

## Lesson Plan

### Language Lightning

**Book:** *James Harden: Basketball Star*

**Series:** Biggest Names in Sports

**Level:** Navigator

### Objective

To help students practice identifying the part of speech (noun, adjective, or verb) of a word based on how it is used in a particular sentence.

### Supplies

- *James Harden: Basketball Star* book
- Language Lightning Questions (attached)

### Before the Activity

Read through the *James Harden* book, or assign it to students to read on their own.

### Activity

Do a quick review of parts of speech, asking students if they remember the definitions for the following three words:

- noun: a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea
- verb: a word that expresses an action
- adjective: a word that describes, or gives more information about, a noun

(based on definitions in the *Scholastic Children's Dictionary*)

Play a game of lightning—but instead of shooting hoops, students will identify parts of speech. Divide students into two teams. Have each team form a line. The students at the front of each line will compete. You will read one of the Language Lightning Questions. Each question asks what part of speech a word is. Then it includes the sentence from the *James Harden* book where this word was used. Read both the question and the sentence out loud to the students. Students can shout out what part of speech (noun, verb, or adjective) the word is in that sentence. Warn students to listen carefully—some words can be more than one part of speech depending on how they are used in a sentence.

### Evaluation

The first student who says the correct answer gets to stay standing. The other student has to sit down, and the next person on this student's team should move to the front of the line and answer the next question. The last team to have a player standing wins.

**Standards**

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' language standards, grades 3 and 4 (L 3.1; L 4.1).

## Language Lightning Questions

1. What part of speech is *guard*?

“The star **guard** was all over the court” (5).

Answer: noun

2. What part of speech is *drives*?

“He made powerful **drives** to the basket” (5).

Answer: noun

3. What part of speech is *rebounds*?

“He crashed the boards to collect **rebounds**, too” (6).

Answer: noun

4. What part of speech is *third*?

“He completed a triple-double 10 minutes into the **third** quarter” (6).

Answer: adjective

5. What part of speech is *close*?

“Despite Harden’s amazing efforts, the game remained **close**” (7).

Answer: adjective

6. What part of speech is *drained*?

“He drew a foul and **drained** his free throws on the next possession” (7).

Answer: verb

7. What part of speech is *shot*?

“Harden launched a **shot** from deep” (8).

Answer: noun

8. What part of speech is *swished*?

“The crowd roared as the ball **swished** through the net” (8).

Answer: verb

9. What part of speech is *incredible*?

“Harden’s **incredible** performance left fans, coaches, and fellow players in awe” (10).

Answer: adjective

10. What part of speech is *gifted*?

“James was a **gifted** athlete” (12).

Answer: adjective

11. What part of speech is *attack*?

“He always carried an inhaler with him in case of an asthma **attack**” (14).

Answer: noun

12. What part of speech is *severe*?

“His asthma became less **severe**” (14).

Answer: adjective

13. What part of speech is *attend*?

“He chose to **attend** Arizona State University” (15).

Answer: verb

14. What part of speech is *draft*?

“He decided to enter the 2009 NBA **Draft**” (17).

Answer: noun

15. What part of speech is *ranked*?

“Many experts **ranked** him as one of the top players available in the draft” (17).

Answer: verb

16. What part of speech is *overall*?

“The Oklahoma City Thunder selected Harden with the third **overall** pick in the draft” (18).

Answer: adjective

17. What part of speech is *reserve*?

“Harden started out as a **reserve**” (19).

Answer: noun

18. What part of speech is *averaged*?

“In 2011–12, Harden **averaged** 16.8 points per game” (19).

Answer: verb

19. What part of speech is *face*?

“Even better, the Thunder advanced all the way to the NBA Finals to **face** the Miami Heat” (20).

Answer: verb

20. What part of speech is *traded*?

“The team **traded** Harden to the Houston Rockets” (24).

Answer: verb

21. What part of speech is *star*?

“Harden immediately became the **star** of the Rockets” (24).

Answer: noun

22. What part of speech is *best*?

“Harden continued to grow into one of the NBA’s **best** scorers” (25).

Answer: adjective

23. What part of speech is *clinging*?

“In one playoff game, Houston was **clinging** to a one-point lead” (25).

Answer: verb

24. What part of speech is *secured*?

“Harden’s shot **secured** the Rockets’ victory” (26).

Answer: verb

25. What part of speech is *unstoppable*?

“Harden seemed **unstoppable** at times” (26).

Answer: adjective

26. What part of speech is *offseason*?

“In the **offseason**, Harden signed the biggest contract in NBA history” (27).

Answer: noun

27. What part of speech is *jersey*?

“Harden would be wearing a Rockets **jersey** for the next six years” (27).

Answer: noun