



Noun - Verb Word Pairs



This **PDF E-guide** contains the text from my blog post about English words that have a noun form and a verb form. Both forms have the same spelling but the pronunciation is different for each version.

Example

conduct

noun - CONduct - a person's behavior in a particular place or in a particular situation

verb - conDUCT - to organize and/or do a particular activity

- Here is a simple way to tell if a word is in its noun form or verb form.

Nouns often follow an article (a, an, the) or the possessive form of a noun or pronoun. (my, his/her, its, John's, etc.)

"Our school has **a** strict code of *conduct*."

Verbs will be conjugated (past, present, future, continuous, etc.) or be in the infinitive form (to + verb)

"My university **will conduct** a survey on Friday."

"My university **is going to conduct** a survey on Friday."

In most cases, the difference is the word stress. The noun form will stress a different syllable of the word than the verb form. There are a few cases where the word ends with the letters -ATE, the sound of these letters will change, not the stress.

associate

noun - asso-SHE-IT ~ a person that you work with, do business with or spend a lot of time with

verb - asso-SHE-ATE ~ ① to make a connection between people or things in your mind
② to spend time with someone, especially a person or people that someone else does not approve of

Vocabulary LIST

List is an example of a word with both a noun and a verb form, but the pronunciation is the same for both versions.

list **noun** a series of names, items, figures, etc., especially when they are written or printed

list **verb** ① list something to write a list of things in a particular order

② list somebody/something to mention or include someone or something in a list

The word *list* has only one syllable. (Learn more about syllables [HERE](#)) All of the words on this list have two or more syllables, with one exception, (can you find it?) and their pronunciation changes between the noun form and the verb form.

Listen to the correct pronunciation with natural example sentences below. The word definitions used above are from Oxford learner's dictionaries. Links to the definitions are beside each word. **N** for the noun definition and **V** for the verb definition.

associate [N](#) [V](#)

Noun - Peter is a business associate of my father. [asso-SHE-IT] *Peter works with my dad.*

Verb - I like to associate new grammar that I learn with my own real experiences, it's easier to remember. [asso-SHE-ATE] *I connect new grammar to a real experience in my mind.*

I try not to associate with angry or negative people. [asso-SHE-ATE] *I don't like to spend time with negative people.*

compound [N](#) [V](#)

Noun - They are building a large prison compound in my hometown. [COMcompound] *They are building a complex that will be surrounded by a wall.*

Verb - Cutting the budget will not solve anything. Budget cuts will only compound our problems. [comPOUND] *Reducing the budget will make things worse.*

conduct [N](#) [V](#)

Noun - Our school has a strict code of conduct. [CONduct] *We are told how to behave when we are at school.*

Verb - My university will conduct a survey on Friday. They want to know how most students get to school. [conDUCT] *My university will organize a survey and ask the students some questions.*

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conflict N V

Noun - Sadly there are many conflicts in the world right now. [CONflict] *Many places are having strong disagreements.*

Verb - My experiences in Japan conflict with some of the stories I was told before I came. [conFLICT] *The stories I was told are the opposite of my experience.*
(I was told is the passive voice - learn this grammar [HERE](#))

contest N V

Noun - I entered a break dancing contest when I was 12. [CONtest] *I entered a break dancing competition when I was 12.*

Verb - After Donald passed away his youngest son contested his will. [conTEST] *Donald's youngest son opposed the will because he felt it was wrong.*

contract N V

Noun - I just signed a new 3-year contract with the high school where I teach English. [CONtract] *I have an official 3-year agreement to work at the school.*

Verb - My nephew was contracted to a professional hockey team in Canada. [conTRACT] *My nephew has made an official agreement to play hockey for a pro team.*

contrast N V

Noun - There is a big contrast between the customer service in Japan and the service I receive in Canada. [CONtrast] *There is a big difference between the customer service at stores in these 2 countries.*

Verb - I like to contrast American movies with Japanese movies. The style and pace are quite different. [conTRAST] *I like to compare the 2 movie styles and show how they are different.*

decrease N V

Noun - There was a decrease in school applications last year. [DEcrease] *The number of applications was reduced.*

Verb - The number of students at my school decreased last year. [deCREASE] *The student population became smaller.*

delegate N V

Noun - The meeting was attended by delegates from over 100 countries. [DELagate] *People who were chosen to represent their countries attended the meeting.*

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Verb - I'm so busy at work. I think I will delegate some tasks to my assistant.
[deLAGATE] *I will give part of my work to my assistant.*

desert [N](#) [V](#)

Noun - If you travel in the desert you should bring lots of water. [DEZert] *If you travel in a dry area with little water, you should bring your own.*

