



Most English words can be used in more than one part of speech. While there are extreme cases such as 'down', which has five (!), a rather more common pattern is for a word to be used as both a **noun** and a **verb**:

Answer me! (verb) *Give me **an answer!*** (noun)

This common process in English is known as **conversion**: it converts a word into a different part of speech. One particularly common form of conversion is **verbing**, which consists in using nouns as verbs:

*I love **to pepper** my food! Why don't we **spa**? We could relax in the sauna...*

Verbing is a rooted practice dating back to **Old English**, but certain verbs from nouns started to be widely used as late as the 20th century.

Here are just a few examples:

*to access, to broadcast, to contact, to credit, to file,
to flash, to impact, to interface...*

It can be argued that the time it takes to verbify a noun is becoming shorter: **to Google** was named 'the most useful word of 2002' and entered the Oxford English Dictionary in 2006, although Google had been around only since 1997.

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