What is a virus?

The word malware comes from combining the words malicious (meaning harmful) and software (meaning program).
A virus is a type of malware that spreads by attaching itself to other programs. It's named after the viruses that make people ill, like the common cold.

Once your device has a virus it may spread quickly to other devices, when you are connected to the internet.
A virus can secretly attach itself to an email. This way it can **spread** to your friends and family when you send them a message.