

NOUNS & VERBS

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What is a **noun**?

A noun is a word that represents a person (the mayor, Morris), place (the library, Orlando), thing (building, Parthenon), or (abstract) idea (peace, misunderstanding).

What is a **verb**?

A verb is a word that represents an action or activity (walk, ponder).

Some clues help students **determine whether a word is a noun or a verb**:

Articles (an, a, the) and expressions of quantity (some, a few, five) are found in front of nouns.

Adjectives (happy, loud) are found in front of nouns.

Modals (and other helping verbs) are found in front of verbs (could, will)

Verbs come in different **forms**:

- **base** (also called 'simple' form) (go)
- **infinitive** (to go) The infinitive is to + base verb.
- **gerund** (going) The gerund is the base verb + ing. (This form is also called the present participle.)

What are **phrasal verbs**?

Phrasal verbs are verbs + prepositions. The preposition changes the meaning of the verb (ask vs. ask around vs. ask out).

What are **prepositions**?

Prepositions are words that (usually) provide info. about time (at noon) and place (in the yard).

There are many **verb + verb combinations**.

common verbs + gerund: enjoy, appreciate, mind, quit, finish, avoid, postpone, delay, keep, consider, discuss, mention, suggest

common verbs + infinitive: hope, plan, intend, decide, promise, agree, offer, refuse, seem, appear, pretend, ask, expect, want, need, would like

Some verbs can be followed by **gerunds or infinitives without changing meaning**: begin, start, continue, like, love, hate

Some verbs can be followed **by gerunds or infinitives**, and the particular combination **changes the meaning**:

She stopped smoking.

She stopped to smoke.

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