

Identifying Personification with Nouns and Verbs

Personification is when you give human qualities or abilities to an object or animal. Authors use different parts of speech, like nouns and verbs, to write about things that are non-human as though they are human.



→ A **noun** is a person, place, thing, or idea. Here are some examples: *face, home, a dress.*

→ A **verb** is an action word. Here are some examples: *laughing, tripped, dive.*

Directions: Using the table below, determine which words in the word bank are *nouns* or *verbs* that can signal personification in a sentence. Then place the *nouns* and *verbs* in the T-chart and cross out any words that would not signal personification in a sentence.

Word Bank

a handshake	branches	crying	surface	hugged	shoes
calling	dreamed	fist	meowing	a smile	

nouns that signal personification	verbs that signal personification
shoes a handshake a smile fist	crying hugged calling dreamed

Directions: Read the examples of personification below. Circle the nouns and verbs that signal personification in each sentence. Then, tell whether the word you circled is a noun or a verb.

circle one

- | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| 1. The race car <u>screamed</u> around a corner. | noun | <u>verb</u> |
| 2. The alarm clock <u>yells</u> at Joe every morning. | noun | <u>verb</u> |
| 3. My blanket is a <u>friend</u> who protects me. | <u>noun</u> | verb |
| 4. Winter's icy <u>grip</u> caused us to shiver. | <u>noun</u> | verb |
| 5. Tina's bike <u>complained</u> as she rode over the bumpy road. | noun | <u>verb</u> |
| 6. The vines wove their <u>fingers</u> through the fence. | <u>noun</u> | verb |
| 7. The stars <u>winked</u> at me from above. | noun | <u>verb</u> |
| 8. We will cross near the <u>mouth</u> of the river. | <u>noun</u> | verb |
| 9. The flowers were <u>begging</u> for water. | noun | <u>verb</u> |
| 10. The moon <u>played</u> hide and seek behind the clouds. | noun | <u>verb</u> |