Verb - I was left in the mall by myself. My friends deserted me. [deZERT] *My friends left me by myself in the mall.*

detail [N](#) [V](#)

Noun - Édouard Manet's paintings are beautiful, he pays attention to every detail.
[DEtail] *Manet pays attention to even the small points or features in his paintings.*

Verb - This brochure details all the features of the car. [deTAIL] *This brochure gives a list of facts and information about this car.*

discount [N](#) [V](#)

Noun - If I buy one jacket I can get a 30% discount on a second jacket. [DIScount] *If I buy 2 jackets there will be a 30% price reduction on the second one.*

Verb - Stores usually discount their clothes at the end of the season. [disCOUNT] *They take some money off the usual price.*

escort [N](#) [V](#)

Noun - When leaders travel to other countries they often have police escorts. [EScort] *World leaders have local police travel with them to protect them.*

Verb - It's getting dark, please let me escort you home. [esCORT] *Let me take you home so you are not alone, to make sure you are safe.*

export [N](#) [V](#)

Noun - Lumber is one of Canada's main exports. [EXport] *Lumber is one of the main goods that it sells to other countries.*

Verb - Canada exports lots of lumber and oil to the United States. [exPORT] *Canada sells some of its resources to America.*

impact [N](#) [V](#)

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Noun - Many people are climbing Mt. Everest and this has had a serious impact on the environment of Nepal. [IMpact] *Many tourists come to climb the mountain. This has had a powerful effect on the environment.*

Verb - The value of the Canadian dollar impacts businesses that export goods. [imPACT] *The value of the Canadian dollar affects companies that sell goods to other countries.*

import N V

Noun - This store sells lots of exotic furniture and other imports from overseas. [IMport] *The store sells furniture and other things that came from other countries.*

Verb - I was surprised to learn that America imports more than half of its oil from Canada! [imPORT] *More than half of the United States' oil is brought in from Canada.*

insult N V

Noun - Mike said my suit looks cheap. That's an insult! [INsult] *Mike made a remark that was trying to offend me.*

Verb - Mike insulted my suit his morning! What a jerk! [inSULT] *Mike's comment about my suit offended me.*

increase N V

Noun - There has been an increase in blood donations at the clinic. People want to help after the hurricane. [INcrease] *There was a rise in the number of people who donated blood after the hurricane.*

Verb - I really want to find a girlfriend. If I get out more and try new things I will increase my chances of meeting a nice girl. [inCREASE] *If I go out and meet more people the chance that I will meet a nice girl becomes greater.*

insert N V

Noun - I bought some inserts for my shoes. They're soft and make it easier to walk. [INsert] *I bought a thin cushion to put inside my shoes.*

Verb - I inserted \$2.00 in the vending machine but it didn't give me my drink! [inSERT] *I put \$2.00 into the money slot of the vending machine but I didn't get a drink.*

invite N V

Noun - I didn't get an invite to Craig's party. Maybe he is mad at me. [INvite] *I didn't get a spoken or written request to come to Craig's party.*

Verb - Craig invited many people to his party. But not me. [inVITE] *Craig asked many people to come to his party, but he didn't ask me.*

insert N V

misprint [N](#) [V](#)

Noun - The ad in the newspaper says the shoes are \$1000.00, but I think it's a misprint. [MISprint] *There is a mistake in the (printed) advertisement.*

Verb - The printing company misprinted the ad. [misPRINT] *The company printed the ad incorrectly.*

object [N](#) [V](#) ~ there are 4 uses of the NOUN object. Click the N to see them all!

Noun - A basic English sentence has a subject, a verb, and an object. [OBject] *One use for the noun object is the thing in a sentence (also a noun) that is affected by the verb of the sentence.*

Verb - I object to your question, it's not relevant to the discussion. [obJECT] *I disagree with your question, it is not related to what we are talking about.*

permit [N](#) [V](#)

Noun - You can't camp here without a permit from the park. [PERmit] *You need an official document to be allowed to camp here.*

Verb - The park rangers don't permit fires here. [perMIT] *Fires are not allowed in the forest.*

present [N](#) [V](#)

Noun - Happy birthday! I bought you a present! [PREsent] *I bought a gift for you.*

Verb - They will present their findings tomorrow at the meeting. [preSENT] *The company will show us what they found for us to consider.*

produce [N](#) [V](#)

Noun - It's better to buy local produce, imported produce is not as fresh. [PROduce] *It is better to buy fruits and vegetables grown on farms close to where you live.*

