

Lesson No. 01

Nouns

KEY POINTS

Nouns

Nouns name everything around us including those that are invisible (wind, gas, vapour).

A noun in a sentence can be recognized by the word called **determiner** or an adjective that comes before it. The determiner (articles are also determiners) can be one of the following with the nouns are in bold:

Articles: the, a, an (the **duck**, a **dog**, an **egg**)

Determiner: my, some, this (my **wallet**, some **money**, this **hat**)

Descriptive adjective: red, old, beautiful (red **shirt**, old **jacket**, beautiful **shoes**)

What does a noun do in a sentence?

(1) It acts as the subject of a sentence.

The girl stepped on my toes.

(2) It acts as an object in a sentence.

Ali bit his nail.

(3) It acts as a subject complement that follows a linking verb.

My uncle is a wine taster.

(The subject complement is **a wine taster**.)

Types of nouns

• Common Noun

Common nouns are names of people, things, animals, places, and ideas, etc.

There are five types of common nouns:

Examples:

People – aunt, boy, butcher, carpenter, cousin, father, girl, lady, man, mother, tailor, woman

Things – bicycle, book, car, computer, dress, hammer, key, pencil, ship, table, vase, wallet

Animals – armadillo, baboon, bee, caterpillar, cow, dog, eagle, fish, monkey, pig, snake, turkey

Places – airport, beach, bullring, cemetery, church, country, hospital, library, mall, park, restaurant, zoo

Ideas – anger, beauty, hate, happiness, intelligence, justice, knowledge, love, peace, respect, success, trust

• Proper Noun

A **proper noun** is a name of a specific person, place, thing, animal, or organization.

Examples:

People – Ali Baba, Donald Trump, Imran Khan, Cristiano Ronaldo.

Places – Downing Street, Museum of Modern Art, Sahara Desert

Things – Financial Times, Eiffel Tower,

Organization – United Nations, MM Academy, Red Brigades, Google city

Animals – King Kong, Lassie, Bugs Bunny, baboon

Day and months – Saturday, Tuesday, April, September

Singular and plural for proper nouns

We can use **the, a, or an** for a singular or plural proper noun in special cases.

Examples:

This is no longer **the London** I used to live in.

I met **a Sana** this morning who mistook me as his former neighbor.

There are **three Johns** in my class.

The khans are coming over for dinner.

- **Concrete Noun**

Concrete nouns are those nouns that we can perceive with the five senses; that is, we can see, smell, hear, touch and/or taste.

Countable concrete nouns: teacher (people); valley (place); deer (animal); comb (thing)

Uncountable concrete nouns: water (liquid); steam (gas); copper (substance)

- **Abstract Nouns**

An abstract noun is something such as a quality, a feeling, a concept, an idea, an experience, or a state, another of the intangible things that we can only think of, rather than a concrete object.

Examples

beauty, courage, danger, emotion, friendship, imagination, intelligence, and truth.

Abstract nouns, unlike concrete nouns, by themselves are singular and uncountable, but they can be pluralized in use: beauty / beauties, belief / beliefs, difficulty / difficulties, experience / experiences, friendship / friendships, weakness / weaknesses, etc.

Examples:

We couldn't say her **beauty** is beyond compare.

This small car is a little **beauty**.

We have never seen such natural **beauties** of an island.

The new recruits don't have any previous **experience** of this type of work.

It was quite an **experience** being bitten by a centipede.

He wrote a book about his **experiences** as a prisoner in a maximum security prison.

Abstract nouns can be formed from common nouns

(boy/boyhood, child/childhood);

from verbs

(confide/confidence, know/knowledge);

from adjectives

(angry/anger, happy/happiness).

- **Compound noun**

A compound noun consists of at least two words, both of which are nouns or one of which must be a noun.

There are three forms of compound noun: open, closed, or hyphenated

- **Open:** The two words that made up the compound noun remain separate.

Examples: chain saw, electric kettle, invitation card, master key, nightclub singer, woodworking tool

- **Closed:** Usually two or sometimes three words joined together to form a single noun, the compound noun with no space between them.

