Parts of Speech: Nouns vs. Verbs

Sometimes, a word can be more than one part of speech. You can identify the part of speech by identifying the job the word does in the sentence.

A noun names a person, place, thing, or idea. The underlined word in the sentence below is a noun.

The cook at the restaurant made fresh meatballs.

A verb is a word that describes an action or a state of being. The underlined word in the sentence below is a verb.

I watched my father cook dinner.

Read each sentence below and look carefully at the underlined words.
- If the word names a person, place, thing, or idea, it is a NOUN. Write N in the line.
- If the word shows an action, it is a VERB. Write V in the blank.

1. ______ The boat’s sail needed mending.
2. ______ My friends and I play soccer in the vacant lot.
3. ______ Charles drew three large circles on his paper.
4. ______ The football player performed a victory dance after he scored.
5. ______ We will sail away in the morning.
6. ______ Sam watched the cowboy rope a steer at the rodeo.
7. ______ I dance when I am happy.
8. ______ The eagle circles over the valley.
9. ______ Erin and Amy are going to a play this afternoon.
10. _____ We made a swing with a tire and a rope.
11. _____ I’ll bring the juice drinks to the party.
12. _____ The puppy drinks a lot of water after she plays.

Challenge:
* Write a complete sentence using the word swing as a verb.

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Answers will vary. Sample answer: Alicia can swing very high.