

WHAT IS A NOUN?
A Parts of Speech Play
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Setting: The Box

Characters:

Narrator

Word 1

Word 2

Word 3

Narrator: On the small, black, dusty table sat a box filled with words. Big words and little words. Interesting words and dull words. The clock in the corner struck twelve and things began to happen! Out of the box jumped one word, then another and then another.

Word 1: Hey! What's going on here? Stop bouncing into me!

Word 2: Well, who do you think *you* are? I can hit you all I want.

Word 1: Come on now, what are you?

Word 2: I'm a noun, duh.

Word 1: What does that mean? A noun.

Word 2: Don't you know anything? A NOUN! You know, a NOUN IS A WORD THAT IS THE NAME OF A PERSON, A PLACE OR A THING.

Word 1: Well, what are you? Are you a person, a place or a thing?

Word 2: My name is ball, so what does that make me?

Word 1: I don't know.

Word 2: Oh, come on, THINK! A ball is a ...

Word 1: A ball is a... a... a *thing*. I got it! Well, my name is boy, so what does that make me?

Word 2: Don't you even know what you are? Boy makes you a person. Got it? Boy is a person.

Narrator: Just then, a word fell off the table onto the wooden floor.

Word 3: Ouch! What just smacked me?

Word 2: It was just another word. Who are you?

Word 3: Who are *you guys*?

Word 1 and 2: We're nouns.

Word 1: I'm a noun called boy. I'm a person.

Word 2: I'm a noun called ball. I'm a thing.

Word 3: Well, I'm called the floor. I'm a place, so I guess that makes me a noun, too.

Word 2: Hey, I know what we can do. Let's get together and make a sentence.

Word 1: What's a sentence?

Word 2: Oh no! Not again. You sure don't know much.

Word 3: I know, I know! A sentence is a group of words that says something.

Word 2: Yeah, that's true but is this a sentence? Floor ball boy.

Word 3: No, that's just a bunch of words. So, how do you make a sentence?

Word 2: Every complete sentence contains two parts: a subject and a predicate. **DON'T ASK** what a subject and predicate are! I'll tell you.

Word 3: Wait a minute! *I know* that a subject is what or whom the sentence is about.

Word 2: Good. And the predicate always contains a verb and tells something about the subject.

Word 1: So, can we put our names, ball, boy and floor, together and make a sentence?

Word 3: Yeah, we just need a verb.

Word 1: What's a...

Word 2: **DON'T ASK!** A verb is probably the most important part of a sentence. According to the rules, a verb tells something about the subject and expresses actions, events or states of being.

Word 1: Okay. I've got a verb. How about the verb "throw"? Would that work?

Word 2: Yes! Using our three names, boy, ball and floor, plus the verb throw, our sentence would be: "The boy throws the ball on the floor."

Word 3: Look at that sentence. It's pretty terrific! Our sentence has three nouns which name a person and place and a thing.

Word 1: Plus a verb! That's cool!