

Nouns are Names



Noun is the word used to name a person, place, thing or an abstract idea.

We use nouns in almost all sentences we speak. Look at the following sentences.

- **George** plays **Basketball** in the **courtyard**.
- **Mary's cat** wants to sing a **song**.
- **John** is waiting for a **bus** at the **bus-stop**.
- **Robin** lives in **New Delhi**.
- **Gandhi** believed in **peace**.

Did you notice that all the highlighted words are names? They are all nouns.

Noun Gender

Masculine



Feminine



It



Many nouns like teacher, student, engineer or doctor can refer to men or women. Some time back, many English nouns would change form depending on the gender -- for example a man was referred to as an actor while a woman was referred to as an actress. But, this use of gender specific nouns is very rare today. The few that are used today tend to be from the occupational category. For example: Actor, waitress, air-hostess, etc.

Noun Plurals

Singular Noun



Pen

Plural Noun



Pens

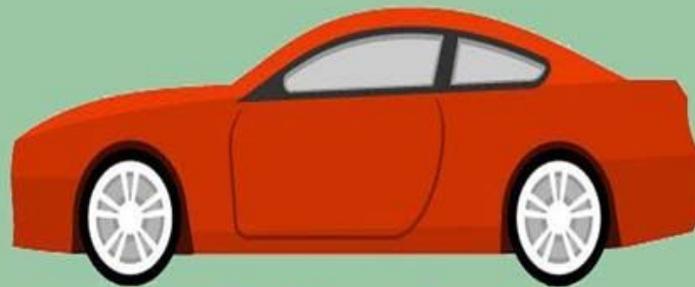
A lot of Nouns change form to indicate number. They do this, by adding "s" or "es". How would we know when to add an "s" or an "es"?

Look at these rules:

1. In most of the nouns we add an **s** to form a plural. This is a general rule. For example: a snake becomes many snakes, a book becomes books or a pen becomes pens.
2. Words ending in **s**, **ch**, **x** or **z**, will form plurals by adding **es**. For example: witch becomes witches, box becomes boxes, bus becomes buses, kiss becomes kisses, gas becomes gases.
3. Nouns also have an irregular plural form. For example: Child becomes children, person becomes people, man becomes men, woman becomes women, mouse becomes mice, goose becomes geese barracks remains barracks, deer remains deer.
4. There are nouns that keep their Latin or geek form in the plural. For example: nucleus becomes nuclei, syllabus becomes syllabi, focus becomes foci, fungus becomes fungi, criterion becomes criteria.

Possessive Noun

Possessive Nouns



My **Father's** Car

Noun's possessive form shows that a noun or a pronoun changes its form to show that it owns or is closely related to something. Generally nouns become possessive by adding an apostrophe and an "s" in the end.

In case of a singular noun not ending in an "s". Put an apostrophe and an "s" in the end. For example:

- The **car's** colour is red.
- That **man's** luggage was lost.

- I was awoken by a **girl's** cry.
- The **biker's** face was covered in mud.
- The **movie's** story is predictable.

You can form the possessive case of a noun (singular or plural) that ends in an "s" by simply adding an apostrophe. For example:

- The **bus'** seats are very comfortable.
 - I accidentally stepped on the **ducks'** eggs.
 - The **teachers'** room is downstairs.
 - I am tired of my **roommates'** debates.
 - Our conversation was interrupted by the **dogs'** barking.
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Types of nouns:

As we know that nouns are names. Names can be of different kinds and therefore why nouns are also of different kinds.

[Proper VS Common Nouns](#)

Proper Noun is the name of a specific person, place or thing. A proper noun always starts with a capital letter. A proper noun is the opposite of a common noun. Look at the following sentences:

- **Jonathan** is my friend.
- The **Universe** is vast and majestic.
- **Delhi** is a great place to visit on holidays.
- **English** is an interesting language to learn.
- **India** was under **British** rule for more than two centuries.

