Nouns and action words for Grade 2

Visual learning guide - English · Grade 2

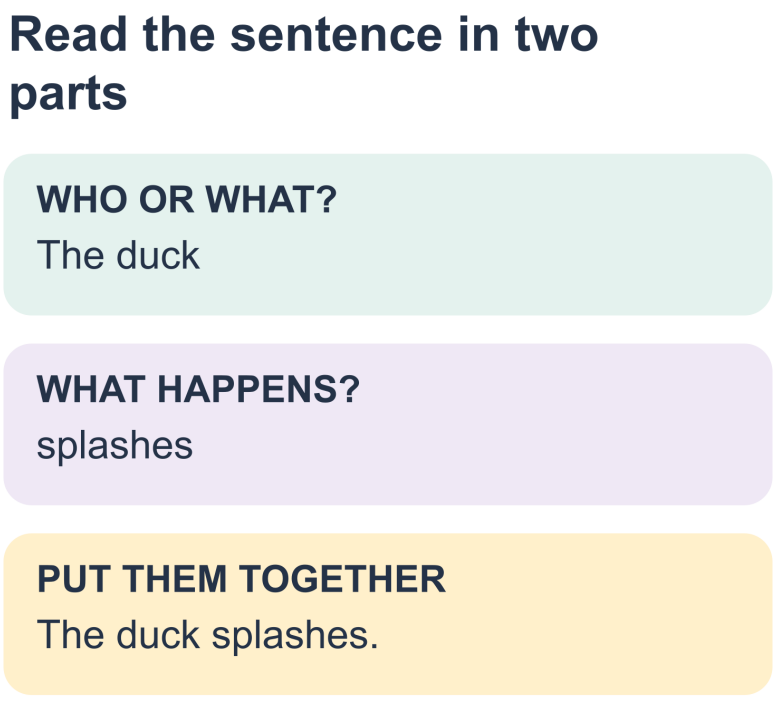
Read, point and act out the examples. Then build your own sentences and check 14 short practice tasks.

Start with the key idea

A noun is a naming word, such as duck, Asha, garden or ball. An action word tells what someone or something does: runs, draws, opens. Action words are verbs, but some verbs, such as is and has, do other jobs. Read the sentence to decide how a word is being used.

1. Start with a scene you can picture

Imagine a duck beside a puddle. Say "duck". That word names the animal. Now imagine it splashing: "The duck splashes." Splashes adds what is happening. Together the words tell a tiny story.



The duck answers who or what; splashes tells the action; together they form The duck splashes.

Point to each word as you read. Ask "Who or what is this about?" and then "What does it do?" In this sentence, duck and splashes answer those questions. Keep the small word the when you say the whole sentence.

Try a second scene: "Asha draws." Asha is the name of a person. Draws tells the action. You can mime drawing with a finger without using a pencil. Read the sentence again while you mime.

2. Find names for people, places, animals and things

Teacher names a person. Park names a place. Cat names an animal. Cup names a thing. These are familiar groups of nouns. A noun does not have to name something alive: table and stone are nouns too.

A particular name can also be a noun: Ravi, Delhi or the pet name Coco. At this stage, practise finding the naming word. You can learn the common and proper noun groups in the linked guide when these first examples feel comfortable.

Use real objects for a quick hunt. Name a chair, a book and a window. Then choose one noun and put it in a sentence. Naming a thing and saying a whole sentence are two different tasks; both are useful.

3. Find the action in a complete sentence

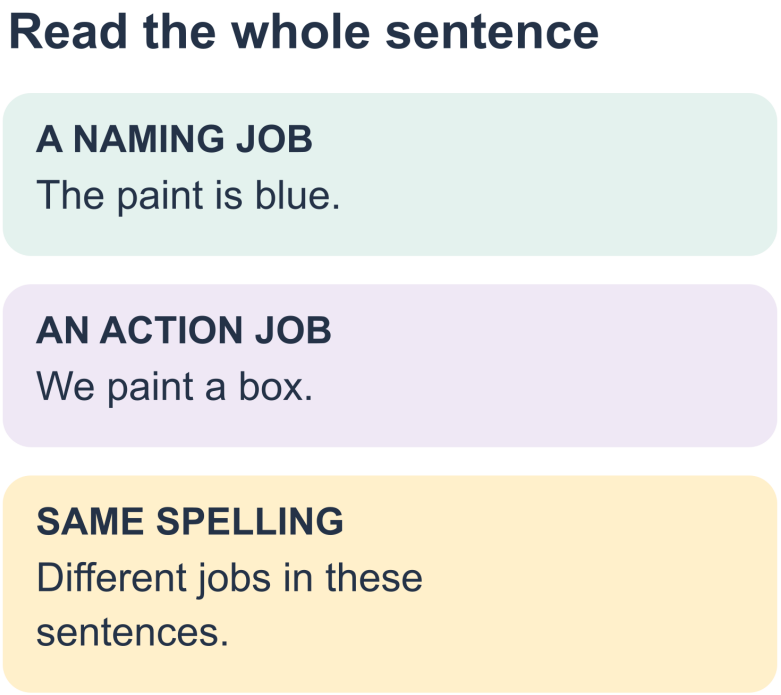
Read "The baby laughs." Laughs tells what the baby does. Read "The leaves fall." Fall tells what happens to the leaves. Actions can involve people, animals or things.

Some actions are easy to mime: jump, clap, stretch. Others are quiet: listen, think, notice. A word can be a verb even when you cannot see someone moving. Begin with clear examples before trying the quiet ones.

