





- In a language like English, it is not always possible to tell from the shape of a word whether it is a noun or a verb
  - *swim/swim*
  - *dream/dream*
  - *love/love*
- In some other languages, like Latin, nouns and verbs usually have different forms
  - *natatio/natare*
  - *somnium/somniare*
  - *amor/amare*

These words mean the same things as the English examples above. The first word in each pair is the noun, and the second is the verb.
- However, even in English it's possible to tell whether something is a noun or a verb by how it's used
- For example, nouns have number; they can express quantity (e.g. *one dream/two dreams*)
- Verbs have tense; they can express position in time (e.g. *I dream/I dreamt*)
- We will look at number and tense in more detail later on
- Language and Thought
  - Nouns and verbs can provide different ways of expressing the same concept
  - A concept like dreaming or swimming can be seen as a thing and expressed by a noun
  - The same concept can also be seen as a process and expressed by a verb
  - There is no difference in what dreaming or swimming involves in the real world
  - Instead, this is a distinction in language, about how we organize our sentences
  - Nouns are used for the subject and object of a sentence (e.g. *Cows eat grass*)
    - As we have seen, in English the subject and the object go on either side of the verb
    - They refer to the participants in an event (e.g. cows, grass)
  - The verb is central to the sentence
    - It identifies the event, to say what is happening with the cows and the grass
  - Language is a basic human feature
  - All languages express thoughts, from abstract ideas to more concrete things
  - Any thought can be expressed in more than one way
  - Looking at nouns and verbs can show us some of the different ways that thoughts can be expressed in language
- Conclusion
  - Nouns and verbs are two of the most basic parts of speech
  - Nouns are for whatever is 'thing-like', but not just for actual things
  - Verbs are for whatever is 'action-like', but not just for actual actions
  - Often the same concept can be expressed both as a noun and as a verb
  - However, nouns and verbs play different roles in a sentence
  - The use of nouns and verbs shows the freedom that people have in putting their thoughts into words