

## Homework 1 — Sample Solution

1. Consider the following underlined words. What is their part of speech? Use our tests to justify your answer. For each word, use as many tests as possible.

- importance

importance is a noun.

- Gap test: The importance of Oji Zoo impressed us.  
compare: The koalas of Oji Zoo impressed us.
- Modifier test: great importance. ‘Great’ is an adjective. Adjectives modify nouns.

- exaggerate

exaggerate is a verb.

- Gap test: He likes to exaggerate.  
compare: He likes to eat.
- Morphological test: exaggerating, exaggerates, exaggerated
- Modifier test: really exaggerate. ‘really’ is an adverb. Adverbs modify verbs.

- I’m afraid to leave.

afraid is a noun.

- Gap test: They feel afraid.  
compare: They feel happy.
- Morphological test: more afraid, most afraid
- Modifier test: very afraid. ‘Very’ is a typical modifier for adjectives. Together with the other tests this shows that afraid is an adjective.

- She went outside.

outside is a preposition *in this sentence*. (outside is also used as a noun in other cases.)

- Gap test: The sentence itself is a gap test for prepositions:  
compare: She went in the house.  
She went to the station.
- Modifier test: She went right outside. ‘Right’ is preposition modifier.

2. Consider the following gap test.

A: What part of speech does it test for?

- Let’s \_\_\_\_\_ .
- This is a gap test for *verbs*. Compare: Let’s eat.

B. Use the gap test to explain why the following sentence is not proper English.

- \*Let’s bowling.
- Bowling is a noun. Compare: Bowling is popular.