Verb - Our goal is to produce more solar batteries than any other company in the area. [proDUCE] *Our goal is to make more solar batteries than anyone else in the area.*

project [N](#) [V](#)

Noun - I'm working on a project for school. It's about renewable energy. [PROject] *I am making a piece of work involving careful study of a subject.*

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Verb - Unemployment is projected to fall next year. That's good news. [proJECT]

protest N V

Noun - There was a large protest in front of the government office. [PROtest] *People gathered in a group to express their strong disagreement with the government.*

Verb - My class protested loudly when the teacher gave us 6 pages of summer homework. [proTEST] *My class told the teacher that they don't like the summer homework that he gave us.*

rebel N V

Noun - Jams Dean was a popular actor in the 1950s. He had the image of a rebel. [REbel] *The characters he played didn't like rules or authority.*

Verb - Teenagers often rebel against their parents. [reBEL] *Teenagers often fight against their parents' rules.*

refund N V

Noun - The rain shoes I bought leaked! I took them back to the store and demanded a refund. [REfund] *I strongly asked for the money back that I paid for the rain shoes. I brought the leaky shoes back to the store.*

Verb - The store apologized and refunded my money. [reFUND] *The store returned the money I paid for the rain shoes.*

reject N V

Noun - The rain shoes were rejects and shouldn't have been at the store. [REject] *The shoes couldn't be used and should not have been sold.*

Verb - My idea for the new school mascot was rejected by the students. [reJECT] *My idea was not accepted.*

subject N V

Noun - A basic English sentence has a subject, a verb, and an object. [SUBject] *In English grammar a subject is a noun, noun phrase, or pronoun representing the person or thing that performs the action of the verb, about which something is stated, or, in a passive sentence, that is affected by the action of the verb.*

Verb - At karaoke last night I subjected everyone to my terrible singing. [subJECT] *People were forced to listen to my terrible singing.*

survey N V

Noun - My university will conduct a survey on Friday. They want to know how most students get to school. [SURvey] *The did an investigation of how students get to school by asking questions.*

Verb - The government surveyed the land so they could make a map of the area. [surVEY] *The government looked at the land carefully to get an impression of it.*

update N V

Noun - Will it rain tomorrow? I'll check the weather app on my smartphone for an update. [UPdate] *I will check my weather app for the most recent information about the weather.*

Verb - I have to update the software on my smartphone. I hope it makes my phone faster. [upDATE] *I have to make my software more modern by getting the newest version.*

upgrade N V

Noun - On my flight to Canada I was given an upgrade to first-class. [UPgrade] *I was given a seat of better quality.*

Verb - The airline upgraded me to first-class. [upGRADE] *The airline moved me to a better seat.*

upset N V

Noun - No one thought we would win the game because the other team was too strong, but we beat them easily. It was a total upset. [UPset] *We beat the team that was expected to beat us.*

Verb - Brenda has been crying all morning. I think something upset her. [upSET] *Something happened to Brenda to make her unhappy.*

Four one-syllable Verb and Noun pairs with different pronunciations

use N V

Noun - In Tokyo, I have no use for a car. Public transportation is awesome. [YOU•S] *For me a car has no purpose in Tokyo. I don't need one because public transportation is very convenient.*

Verb - If I need a car I can use my friend Kentaro's, he said I can borrow it anytime. [YUUZ]

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I can do something {in this case DRIVE my friend Kentaro's car} anytime. (Learn how to use the verbs LEND and BORROW [HERE](#))

house **N V**

Noun – I just bought a new **house**. [HAUS] *I just bought a new building to live in.*

Verb – People whose homes were flooded were temporarily **housed** in community centers. [HOWZ] *People whose homes were affected by the flood were given a place to live.*

lead **N V**

Noun – Exposure to **lead** can make you sick. [LED] *Lead is a chemical element and a heavy grey metal.*

Verb – We hired a tour guide to **lead** us around Singapore. [LEED] *A tour guide showed us around Singapore.*

wind **N V**

Noun – The **wind** was strong today. It was perfect for sailing. [WIHND] *The air was moving quickly today.*

Verb – I have to **wind** my watch all the time. It's a pain. [WAIND] *I have to turn the small gear on the side of my watch to make it work.*

One-syllable Verb and Noun pairs – List

One-syllable words rarely change sounds between the verb and noun forms, but there are a few exceptions. Below is a list of 150 common one-syllable Verb and Noun pairs, 4 word pairs with different pronunciation, and a list of some uncommon word pairs that you probably didn't know.

- *The noun and verb forms are often related in meaning. *For example ACHE and JUICE.*

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- There are some examples where the meaning is totally different. The only thing that is the same is the spelling. *For example BOWL and FLY.

