

## Know Your Building Materials!

# Verbs

A **verb** is usually an action word.

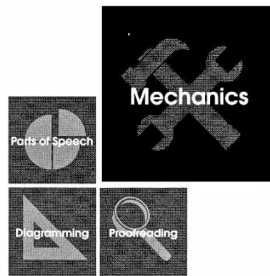
Sometimes action verbs work alone. (The bird **flies**.) Sometimes action verbs need helpers. (It **will fly**.) Some common **helping** verbs are the following: **is, am, are, was, were, did, do, could, might, can, may**.

Identify the word in **boldface** as an action verb (**AV**) or a helping verb (**HV**).

1. The girl **jumped** in the lake.
2. She **was** swimming to cool off.
3. The lake **may** be freezing cold at this time of year.
4. Tomorrow, we **might** go to an amusement park.
5. I **dislike** roller coasters intensely.
6. My brother and I will **avoid** them if we can.

Fill in the blanks.

A **noun** is a word that names a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
or \_\_\_\_\_.



## Good Mechanics Are Hard to Find

# Singular and Plural Nouns

A **singular** noun names one person, place, or thing (**hat**). A **plural** noun names more than one person, place, or thing (**hats**).

**Rules:** To change most nouns from singular to plural, just add **s** (bat, bats).

To nouns ending in **sh, ch, s, x**, add **es** (fish, fishes).

To nouns ending in **y after a vowel**, add **s** (monkey, monkeys).

To nouns ending in **y after a consonant**, drop the y and add **ies** (sky, skies).

To nouns ending in **o after a vowel**, add **s** (ratio, ratios).

To nouns ending in **o after a consonant**, add **es** (hero, heroes).

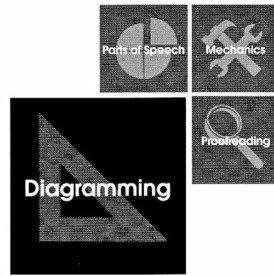
Words that refer to music are exceptions (solo, solos).

To nouns ending in **f or fe**, change the f or fe to **ves** (half, halves).

Some nouns completely change spelling (tooth, teeth).

*Change these singular nouns to plural nouns.*

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. fox _____    | 6. child _____ |
| 2. woman _____  | 7. piano _____ |
| 3. fly _____    | 8. rodeo _____ |
| 4. tomato _____ | 9. ball _____  |
| 5. knife _____  | 10. key _____  |



## Understand the Structure

# More Sentence Subjects

The subject of a sentence is what or who is being talked about.

My **nose** is upset.

In a **question**, the subject often follows the verb.

What is that awful **odor**?

In a **command**, the subject is understood but not stated.

**(You)** Find that rotten food!

In sentences starting with **There is (are)** and **Here is (are)**, the subject follows the verb.

Here is the **cause** of the stench.

Don't be fooled by possessive words describing the subject.

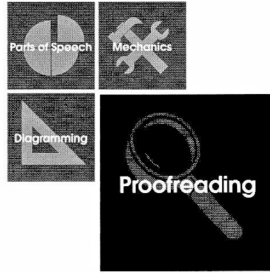
Tom's **sneakers** are the guilty ones.

*Underline the subject in each sentence. If it is understood, write it in parentheses.*

1. The tiger ate the elephant.
2. After his huge meal, the tiger's stomach began to ache.
3. What was the tiger thinking when he ate that?
4. There is a limit to what the stomach can take.
5. Most tigers know better than to overeat.
6. From now on, don't eat so much!

*Fill in the blank*

A \_\_\_\_\_ is a word that names a person, place, or thing.



## Careless Mistakes Can Cause Big Problems!

# Proofreading

*Correct the mistakes in the sentences below. Each line contains one mistake.*

My friend Julie and i like to visit the candy store at the mall.

I like chocolate candys best, but Julie prefers the jellybeans. Of course, we both like the fried potatos even more, and sometimes after the candy stor, we visit the food court. Then we have upset stomachs for the rest of the day