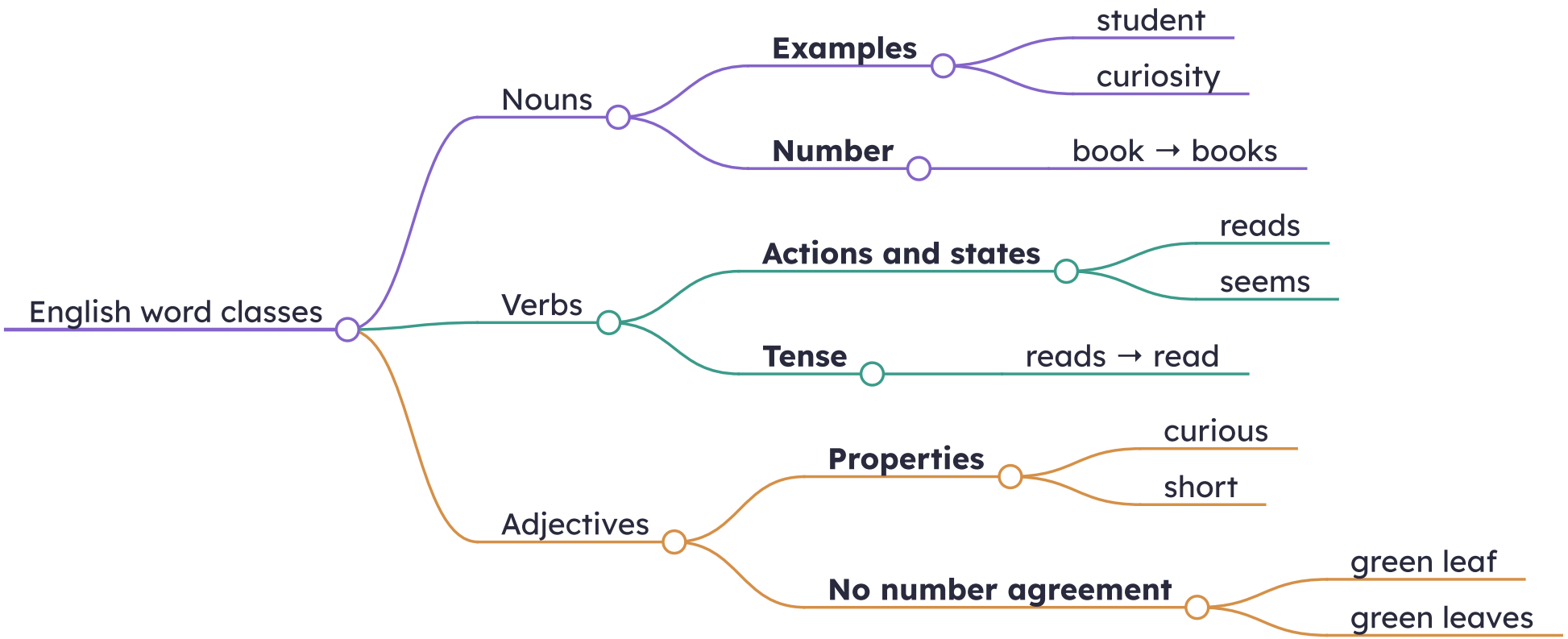
English word classes

Identify nouns, verbs, and adjectives by examining them in a sentence.



Read one branch at a time. Then cover the details and explain them in your own words.

Understand the topic

Word classes describe grammatical behavior. Nouns can name things or ideas; verbs express actions or states; adjectives describe properties. English adjectives usually do not change to agree with noun number: a green leaf, green leaves. The same word can belong to different classes in different contexts, so read the whole sentence.

How the map is organized

Each branch combines a class, examples, and a test. Distinguish word class from sentence function.

> **Watch out for this**
> A subject is a sentence function, not a word class. Meaning alone is not always enough to classify a word.

Try it yourself

Analyze “The curious student reads a short story.” Identify a noun, verb, and adjective. Then use “book” as a noun and as a verb in different sentences.

Two questions to answer

Which word is an adjective in the example?

Curious describes the student.

Why examine context?

For example, book can name an object or express a booking action.

Sources

Cambridge · Word classes
https://dictionary.cambridge.org/grammar/british-grammar/word-classes-and-phrase-

Original practice material compiled by Studera.ai. Explore at studera.ai/en/resources/mind-map-examples.