*This is not a complete list, there are many one-syllable verb and noun pairs. I tried to include **the most common words in this list with a verb and a noun form.***

ache	frame	nail	scale
act	front	nap	set
age	grid	need	shave
air	glaze	nest	shop
back	glow	nurse	show
bat	grill	oil	ship
belt	grow	ooze	sign
bet	growl	pain	ski
bite	grunt	paint	sleep
bowl	guard	park	smoke
call	guess	play	snow
block	hail	pat	spill
book	hand	pen	spray
box	harm	pet	spring
brush	help	pick	stamp
buzz	hit	pin	stand
dance	hope	pitch	strike
dare	hug	plan	string
dip	itch	plug	sweat
dot	jam	pose	tack
drive	judge	press	talk
drum	juice	price	tax
dye	jump	punch	team
end	kick	quack	test
face	kiss	quilt	tie
fall	lace	quote	tip
fan	lap	race	toast
feast	laugh	rain	train
fence	lie	raise	trap
fight	limp	rat	trip
file	link	rise	view
fire	list	rock	visit
fish	look	rope	vote
flame	love	run	walk
flash	mark	rust	work
flow	match	rest	wrap
fly	milk	sail	yawn
fool	mop	saw	zone

Thanks to <https://www.linguasorb.com/> for help making this list.

3 Verbs you didn't know had a noun form

die *Noun* The singular form of plural noun dice

– It's your turn, roll the **die** and move your piece on the board.

push *Noun* an act of pushing something/somebody

– My car won't start, can you give me a **push**? I want to put it in the garage

try *Noun* an act of trying to do something

– The chances are slim but it's still worth a **try**.

try *Noun* 2 an act of scoring points by touching the ground behind your opponents' goal line with the ball in Rugby

– The captain scored a **try** in the final minute to tie the game.

20 Nouns that you didn't know had a verb form

ball *Verb* to form something or be formed into the shape of a ball

– My hand **balled** into a fist.

bag *Verb* to put something into bags

– When I worked at the supermarket I would sometimes **bag** groceries for customers.

dawn *Verb* to become obvious or easy to understand

– After carefully thinking about what happened the truth **dawned** on me.

document *Verb* to record something in the form of a written document, photograph, film, etc.

– I used my smartphone to **document** my journey around the historic town.

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drone *Verb* to make a continuous low noise

– I live near the airport so I can often hear planes **droning** in the distance.

eye *Verb* to look at somebody/something carefully, especially because you want something or you suspect that something is wrong

– The children **eyed** the cakes greedily.

flag *Verb* to draw attention to information that you think is important, especially by putting a special mark next to it

– I read through the textbook and **flagged** all the important parts.

gun *Verb* (of an engine) to run very quickly

– We heard that loud roar outside of a car **gunning** its engine.

ice *Verb* to cover a cake with icing or apply ice to an injury

– I spent all morning **icing** my daughter's birthday cake.

– The doctor told me to **ice** my ankle for 30 minutes and keep it elevated.

jaw *Verb* to talk, especially to talk a lot or for a long time

– Vanessa was **jawing** forever. I didn't think she would ever stop talking.

key *Verb* to deliberately damage a car by scratching it with a key

– When I got to the parking lot I noticed that someone had **keyed** my car. I was so angry.

log *Verb* to put information in an official record or write a record of an event

-The police **log** all calls that come into 911.

man *Verb* to work at a place or be in charge of a place or a machine

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– The telephones are **manned** 24 hours a day by volunteers.

number *Verb* to give a number to something as part of a series or list

– All the seats in the stadium are **numbered**.

palm *Verb* to hide a coin, card, etc. in your hand, especially when performing a trick

– The magician carefully **palmed** the card rather than putting it back in the deck.

plate *Verb* to serve food on a plate

– Expensive restaurants **plate** the food very carefully before it comes to your table.

tail *Verb* to follow somebody closely, especially in order to watch where they go and what they do

– Please have been **tailing** the suspect for three days.

thumb *Verb* to make a signal with your thumb to passing drivers to ask them to stop and take you somewhere

– Ivan **thumbed** his way across Europe when he was in his twenties.

tool *Verb* to drive around in a vehicle

– My friends and I spent the afternoon just **tooling** around in my Dad's car.

wick The noun form of wick is the string in the center of a candle surrounded by wax that burns for a long time

Verb (of a material) to take small drops of liquid from an area and move them away

– The shirt is made of a special material. It **wicks** sweat away from your body.

Remember the audio for this lesson can be found at the blog post:

<https://worldenglishblog.com/verb-and-noun-pairs/>

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