

WHAT IS A VERB?

A Parts of Speech play

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Setting: A grassy field

Characters:

Narrator

Verb 1

Verb 2

Word 1

Word 2

Narrator: Out on a grassy field sat the box of words. Suddenly a sharp wind blew, toppling the box over. Words spilled out, taking flight on the whirling breeze. Without warning, the wind stopped. Words fell onto each other and then the scuffle began. Words were all over the field, running, chasing, kicking, tagging – you name it – the words were alive with action!

Verb 1: Hey, cut that out! You're stomping on my head!

Verb 2: Why are you yelling at me? Look at what *you're* doing!

Verb 1: What do you mean? What I'm doing. Who are you to tell me what I'm doing?

Verb 2: I'm a verb.

Verb 1: A verb? What's that? Some kind of disease?

Verb 2: Oh, stop being so silly. I'm a verb and so are you.

Verb 1: So... What is a verb?

Verb 2: Take a look around the field. What's everyone doing?

Verb 1: Man, everyone is moving... like running, tagging, you know, action stuff.

Verb 2: Well, that's a good answer because a verb is a word that expresses action. In a sentence, a verb is the most important part!

Verb 1: That's cool! Hey, *I'm very important!* Woohoo!

Verb 2: Don't get too high and mighty.

Narrator: Across the field, a group of Words are marching in straight rows.

Verb 2: Don't look now. Here come the Nouns.

Verb 1: Let's get out of here!

Verb 2: NO! The Nouns need us. We verbs have things to say about the Nouns.

Verb 1: I don't get it. What do you mean?

Verb 2: Well, according to the rules, a verb says something about the subject of a sentence, which is a noun, and expresses actions, events or states of being. Come on and I'll show you. Hey, Nouns, come over here!

Noun 1: Boy, am I glad to see you.

Verb 2: Okay, what's your name?

Noun 1: (spooky voice) My name is Vampire!

Verb 1: That's great! My name is Bite. I'm a verb, so I think we go together.

Verb 2: That's right. Here's your sentence: The vampire bites! See, Verb 1, you are telling something about the subject, the Noun, which is Vampire.

Verb 1: Man, this is cool. The Vampire wouldn't be able to do anything without me! How about a Noun for you, Verb 2?

Noun 1: Hey, Noun 2, come over here. Tell them what your name is.

Noun 2: (loud voice revving up the engine) My name is Car!

Verb 2: WOW! That goes perfectly with my name, Crash. Get it? The car crashed!

Verb 1: This is great. Can we add more words to make our sentences more interesting?

Noun 1: Of course. How about: The vampire bites silly Sally's thumb.

Noun 2: And how about: The car crashed into big Bob's toe.

Verb 1: (laughing) Those sure are weird sentences, but now I see why the verb is so important.

Verb 2: Well, once you master these ideas, we'll move on to more complicated rules. Deal?

Verb 1: Done deal!