

1.01 LEXICAL CATEGORIES: Lexical Categories in English

Above each boldface word in the following paragraphs, write its lexical category. The three versions proceed from a relatively easy to a relatively difficult selection of categories. (The passage is adapted from an article in *Newsweek*.) Use these abbreviations:

N = noun
V = verb
A = adjective

Pro = pronoun
Prep = preposition
Adv = adverb

Det = determiner
Conj = conjunction
TO = infinitive marker

1. Will Smith has **a dark, fatal** flaw. It's **an** obsession of sorts, the kind **of** thing that can drive loved ones crazy and might even, if allowed to run amok, derail and debilitate an otherwise **promising** career. *He hates bad grammar.* Pronunciation errors, mistakes of any **linguistic** sort—**they** make him **nuts**. His wife, the actress Jada Pinkett, knows **it**. His friends, family, and **close** associates know it. Occasionally, **in** their **gentlest**, most **caring** way, **they** try to caution **him about** the seriousness **of** his affliction. Sitting down **over** breakfast one morning **in** their Spanish-style villa outside L.A., Pinkett casts a **tentative** glance **in** his direction. "**What** were **you** telling **me the** other day?" **she** says. "That people say **the** word 'often' like 'of-fen,' when **it's** really pronounced 'of-ten'?" Smith, looking sporty and **proper in a white** Ralph Lauren polo shirt, **white** sweatpants, and Nike Air Up-tempos, sets down a platter **of** banana pancakes **with a disapproving** thud. "No, *no*," **he** says. "The **right** way is 'offen.' People **who** pronounce **the t** are trying to sound sophisticated, but **they** just sound wrong." Pinkett giggles, then affects a Superman tone of voice. "It's **a** noun . . . It's **a** verb . . . No, it's *Captain Correction!*"

2. Will Smith **has** a dark, fatal **flaw**. It's an **obsession** of sorts, the kind of **thing** that can **drive** loved ones crazy and might even, if allowed to run amok, **derail** and **debilitate** an otherwise promising **career**. *He hates bad grammar.* **Pronunciation** errors, **mistakes** of any linguistic

sort—they **make** him nuts. His wife, the **actress** Jada Pinkett, **knows** it. His friends, family, and close **associates** know it. Occasionally, in their gentlest, most caring way, they try to **caution** him about the **seriousness** of his **affliction**. Sitting down over **breakfast** one **morning** in their Spanish-style **villa** outside L.A., Pinkett casts a tentative **glance** in his **direction**. “What were you telling me the other **day**?” she **says**. “That people say the **word** ‘often’ like ‘of-fen,’ when it’s really pronounced ‘of-ten’?” Smith, looking sporty and proper in a white Ralph Lauren **polo shirt**, white **sweatpants**, and Nike Air Up-tempos, sets down a **platter** of banana **pancakes** with a disapproving **thud**. “No, *no*,” he **says**. “The right way is ‘offen.’ **People** who **pronounce** the *t* are **trying** to sound sophisticated, but they just **sound** wrong.” Pinkett **giggles**, then **affects** a Superman tone of voice. “It’s a **noun** . . . It’s a verb . . . No, it’s *Captain Correction!*”

3. Will Smith has a dark, fatal flaw. It’s an obsession of **sorts**, the kind of thing **that** can drive **loved** ones **crazy** and might **even**, if allowed **to** run **amok**, derail and debilitate an **otherwise** promising career. *He hates bad grammar*. Pronunciation **errors**, mistakes of **any** linguistic **sort**—they make him nuts. **His** wife, the actress Jada Pinkett, knows it. **His** friends, family, and close associates know it. **Occasionally**, in **their** gentlest, **most** caring way, they **try to** caution him about the seriousness of **his** affliction. Sitting **down** over breakfast one morning in **their Spanish-style** villa **outside** L.A., Pinkett **casts** a tentative glance in his direction. “What were you telling me the other day?” she **says**. “**That people** say the word ‘often’ **like** ‘of-fen,’ **when** it’s **really** pronounced ‘of-ten’?” Smith, looking sporty **and** proper in a white Ralph Lauren polo shirt, white sweatpants, and Nike Air **Up-tempos**, **sets down** a platter of **banana** pancakes with a disapproving thud. “No, *no*,” he **says**. “The right way **is** ‘offen.’ People who pronounce the *t* are **trying to sound sophisticated, but** they **just** sound **wrong**.” Pinkett giggles, **then affects** a **Superman tone** of voice. “It’s a noun . . . It’s a **verb** . . . No, it’s *Captain Correction!*”