

Vocabulary Rules

Nouns

- A noun is a word used to name a person, place, thing or idea.
- Articles (a, an, the) always signal a noun
- Words ending in –tion or –sion are usually nouns
- *Test for nouns:* If you can put an article in front of the word, it is a noun. For example: The assailant, the billow, the contemporary, the idea.

Adjectives

- An adjective is a word used to modify a noun.
- Adjectives usually come before the noun it modifies, but not always.
- Often a phrase will look like this—*article adjective noun*. For example: The adverse wind, the disinterested student, the arid desert, the contemporary skyscraper.
- *Test for adjectives:* If you can use the same word to fill in both blanks of the following sentence, it is an adjective: The _____ *noun* is very _____. For example: The adverse wind is very adverse, the disinterested student is very disinterested, the arid desert is very arid, the contemporary skyscraper is very contemporary.

Verbs

- A verb is a word that expresses action or otherwise helps to make a statement.
- A helping verb always signals a verb
- Common helping verbs:

Do	Had	Could have
Did	Can	Will have been
Does	May	Might have
Am	Will be	Might have been
Are	Will have	Must have
Is	Has been	Must have been
Was	Can be	Would
Were	Can have	Would have
Have	Could be	Would have been
Has		

- *Test for verbs:* if you can put the word *To* in front of a word, it is a verb. For example: To constrain, to encompass, to depict, to confront.

JABBERWOCKY

Lewis Carroll

(from *Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There*, 1872)

`Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

"Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun
The frumious Bandersnatch!"

He took his vorpal sword in hand:
Long time the manxome foe he sought --
So rested he by the Tumtum tree,
And stood awhile in thought.

And, as in uffish thought he stood,
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,
Came whiffing through the tulgey wood,
And burbled as it came!

One, two! One, two! And through and through
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!
He left it dead, and with its head
He went galumphing back.

"And, has thou slain the Jabberwock?
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"
He chortled in his joy.

`Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.