### TEN-MINUTE GRAMMER

### **NOUNS AND VERBS**

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- 1. Students should understand that...
  - a. A noun is a person, place, thing, or idea.
  - b. Only nouns can be paired with an article like the, an, or a.
  - c. Only nouns can be owned or possessed by someone.
  - d. Verbs (and only verbs) can change to the past, present, or future tense.
- 2. Students should be able to...
  - a. Identify nouns in context and distinguish them from other parts of speech.
  - b. Identify verbs in context.
  - c. Change the tense of verbs to past, present, or future.

### LITERATURE:

This unit contains example selections from the novel *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman.

Identify the NOUN in each of the following sentences (person, place, thing, or idea—and pronouns don't count):

- 1. I caught a wild monkey yesterday.
- 2. I think he came from Madagascar.
- 3. He bit my hand when I tried to feed him.
- 4. Then I tried to feed him some bananas.
- 5. It turns out he's allergic to fruit.

### Identify the VERB in each of the following sentences (the action of the sentence):

- 6. I searched my house for something edible other than fruit.
- 7. Finally, I discovered some cold pizza in the fridge.
- 8. The monkey absolutely loved pizza—especially the pepperonis.
- 9. So the monkey and I became best friends.

### Wordplay - Just for fun!

➤ **EIGHT LETTERS**: Create as many words as you can using three or more of the letters below (at least one eight-letter word is possible):

RNTOAESC

Read the following sentences from <u>The Graveyard Book</u> by Neil Gaiman and change the underlined verbs into PAST TENSE (it happened in the past):

1. The man outside <u>is</u> hauling a heavy metal garbage can across the alley to the high brick wall that <u>runs</u> around that part of the graveyard.

### Change the underlined verb into PRESENT TENSE (it's happening right now):

- 2. The man Jack thought.
- 3. The stranger <u>unlocked</u> the side gate.

### Change the underlined verb into FUTURE TENSE (it will happen later):

- 4. They <u>declared</u> this place an official nature reserve.
- 5. The stranger <u>reached</u> them as silently as the fog itself, and he <u>watched</u> the proceedings unfold from the shadows.

Identify which of the underlined words in this excerpt from The Graveyard Book are VERBS (Remember: only verbs can change tense—use that to check your answers.)

6. Scarlett was carrying a large picture book; she sat next to her mother on the green bench near the gates, and she read her book while her mother inspected an educational supplement.

### Wordplay - Just for fun!

> **DESCRAMBLER**: Try to sort out the five scrambled words below:

JZAZ SIDBR BORCNA EPANTUS OOCBKKOO

In your own words...

- 1. What is a noun?
- 2. What is a verb?

Nouns can be identified by asking the following questions—if the answer is YES to any of them, you've got a NOUN:

- Is it a person, place, thing, or idea?
- Does it make sense to say "The (word) ?"
- Can it belong to someone—could you own it?

Identify which of the underlined words in this excerpt from <a href="The Graveyard Book">The Graveyard Book</a> are NOUNS (use the questions above to check your answers.)

3. There were <u>bones</u> on the ground, very old bones <u>indeed</u>, although <u>below</u> where the <u>steps</u> entered the room <u>Bod</u> could see a <u>crumpled</u> corpse, dressed in the <u>remains</u> of a long brown <u>coat</u>.

### General Grammar Review—Choose the correct homophone in the following sentences:

- 4. I can't figure out (where / wear / were) I left my shoes.
- 5. Don't forget (your / you're) pants—that would be embarrassing.

### Wordplay - Just for fun!

FOUR-LETTER WORDS: Take the four-letter word below and change one letter to make a new four-letter word (keep it clean!) Then take that word and change one letter to make a new word. Then take that word and... You get the picture.

BOTH

### Read the excerpt from <u>The Graveyard Book</u> by Neil Gaiman and then answer the following questions:

- (a) Bod endured the lesson. (b) When Silas taught him things, it was interesting. (c) Much of the time, Bod didn't realize he had been taught anything at all. (d) Miss Lupescu taught in lists, and Bod could not see the point to it.
  - 1. In sentence (a), is the word "endured" a noun or a verb?
  - 2. Sentence (b) has two verbs; what are they?
  - 3. In sentence (c), is the word "time" a noun or a verb?
  - 4. Sentence (d) has four nouns; what are they?

