

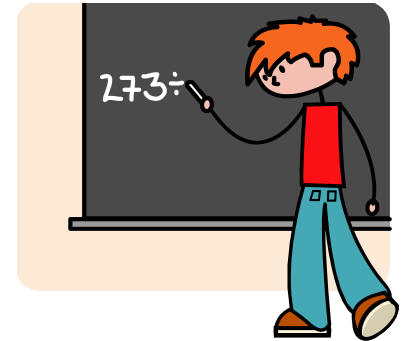
Teacher-of-English.com

Key Skills



Verbs

Verbs



Objectives:

- **Reading:** To learn how to recognise verbs
- **Writing:** To learn how to use verbs effectively to improve our sentences

What Are Verbs?

Verbs are words for an action - “a doing word”. The verb is the most important word in a sentence because without it that sentence would not make sense.

E.G: *Ben dashed home*



The verb ‘*dashed*’ tells the reader what the *subject* of the sentence (*Ben*) is doing.



Spot the Verb

Underline, circle or highlight the verb in the following sentences:

1. *Nat kissed his grandmother.*
2. *The flowers grew in the garden.*
3. *Daisy read her book.*
4. *Diane loves ice cream.*
5. *Joe scored a goal.*
6. *The cat caught the mouse.*

Check Your Understanding

How did you do? Give yourself one mark for each correctly identified verb then add up your score out of six.

1. Nat kissed his grandmother.
2. The flowers grew in the garden.
3. Daisy read her book.
4. Diane loves ice cream.
5. Joe scored a goal.
6. The cat caught the mouse.

Using Effective Verbs

On the next slide you will be asked to place verbs into a range of sentences.

- Before you begin, make sure you:



- Use a word which makes sense in the sentence
- Use better vocabulary. Avoid boring verbs: for example 'walk' may be replaced by 'stagger', 'said' could be substituted for 'screeched'.
- Use a verb that creates a specific image and a particular mood for the reader.

Using Effective Verbs

Place verbs into the following sentences:

1. *The sea _____ against the rocks.*
2. *Lucy _____ her toy out of the pram.*
3. *The gymnast _____ across the floor.*
4. *"Please, help me," I _____.*
5. *The striker _____ the ball past the goal keeper.*

Constructive Criticism



Speaking and Listening

Speaking: Read your sentences out to a partner or the rest of the class. Explain why you have chosen particular verbs, say how they improve the sentence.

Listening: Listen to the sentences being read out. Has the reader improved the sentences by adding verbs? If you think they have say why. How could they improve it further?

For whole class discussion choose another reader, for paired work swap roles.

Different Verbs

Verbs can also be a state of being. Such verbs derive from the verb *to be*. There are many forms such as: *am, are, is, was, were, will be, was being, and would have been*.

E.G: *Dad will be home soon*



The verb in this sentence is '*will be*'.



Verb Detective

Underline or highlight the verbs in the following paragraph:

Michael tip-toed silently into the abandoned cottage. It was dark so he reached for the light switch. He flicked the switch. Nothing. He heard a noise in the distance. A howl? A shiver ran through his body like an electric current. He groped his way to the window and drew back the tatty curtains. It was there staring back at him.



Verb Detective

Did you spot all the verbs?

Michael tip-toed silently into the abandoned cottage. It was dark so he reached for the light switch. He flicked the switch. Nothing. He heard a noise in the distance. A howl? A shiver ran through his body like an electric current. He groped his way to the window and drew back the tatty curtains. It was there staring back at him.