) \_\_\_\_\_ — I wanted to be a French major, and had studied Italian as well — but had never been able to 27) \_\_\_\_\_ what kind of work I could do, not being fluent enough in any language other than English. For years, I had bounced around between 28) \_\_\_\_\_ that were either unrewarding or insecure. Teaching English is very rewarding. It connects us with individuals of other cultures and helps people to 29) \_\_\_\_\_ and enrich their lives. It has been my joy and privilege to teach a skill that also allows me to share my 30) \_\_\_\_\_ of languages using the language that I know best.

# Vocabulary

find myself

the adventure of a lifetime

spectacular

random

via

enthusiast

strike a deal

get to \_\_\_\_

setup

rely

unrewarding

insecure

motivated

grateful

enrich

privilege