Examples: boyfriend, houseboat, lifeboat, meatball, multimillionaire, workhorse

- **Hyphenated:** The two words that formed the compound noun are linked by a hyphen.

Examples: cover-up, drive-in, merry-go-round, mother-in-law, runner-up, well-being

Functions of a Noun

- **Noun as subject of verb**

The subject (in bold) can be a person, place, thing or idea. It performs an act or shows a state of being as expressed by the verb. The subject is easily recognized as it usually comes at the beginning of a sentence and is followed by a verb.

Examples:

The man stepped on my toes.

The car smashed into a wall.

Both of them fell down the stairs.

I accidentally hit my head on the bookshelf.

- **Noun as direct object**

The direct object (in bold) is a noun in a sentence. The object is acted upon by the subject, and it typically comes after the verb.

Examples:

I am painting the **doghouse**.
 Her dog followed **her** to the park.
 Strong wind blew **their tent** down.

• **Noun as indirect object**

The indirect object (in bold) is a noun in a sentence. An indirect object represents a person or thing that receives the effect of the action of the verb. It usually comes between the verb and the direct object.

Examples:

He fed the **monkeys** bananas.
 The mother was cooking **her family** a seafood dinner.
 Jack sent a letter to **his parents**.
 She poured drinks for **the boys**.

• **Noun as object of a preposition**

The object of preposition (in bold) is a noun in a sentence. The object comes after the preposition as shown here in following examples.

Examples:

Ali broke his nose in a **fight**. (Preposition: **in**)
 Two puppies followed behind the **girl**. (Preposition: **behind**)
 Bird watching is a favourite hobby of the **villagers**. (Preposition: **of**)
 Everyone is complaining about the **boss**. (Preposition: **about**)

Singular and Plural Nouns

To make a regular noun plural, we add an **-s** or **-es** to the end (camel/camels, map/maps; echo/echoes) of the noun. plural irregular noun has a different ending (hoof/hooves) or spell differently from the singular noun (tooth/teeth).

Common endings of plural nouns:

Singular	Plural	How the plural is formed
daughter	daughters	By adding -s
Class	Classes	By adding -es to nouns ending -s
Brush	Brushes	By adding -es to nouns ending -sh
Watch	Watches	By adding -es to nouns ending -ch
Box	Boxes	By adding -es to nouns ending -x
potato	Potatoes	By adding -es to nouns ending -o
piano	Pianos	By adding -s to nouns ending -o
baby	Babies	By changing -y to -ies
Key	Keys	By adding -s to some nouns ending -y
Leaf	Leaves	By changing -f to -ves
knife	Knives	By changing -fe to -ves
Roof	Roofs	By adding -s to some nouns ending -f
Safe	Safes	By adding -s to some nouns ending -fe
tooth	Teeth	By changing vowels
Ox	Oxen	By adding -en
Child	Children	By adding -ren
Deer	Deer	Some nouns have same singular and plural

There are nouns that are always plural and take a plural verb:

Jeans, pants, pajamas, shorts, tights, trousers, and underpants
 Pincers, pliers, scissors, shears, tongs
 Clogs, sandals, slippers, and sneakers

Glasses (spectacles), binoculars

Examples:

These trousers are not mine.

Pliers are a handy tool.

My garden shears trim the hedge very well.

My glasses are used only for reading.

A pair of can be used with the above plural nouns to make them singular and take a singular verb

Examples:

This pair of purple trousers does not match your yellow jacket.

This set of kitchen knives belongs to me.

A new pair of stainless steel scissors is what I need.

Other nouns which are always plural:

Examples:

Clothes: My clothes need to be washed.

Earnings: Earnings in the agricultural sector have increased by 5% in the fourth quarter.

Cattle: Cattle are reared for their meat or milk.

Police: Police are charging him with the murder of the princess.

People: People in general are not very approachable. (Peoples when used in the plural (i.e. with '-s') refers to peoples from more than one race or nation, e.g. the peoples of Asia)

Nouns which are plural in form but take a singular verb

The following plural nouns are used with a singular verb as they are treated as singular: Athletics, economics, gymnastics, linguistics, mathematics, mechanics, news, numismatics, measles, mumps, physics, politics and pyrotechnics.