Common Noun refers to a person, place or thing in a general way. It doesn't begin with a capital letter. A common noun is the opposite of a proper noun. Look at the following sentences:

- A **man** and a **woman** drowned in the raging **river**.
- The **boys** played in the **park** for many **hours**.
- The **convict** was sentenced to 5 **years** in **prison**.
- The **king** asked the **engineer** to build a **bridge**.
- Some **people** come to my **house** uninvited.

Proper Noun

Peter

Paris

Samsung

Language

Common Noun

Man

City

Phone

English

[Concrete VS Abstract Nouns](#)

Concrete Nouns name things in their material form. The things which you can perceive using any of your 5 senses i.e. smell, touch, hearing, sight or taste. A concrete noun is the opposite of an abstract noun. Look at the following sentences.

Peter left the **car** on the **road**.

The **spanner** fell on the **floor**.

The **manager** distributed **badges** among the staff.

My **horse** eats **grass** for many **hours**.

The **singer** asked the **audience** to be quiet.

Abstract Noun is the opposite of concrete noun. Abstract noun names things in their immaterial form. We can't perceive abstract nouns with our 5 senses. Abstract nouns name concepts, idea's and emotions. Look at the following sentences:

Love is kind and gentle.

Your **courage** saved the day.

Forgiveness is the part of my religion.

- Buy a new dress was Henry's **idea**.
- The **future** of students attending this class is very bright.
- **Justice** is a virtue which a judge should possess.

How we perceive the world around us 5 Senses



[Countable VS Uncountable Nouns](#)

Countable Nouns are the names of things we can count. A countable noun has both singular and plural forms. We can use the articles A or AN with countable nouns. When a countable noun is singular, we must use a word like **a, the, my, this** with it. When a countable noun is plural we must use it alone without words like **a, the, my, this**. We can use words like some, many, few, any with countable nouns. Countable nouns are the opposite of uncountable nouns.

- We sat on the **chairs** at the big **table**.
- A cricket **team** consists of 11 **players**.
- A **library** consists of many **books**.
- There are uncountable **stars** in the sky.
- I have a **hair** in my **soup**.
- She was so thirsty that she drank 5 **glasses** of water.

Uncountable Nouns are the names of things we can't count. Uncountable nouns don't have a plural form and are treated as singular and we use singular verbs with uncountable nouns. Indefinite articles **a** and **an** are not used with uncountable nouns. We can't say an information or a music, but we can say a piece of news, a bottle of water or a grain of rice. We can use a little or much with uncountable nouns. Uncountable nouns are the opposite of countable nouns.

- We need **oxygen** and **water** to survive.
- Would you like to have **tea**?

- The **sand** on the beach looks beautiful.
- Sandra should put some **oil** on her **hair**.
- I want to cook enough **food** for my guests.

A cup of Tea



Cup is countable and the Tea is uncountable

Collective VS Compound Nouns

Collective Nouns name a group or a collection of people, animals, or things. Even though you could count the individual members of the group if you like but you should think of the group or the collection as a whole. You should be able to recognise collective nouns in order to correctly use subject-verb agreement.

- A **team** of champions is not always a champion **team**.
- A number of suburbs make up a **city**.
- A **flock** of birds flew overhead.
- Please give me a **pack** of cigarettes.
- A **herd** of cattle is walking on the road.
- There is a **colony** of ants in my garden.
- I saw a **swam** of bees in the beehive.

Compound Nouns are combination of two or more words used together. Compound nouns should not be confused with collective nouns. The compound nouns can be used in many ways, they can be used together like **keyboard** or with an hyphen like **mother-board** or separately like **switch board**. Look at the following sentences:

The **bathroom** is vacant.
The teacher wrote the notes on the **whiteboard**.
The robber was caught by the **policeman**.
I went to Delhi by an **aircraft**.
My **boyfriend** is very possessive.
We had dinner at the **dining-table**.
There are many fishes in my **fish tank**.

Collective Nouns



A **Bouquet** of Flowers

Compound Nouns

