

# [Social structure and interaction in everyday life](https://assignbuster.com/social-structure-and-interaction-in-everyday-life/)

## Components of Social Structure

### Status

* Status is a socially defined position in a group or society characterized by certain expectations, rights, and duties.
* Status set compromises all the statuses that a person occupies at a given time.
* Ascribed status is a social position conferred at birth or received involuntarily later in life, based on attributes over which the individual has little or no control, such as race, ethnicity, age, and gender.
* Achieved status is a social position a person assumes voluntarily as a result of personal choice, merit, or direct effort.
* Master status is the most important status a person occupies.
* Status symbols material signs that inform others of a person’s specific status.

### Role

* Role is a set of behavioral expectations associated with a given status
* Role expectation is a group’s or society’s definition of the way a specific role ought to be played.
* Role performance is how a person actually plays the role.
* Role conflict occurs when incompatible role demands are placed on a person by two or more statuses held at the same time.
* Role stain occurs when incompatible demands are built into a single status that a person occupies.
* Role exit occurs when people disengage from social roles that have been central to their self-identity.

## Group

* Social Group consists of two or more people who interact frequently and share a common identity and a feeling of interdependence.
* Primary group is a small, less specialized group in which members engage in face-to-face, emotion-based interactions over an extended period of time.
* Secondary group is a larger, more specialized group in which members engage in more impersonal, goal-oriented relationships for a limited period of time.
* Formal organization is a highly structured group formed for the purpose of completing certain tasks or achieving specificgoals.

### Social Institutions

Social institution is a set of organized beliefs and rules that establishes how a society will attempt to meet its basic social needs.

## Societies: Changes in Social Structure

### Durkheim: Mechanical and Organic Solidarity .

* Division of labor refers to how the various tasks of a society are divided up and performed.
* Mechanical solidarity refers to the social cohesion of preindustrial societies, in which there is minimal division of a labor and people feel united by shared values and common social bonds.
* Organic solidarity refers to the social cohesion found in industrial (and perhaps postindustrial) societies, in which people perform very specialized tasks and feel united by their mutual dependence.

### Tonnies: Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft

* Gemeinschaft is a traditional society in which social relationships are based on personal bonds offriendshipand kinship and on intergenerational stability.
* Gesellschaft is a large, urban society in which social bonds are based on impersonal and specialized relationships, with little long-term commitment to the group or consensus on values.

### Industrial and Postindustrial Societies

* Industrial societies are based ontechnologythat mechanizes production.
* Postindustrial society is one in which technology supports a service-and information-based economy.

## Social Interaction: The Microlevel Perspective

### The Social Construction of Reality

* Social Construction of Reality - the process by which our perception of reality is largely shaped by the subjective meaning that we give to an experience.
* Self-fulfilling prophecy- a false belief or prediction that produces behavior that makes the originally false belief come true.

### Ethnomethodology

Ethnomethodology is the study of the commonsense knowledge that people use to understand the situations in which they find themselves.

### Dramaturgical Analysis

* Dramaturgical analysis is the study of social interaction that compares everyday life to a theatrical presentation.
* Impression management (presentation of self) refers to people’s efforts to present themselves to others in ways that are most favorable to their own interests or image.
* Face-saving behavior refers to the strategies we use to rescue our performance when we experience a potential or actual loss of face.

### Nonverbal Communication

* NonverbalCommunicationis the transfer of information between persons without the use of words.
* Personal space is the immediate area surrounding a person that person claims is private.