### Using the proper proofreading marks, correct the six errors in this excerpt:

bod fell, tumbling threw the darkness like a lump of marble, two startled to be scared, wondering how deep the whole beneath that grave could possibly be when two strong hands caught beneath him the armpits.

### Wordplay - Just for fun!

> VOWEL COMBINATOR: The vowel combination "ai" almost always sounds like the hard "A" in "play." List as many words as you can that contain this vowel combo.

### **REVIEW FOR TODAY'S QUIZ:**

- 1. What is a noun?
- 2. What is a verb?
- 3. How can changing a word's tense help you identify if it's a verb?
- 4. What questions can you ask yourself to be sure if a word is a noun?
- 5. Identify the nouns and verbs in the following sentence:
  - a. We usually eat turkey and potatoes when my family gathers for the holidays. The food is always delicious.

### TEN-MINUTE GRAMMAR



NOUNS AND VERBS

REMEMBER: Nouns can be identified by asking the following questions:

- A. Is it a person, place, thing, or idea?
- B. Does it make sense to say "The?"
- C. Can it belong to someone?

Identify which of the underlined words in these sentences are NOUNS. Then tell which of the above questions best helps you decide (A, B, or C.)

1. The <u>rain</u> started at nightfall, just <u>after</u> we arrived at our <u>home</u>. It had taken us twelve <u>hours</u> to drive the beat up <u>mini-van</u> back from <u>Los</u> <u>Angeles</u>, and we were all <u>ready</u> for bed.

REMEMBER: Only verbs can change tenses (past, present, future).

Identify which of the underlined words in these sentences are VERBS. Then change the verb to a different tense to check your answer (write down both the original and tense-changed verb.)

2. Lightning <u>crackled</u> in the distance. At about <u>midnight</u>, a power line up the road <u>exploded</u>, struck by lightning, and our lights all <u>went</u> out. As <u>exhausted</u> as we were, we reluctantly <u>hunted</u> for flashlights and candles before going <u>to bed</u>.

### Wordplay - Just for fun!

➤ CATALOGUE CREATOR: The suffix "-ism" means "doctrine or system of belief" and sounds like "iz-um." How many words can you list that contain this suffix?

### Read the excerpt from <u>The Graveyard Book</u> by Neil Gaiman and then answer the following questions:

- (a) Up ahead of them, Bod saw a statue swing up, and another two creatures came catapulting out into this crimson-skied world, just like the ones that carried Bod. (b) One wore a raggedy silken gown that looked like it had once been white, the other wore a stained grey suit too large for it, the sleeves of which were shredded into shadowy tatters.
  - 1. In sentence (a), is the word "world" a noun?
  - 2. In sentence (a), which of the following words is a verb: creatures came catapulting out? (Use the tense-change test.)
  - 3. In sentence (b), is the word "stained" a verb?
  - 4. Identify all the nouns in sentence (b)—there are six.

### Using the proper proofreading marks, correct the six errors in this excerpt:

One of the winged beasts Dropped toward them, circled lower and Bod maid the call again until it were stifled by hard hands clamping, over his mouth

### Wordplay - Just for fun!

FIXER-ROOTER: How many words can you think of that have the same prefix, suffix, or root as the multisyllabic word below?

### COSMOPOLITANISM

(an ideology that all humans belong to a single community)

### TEN-MINUTE GRAMMAR



nouns and verbs

Read the excerpt from <u>The Graveyard Book</u> by Neil Gaiman and then answer the following questions:

- (a) Bod was unimpressed by the ghouls' bravery or their wisdom. (b) They were strong, though, and inhumanly fast, and he was in the center of a troupe of them. (c) Making a break for it would have been impossible. (d) They would be able to catch up with him before he could cover a dozen yards.
  - 1. In sentence (a), what two clues tell us that there are several ghouls, not just one?
  - 2. Is the word "bravery" in sentence (a) a noun, verb, or adjective?
  - 3. Find the two nouns in sentence (b).
  - 4. Sentence (b) has two verbs; what are they?
  - 5. In sentence (c), is the word "making" acting as a verb? (Use the tense-change test.)
  - 6. Sentence (c) has only one noun; what is it?
  - 7. In sentence (d), which of these words is a noun: "cover a dozen yards?"

### Wordplay - Just for fun!

> ANAGRAM: Rearrange the letters in the nonsense phrase below to create new words that actually make sense.

