Grammar 1: Nouns and Verbs

- Nouns: people, places, things, ideas
- Verbs: action words
Nouns are things which can be touched (with the hands or the mind)

- **people:** poet, hero, warrior, Gilgamesh
- **places:** city, homeland, Uruk, Troy
- **things:** spear, ship, shore, ziggurat
- **abstract ideas:** anger, hope, fear, death
Grammar 1: Nouns and Verbs

VERBS

Verbs are action words

• run, fight, think, grow, believe

Verbs show what a noun does, often to another noun

• Gilgamesh fought Enkidu
• Achilles wept when he saw his mother
Grammar 1: Nouns and Verbs

**VERBS**

Verbs also link (equate) nouns, e.g.

- students are people too

These “linking” verbs can also link a noun and an adjective (a word which describes something), e.g.

- students become smarter by reading books
Grammar 1: Nouns and Verbs

NOUNS

My second dream surpasses the first. In my dream, my friend, a mountain . . ., it threw me down, it held me by my feet . . . The brightness grew more intense. A man appeared, the comeliest in the land, his beauty . . . He gave me water to drink and my heart grew calm. On the ground he set my feet.

The Epic of Gilgamesh, Tablet IV
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The Epic of Gilgamesh, Tablet IV
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O tavern-keeper, I have looked on your face, but I would not meet death, that I fear so much.’

Said the tavern-keeper to him, to Gilgamesh:

‘O Gilgamesh, where are you wandering?

The life that you seek you never will find:
when the gods created mankind,
death they dispensed to mankind,
life they kept for themselves.

*The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Tablet X (Old Babylonian text)