Keep the word as it appears in the sentence. In "Riya jumps", the action word is jumps, not just jump. In "The birds jumped", it is jumped. The ending can give information about who acts or when it happens.

4. A word can do different jobs

Compare "The paint is blue" with "We paint a box". In the first sentence, paint names the material. In the second, paint tells what we do. Reading the whole sentence helps you choose.



Paint names a material in The paint is blue and expresses an action in We paint a box.

Try "I have a brush" and "I brush my hair". Brush names a thing in the first sentence and tells an action in the second. Do not sort these words into permanent groups without a sentence.

For a first lesson, an adult can read the pair and ask the child to point to the object or mime the action. If a child hesitates, supply the scene. The purpose is to understand the word's job, not to guess a label.

5. Build a sentence, then check it

Choose a noun such as rabbit. Choose an action such as hops. Add the small opening word: "The rabbit hops." Begin with a capital and finish with a full stop. Read it aloud to check that it tells a complete idea.

Add one helpful detail: "The rabbit hops across the grass." Rabbit is still the animal being described, and hops is still the action. Grass is another noun. A sentence can contain more than one noun.

Change only the action: "The rabbit rests." Notice how the scene changes. Then change only the animal: "The frog hops." This makes sentence building a choice about meaning, rather than copying words into empty spaces.

6. Keep a place for verbs that do not show action

"The bag is heavy" is a complete sentence, although heavy is not an action. Is is the verb joining the bag to its description. Heavy tells what the bag is like. It should not be labelled an action word.

"Mina has a pencil" uses has to tell about possession. This guide begins with action verbs, but the wider verb family includes words such as is and has. Avoid telling a child that every verb must be something they can act out.

Finish with a drawing and two sentences. For example: "The dog runs. It is tired." Ask the learner to find the clear action runs. An adult can point out that is has a different job in the second sentence.

5 worked examples with reasoning

1. Find a noun and an action word: "The puppy shakes."

1. Puppy names the animal, so it is a noun.
2. Shakes tells what the puppy does, so it is an action verb.
3. Read the sentence while gently miming the action.

2. Find both nouns in "Ravi kicks the ball."

1. Ravi names the person; ball names the thing.
2. Kicks is the action.
3. There can be more than one noun in a sentence.

3. Build a sentence using bird and sings.

1. Add a small opening word: The bird sings.
2. Use a capital T and a full stop.
3. Bird names the animal; sings tells its action.

4. Explain brush in "I brush the dog."

1. Read the whole sentence before choosing.
2. Brush tells what I do here.
3. It is an action word in this sentence, although a brush can also name a thing.

5. Is heavy an action in "The box is heavy"?

1. Heavy describes the box.

2. Is is the verb in this sentence.

3. The sentence describes a state rather than showing an action such as lifts.

Use the ideas without looking at the notes

Draw a simple scene. Label one person, animal or thing, then write a sentence about what happens. Circle the naming word and underline the action. Explain each choice aloud.

Common questions

Are nouns only things we can touch?

No. These first examples use familiar objects and people, but nouns can also name ideas and feelings.

Is every verb an action word?

No. Is and has are verbs too, although they can describe a state or possession.

Can a sentence have two nouns?

Yes. In Ravi kicks the ball, Ravi and ball are both nouns.

Can the same word name a thing and express an action?

Yes. Brush and paint can do either job; the sentence tells you which.

Should a Grade 2 learner write every answer?

Spoken answers, pointing and acting can help first. Move to short written sentences when the learner is ready.

Connect your learning

- Move from naming words to particular names
- Give your sentences clear beginnings and endings
- Help a child turn a spoken idea into a sentence

Ask about guided English learning if your child needs help explaining these ideas.

About this guide

Original explanations, examples, diagrams and practice by BananaLearn. The grade label indicates the intended learning level; this is not an official textbook extract or exam paper.

Nouns and action words for Grade 2

Practice worksheet - English · Grade 2

Name: _____ Date: _____

Show your working. Answers and explanations follow on a separate page.

Read each sentence aloud. An adult may read the instructions. Say, point to or write your answer, then check the explanation.

Write an answer and your reason before opening the explanation. Check the reasoning as well as the final answer.

1. Name the animal noun in "The horse trots."

2. Find the action word in "Sara claps."

3. Find the two nouns in "Ali opens the door."

4. Find the place noun in "We visit the park."

5. Make a sentence with rabbit and jumps.

6. Complete "The baby ___" with an action.

7. Is paint a noun or an action word in "We paint the wall"?

8. Is paint a noun or an action word in "The paint is wet"?

Practice continued

9. Find the action word in "The frog jumped."

10. Add a place to "The children play."

11. Is red an action word in "The cup is red"?

12. Find the action word in "Asha listens."

13. Write a sentence about a toy with an action.

14. Why should you read a sentence before sorting brush?

Answers and explanations

Answer key - English · Grade 2

Nouns and action words for Grade 2

1. Horse.

It names the animal.

2. Claps.

It tells what Sara does.

3. Ali and door.

One names a person; the other names a thing.

4. Park.

It names the place we visit.

5. For example: The rabbit jumps.

Use the noun with the action, a capital and a full stop.

6. For example: The baby smiles.

Other sensible actions are possible.

7. An action word.

It tells what we do.

8. A noun.

It names the material being described.

9. Jumped.

Use the form actually written in the sentence.

10. For example: The children play in the garden.

The place adds detail while play keeps its action job.

11. No.

Red describes the cup; is is the verb.

12. Listens.

An action need not involve large visible movements.

13. For example: The toy car rolls.

Car names the thing; rolls tells what happens.

14. Brush can name a thing or tell an action.

A brush is an object; I brush shows an action.