SAD MUG FRONT

(Hint: speeding ticket)

### Day Four

### NOUNS AND VERBS

### Name:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

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Day Six

### NOUNS AND VERBS

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NOUNS AND VERBS

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- 2.
- 3.
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- 3.
- 4.

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### NOUNS AND VERBS

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- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

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### SEES ON SNOON

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7
5
Q,
7

### PERIOD:

# Match the following terms with the correct definition:

- Noun
- **2.** Verb
- A. A word that shows action or a state of being
- **B.** The first word in a sentence
- C. A vivid description
- D. A person, place, thing, or idea

### Which word is a noun in the following sentence?

- **3.** Neil Gaiman published the children's fantasy novel *The Graveyard Book* in 2008.
- A. published
- B. fantasy
- **C.** novel
- **4.** The book tells about the childhood of Nobody Owens, who is raised by ghosts after his parents are murdered.
- A. childhood
- B. murdered
- C. raised

# Underline the FIVE nouns in the following sentences:

- **5.** Gaiman patterned his story after *The Jungle Book*, the famous work of Rudyard Kipling.
- **6.** The book begins with the murder of a young family by a man named Jack.



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### NAME:

### PERIOD:

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PAGE

NOUNS AND VERBS

### Which word is a verb in the following sentence?

- **7.** The main character escapes the man Jack's knife by climbing out of his crib and hiding in a graveyard.
- A. knife
- B. escapes
- **C.** out
- **8.** Mr. and Mrs. Owens, a pair of ghosts, discover the baby and decide to keep him and raise him as their own.
- A. discover
- **B.** pair
- C. own

# Underline the TWO verbs in the following sentences:

- **9.** The man Jack follows the toddler into the graveyard, but he eventually loses the trail.
- 10. Later, as a boy, Nobody Owens, also known as Bod, befriends a girl named Scarlett Perkins; she believes Bod is her imaginary friend.

Change the verbs in the following sentence to show that they can be in past, present, or future tense:

Years **pass** by, but the man Jack **will stop** at nothing to find the boy he **failed** to kill.

Future		will stop	
Present	pass		
Past			failed
	<b>:</b>	12.	

NOONS GND VERRS

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pass	will stop	
		failed
11.	12.	<u>13</u> .

### TEN-MINUTE GRAMAR



NAME: PERIOD:

A noun is a person, place, thing, or idea. People, places, and things are fairly easy to recognize.

In the following paragraph, underline all the obvious people, places, and things (there are at least 15 nouns—there are other nouns here that are not obviously people, places, or things, but you can ignore those for now):

Neil Gaiman was born in Hampshire, UK, and now lives in the United States near Minneapolis.

As a child he discovered his love of books, reading, and stories, devouring the works of C.S.

Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, James Branch Cabell, Edgar Allan Poe, Michael Moorcock, Ursula K.

LeGuin, Gene Wolfe, and G.K. Chesterton.

Some nouns (usually ideas or actions that act as nouns in the sentence instead of verbs) are a little harder to pick out. There are several simple tests that can help you identify nouns.

#1 – The ARTICLE TEST: If you can put A, An, or The in front of a word and it makes sense, that word is a noun. Bug if you see "a hairy dog," don't get confused and think "hairy" is a noun because it comes after "a." You didn't see "a hairy," you saw "a dog." So "dog" is the noun.

In the following paragraph, decide whether each underlined word is a noun or not by asking yourself if it can be paired with A, An, or The (write YES or NO under each word):

A <u>self-described</u> "feral <u>child</u> who was raised in <u>libraries</u>," Gaiman <u>credits</u> librarians with fostering a life-long <u>love</u> of reading: "I <u>wouldn't</u> be who I am <u>without</u> libraries. I was the <u>sort</u> of <u>kid</u> who devoured <u>books</u>, and my <u>happiest times</u> as a <u>boy</u> were when I <u>persuaded</u> my <u>parents</u> to drop me off in the <u>local library</u> on their <u>way</u> to work, and I spent the <u>day</u> there. I discovered that librarians actually want to help you: they taught me about interlibrary loans."

### #2 - The POSSESSIVE TEST: If you can possess or own something, it's a noun.

In the following paragraph, the possessive words are all underlined. Circle the noun that each possessive word goes with):

Gaiman began <u>his</u> writing career in England as a journalist. <u>His</u> first book was a Duran Duran biography, and <u>his</u> second was a biography of Douglas Adams, 'Don't Panic: The Official Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy Companion.' Gaiman describes <u>his</u> early writing: "I was very, very good at taking a voice that already existed and parodying or pastiching it." <u>Gaiman's</u> books are genre works that refuse to remain true to <u>their</u> genres.