Examples:

Economics: Economics was my favorite subject at school.

News – The good news is that we have all been invited.

Diseases such as mumps, measles, etc.: An infectious illness, mumps was common among children.

Measurements and amounts that are considered as a single unit:

Examples:

One hundred years is a century.

Ten kilometers is a long distance.

Twenty dollars is not enough to buy a good shirt.

Seven days in prison is all he got for shoplifting.

Countable and Uncountable Nouns

Countable nouns (also called count nouns) are nouns that can be counted (apple, orange) and can be therefore be pluralized (apples, oranges). Uncountable nouns (also known as non-count or mass nouns) are amounts of something, which we cannot count (gunpowder, rice).

Examples of countable nouns:

babies, cakes, dogs, fingers, gowns, huts, ideas, lies, owls, papers, pencils, suitcases

Examples of uncountable nouns:

air, ash, barley, butter, dirt, flour, money, gas, gunpowder, ice, ink, juice, luggage, oil, pepper, sand, soil, steam, sugar, vapour, water, wheat

So how do we know whether a noun is countable or uncountable?

The noun is countable:

- If we can use the indefinite article a/an before it.
I own a car. / I play with an ostrich.

- If we can use the word many (not much), more, or most to describe it.
She has many friends. (Not: She has much friends.)

- If we can express its quantity by using a number before it.
I have **five** uncles. You have **two** grandmothers.

- If it takes on singular as well as plural forms.

an owl / some owls / fifty owls

The noun is uncountable:

- If **a/an** is not normally used in front of it.

He is eating **some rice**. (**Not:** He is eating a rice.) Rice is an uncountable noun, so **some** (which can be used for both countable and uncountable nouns) is used with it.

- If the word **much** can be correctly used before it.

How **much** glue do we need? (**Not:** How many glue do we need?)

- If it is not possible for us to count it. However, we can make it countable by having a **quantity** for it.

I have just bought **two cartons** or **litres / liters** of milk. (**Not:** I have just bought two milk.)

- If it takes only a singular form.

some ice (**Not:** some ices) / **some ink** (**Not:** some inks) / **some soup** (**Not:** some soups)

Some nouns can be countable or uncountable. It depends on how they are used.

Examples:

There are **two hairs** on the snooker table. (Countable noun)

You think my **hair** looks nice? (Uncountable noun)

You can boil **an egg**. (Countable noun)

I like to eat **egg**. (Uncountable noun as it refers to **egg** in general, not one or two eggs.)

Let's stop for **a coffee** on our way to the library. (Countable noun)

She thinks she drinks too **much coffee**. (Uncountable noun)

Countable and Uncountable Nouns are used with the following:

<u>Countable Noun</u>	<u>Uncountable Noun</u>
a, an, a few, several, many, some,	a little, much, some,
plenty of, a lot of, a large number of	plenty of, a lot of, a large amount of, a great deal of

- **Collective Nouns**

A **collective noun** is a word that is used to refer to a number of people, animals, or things that we group together and speak of as a whole. Some examples: **a bunch of bananas**, **a herd of buffaloes** (plural of **buffalo** can also be **buffalo**), **a litter of puppies**, **a flock of sheep**, and **a package of cookies**.

The use of a collective noun in a sentence can cause difficulty as to whether it takes a singular or plural verb. It depends on how the collective noun is to be expressed – as a group performing together or individually. If members of the group are viewed as a single unit acting together, a singular verb is used. If they are regarded as separate members acting individually, a plural verb is used.

Examples:

The **family is** planning an overseas trip.

(The family is viewed as a single group planning for an overseas trip together, so it takes a singular verb.)

The **family are** discussing about the plan.

(Members of the family are looked at separately, taking part in the discussion and are not acting as a group, so a plural verb is used.)

Singular and plural collective nouns

Following are examples of collective nouns being used as singular and plural nouns.

Examples:

Data indicates that most of the offenders come from broken home.

We will not draw any conclusion until we have looked at **all the data**.

