

"Used as"

Is *home* a noun?

Most people say "yes". The right answer is "maybe":

*They always **home** in on the truth* (verb).

*They have a **home** in Manchester* (noun).

*Let's go **home*** (adverb).

*What's your **home** address?* (adjective).

It's dangerous (and inaccurate) to say: "bla-bla **is** a noun".

It's safe (and accurate) to say: "bla-bla is **used as** a noun in this sentence."

A few more examples:

He's got the blues.

"blues" is used as a noun here.

They've got a down on me.

"down" is used as a noun here.

The situation has started to hot up.

"hot" is used as a verb here.

They outed him last week.

"out" is used as a verb here.

You are go for lift-off.

"go" is used as an adjective here.

This is my wish list.

"wish" is used as an adjective here.

The blind need special care.

"blind" is used as a noun here.

In this programme we have tried always to say that words are being **used as** nouns, verbs etc, rather than saying they **are** nouns, verbs and so on.

Words only really mean something in relation to each other. When a word is alone, it's often hard to know what it means, and even whether it's a noun, a verb, an adjective....