### #3 - The ADJECTIVE TEST: If you can put an adjective (like "awesome") before a word, that word is a noun.

In the following paragraph, decide whether each underlined word is a noun or not by describing it with the word "awesome" (write YES or NO under each word):

Gothic horror was out of <u>fashion</u> in the early 1990s <u>when</u> Gaiman started his <u>work</u> on 'Coraline' (2002). <u>Originally</u> considered too frightening for <u>children</u>, 'Coraline' went on to <u>win</u> the British Science Fiction Award, the Hugo, the Nebula, the Bram Stoker, and more.

### Finally, titles or names of specific people, places, or things are proper nouns. So the "Statue of Liberty" is a proper noun, even though "of" isn't a noun.

In the following paragraph, underline all the proper nouns (there are 10 in all):

First published in the United Kingdom at the end of 2008, *The Graveyard Book* has won the UK's Booktrust Prize for Teenage Fiction and the Newbery Medal, the highest honor given in US children's literature, as well as the Locus Young Adult Award and the Hugo Best Novel Prize. The awarding of the 2010 UK CILIP Carnegie Medal makes Neil Gaiman the first author ever to win both the Newbery Medal and the Carnegie Medal with the same book.

(All text examples come from the "Biography" page at www.neilgaiman.com.)

NAME: PERIOD:

A verb is a word that shows action or a state of being. A verb can change tenses, meaning that the action or state of being can take place in the past, present, or future. Verbs are the only words that can do this, so it makes it easy to recognize them.

In each of the following sentences, the verbs are underlined. Verify that each underlined word is a verb by changing its tense. (Hint: future tense verbs use the helping verb "will," as in "I will go to the store tomorrow.")

Present	Future	
		_ When Coraline steps through a door to find another house
		_ strangely similar to her own (only better), things <b>seem</b>
		$\underline{}$ marvelous. But there $\underline{\textbf{is}}$ another mother there, and another
		father, and they <u>want</u> her to stay and be their little girl.
		Coraline will have to fight with all her wits and courage if
		she <b>hopes</b> to save herself and return to her ordinary life.
	Present	Present Future

Now you identify the verb. Underline the verb in each sentence. Then check your answer by changing its tense.

Past Present Future

Coraline's Other Mother looks quite a bit like her own mother -- except for the long spindly fingers and shiny black button eyes—but it is her disposition that is most remarkable. Where her real mother seemed too busy for Coraline, her Other Mother is attentive and affectionate. She cooks delicious meals, showers the little girl with praise, and asks Coraline to stay with her forever.

The verbs we've been looking at so far have all been simple, one-word verbs. But some verbs are more complicated than that. When you have a verb phrase (a main verb one or more helping verbs), the entire phrase can be replaced by a single present- or past-tensed verb.

	wing sentences, the verb phrase is underlined. Verify that it is a verb phrase by with a single verb (in present or past tense):
	The well <b>had been</b> covered up by wooden boards, to stop anyone falling in.
	_ He told Coraline that he <b>had been training</b> a mouse circus.
<b>written</b> for	_ "The mice are not yet ready and rehearsed. Also, they refuse to play the songs I <u>have</u> them."
other animal	_ She watched animals, birds and insects which disguised themselves as leaves or twigs or ls to escape from things that <b>could hurt</b> them.
	Once upon a time Miss Spink and Miss Forcible must have been actresses.
•	dentify the verb phrase. Underline the verb phrase in each sentence. Then check er by replacing it with a single verb (in present or past tense):  _ She thought the old man was making it up.
	_ It wasn't the kind of rain you could go out in.
ground, and	_ It must have been a very old house—it had an attic under the roof, a cellar under the an overgrown garden with huge old trees in it.
white mice v	_ "All the songs I have been writing for the mice to play go oompah oompah. But the will only play toodle oodle, like that."
her.	_ There was also a haughty black cat, who would sit on walls and tree stumps and watch

(Example sentences on first page taken from the "Neil's Work" page at <a href="https://www.neilgaiman.com">www.neilgaiman.com</a> and the "Books" page at <a href="https://www.mousecircus.com">www.mousecircus.com</a>. Example sentences from second page taken from <a href="https://www.mousecircus.com">Coraline</a> by Neil Gaiman.)