Word types

Words belong to different groups or word types. The main word types are:

- nouns,
- verbs,
- adjectives,
- adverbs,
- pronouns
- and connectives.

Each type of word has a different role in a sentence. Look at the following sentence:

The young child quickly followed his parents into the room and then he sat down.

The nouns are child, parents, room.

Nouns are names for things. Child is the subject of the sentence and tells us who carried out the action. Parents are the object and tell us who the child followed.

The verbs are followed and sat.

Verbs are doing words. Followed and sat tell us what the child did. They can also be used for actions of the mind - eg think, believe, remember.

The adjective is young.

Adjectives describe nouns. Young tells us something about the child.

The adverbs are quickly and then.

Adverbs describe the way the verb is carried out. Quickly tells us how the child followed. Then tells us when he sat down. Adverbs can tell us how, when, how much something is done.

The pronouns are his and he.

Pronouns are used to avoid repeating a noun. His and he are an alternative to repeating ‘the child’s’ and ‘the child’. Other pronouns include: it, she, her, they, them, we, us, that, this.

The connective is and.

Connectives are used to join two ideas. Here and tells us that the boy did another thing. Other connectives include: but, or, so, although, therefore.