Nouns and Verbs: The Building Blocks of Sentences

KS2 ENGLISH GRAMMAR PARTS OF SPEECH Ages 9-12 ⏰ 3 min read

What Are Nouns?

Nouns are words that name things. They can be people, animals, objects, places, or even ideas. For example, **dog**, **Emma**, **chair**, **London**, and **happiness** are all nouns. Every sentence needs at least one noun because you need something to talk about.

There are different types of nouns. **Proper nouns** are specific names like **Harry Potter** or **Tuesday**, and they always start with a capital letter. **Common nouns** are everyday words like **book** or **teacher** that don't need capital letters (unless they're at the start of a sentence).

Think of it like: Nouns are like the characters in a story. Just as you need someone or something to be the main focus, every sentence needs a noun to be the subject.

What Are Verbs?

Verbs are action words. They describe what someone or something is doing. Words like **run**, **jump**, **eat**, **think**, and **laugh** are all verbs. Without verbs, sentences would be boring and nothing would happen!

Verbs can change depending on when something happens. We say **she runs** (present) but **she ran** (past). Some verbs describe states or feelings too, like **is**, **seems**, or **feels**. These are called **linking verbs**, and they connect the noun to a description.

Think of it like: Verbs are like the plot of a story. The noun is the character, but the verb is what they actually do. Without verbs, your character would just stand there doing nothing!

How They Work Together

Nouns and verbs are a team. You need both to make a complete sentence. Let's look at an example: **"The cat sleeps."** Here, **cat** is the noun (the subject), and **sleeps** is the verb (the action).

Try this: **"Sarah jumped."** Sarah is the noun, and jumped is the verb. Without the noun, you wouldn't know who is jumping. Without the verb, nothing would be happening.

Think of it like: A noun and a verb are like a pizza and the topping. The pizza is the base (noun), but you need the topping (verb) to make it interesting and complete.

Understanding nouns and verbs helps you write better sentences and understand how language works. Keep noticing them when you read or listen—you'll spot them everywhere!

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