Statistics is included in this year's Mathematics syllabus.

The **statistics** tell us the current trend is towards more consumers' spending.

The **enemy** is calling for a ceasefire.

The **enemy** were advised to surrender. (The plural of **enemy** is **enemies**. But **enemy**, although a singular noun, can take a plural verb such as **were** when it is regarded as a group of enemies.)

Collective noun must use correct pronoun

A collective noun treated as singular must use a singular possessive pronoun. Likewise, a plural collective noun takes a plural possessive pronoun.

Examples:

Our **team** has won **its** first trophy. (The singular possessive pronoun is **its**, and it agrees with the **singular** collective noun **team**.)

Our **team** are deciding on the strategy for **their** next game. (Plural possessive pronoun **their** agrees with the **plural** collective noun **team**.)

The full **orchestra** led by **its** new conductor is performing in the city.

The **orchestra** do not agree to the venue for **their** next performance.

The **audience** showed **its** approval by clapping and cheering.

When the curtain came down, the **audience** began leaving **their** seats.

Composite subject takes a singular verb

Two subjects can be so closely linked that they form a composite subject and expresses a single idea. A composite subject takes a singular verb.

Examples:

Time and tide waits for no man.

Bread and jam is what he eats most in the morning.

Bread and breakfast is what we will look for next.

Spaghetti and meatballs is my favourite dish.

Possessive form of nouns

Nouns have a possessive form which is used to show ownership. Such nouns are called possessive nouns. They show ownership by adding an apostrophe and an s ('s) or just an apostrophe to a noun.

Apostrophe (') and an s ('s) after singular noun to show possessive form

Place an apostrophe and an s after a singular noun to show it is the owner of the noun that follows.

Examples:

That is **Ajab khan's** cat. (Ajab is the owner of the cat.)

The child is pulling the **cow's** tail.

Everybody's shoes must be left outside the door.

We all like the **professor's** voice.

The **plane's** tail section had broken off.

This is another failed attempt on the **President's** life.

Apostrophe (') and an s ('s) after plural noun to show possessive form

If a noun is plural and does not end in an s, add an apostrophe and an s to the end of the plural noun.

Examples:

He cut off the **mice's** tails.

I stepped on one of the **children's** toys and fell.

They are renovating the elderly women's home.

The **group's** latest song has topped the charts for two weeks.

Only apostrophe is added to plural noun

If a noun is plural and ends in an s, add only an apostrophe to the end of the plural noun. No s need follow the apostrophe.

Examples:

Some **girls'** hair is shorter than some boys' hair.

Their wives' parents shook each of us warmly by the hand.

The strong winds destroyed many of the **villagers'** houses.

The lambs' tails are docked (= cut short) for hygiene reasons.
He had a three weeks' moustache growth drooping over his mouth. .

Possessive noun not followed by noun

So far, all possessive nouns are followed by nouns as shown above. But if a noun (for example, a place of business) is understood, a possessive noun with its apostrophe and s is not followed by the noun.

Examples:

He went to the barber's to have his hair cut.

She was at the butcher's when I called her.

Two possessive nouns one after the other

Sometimes two possessive nouns appearing one after the other may be necessary to indicate double ownership.

Examples:

She is Ali's brother's girlfriend.

This is Shiraz's father's car.

Daud's dog's bushy tail wags furiously when she arrives home.

Apostrophe indicates joint ownership

When two nouns are joint owners of another that follows, only the second noun is in the possessive form of an apostrophe and an s.

Examples:

On that hill is Arsalan and faisal's house. (The house belongs to both Arsalan and Faisal)

usman and Najeeb's mother is a doctor.

Apostrophes indicate different owners

When two nouns are owners of different assets, each of the two possessive nouns needs an apostrophe and an s.

Examples:

Daud's and Shiraz's cars are parked one behind the other. (There are two cars – one belongs to daud while the other belongs to Shiraz.)

The police are keeping watch on the suspect's and his accomplice's houses.

Compound possessive nouns

If it is a hyphenated compound noun, add the apostrophe s ('s) to the last word.

Examples:

My father-in-law's car hit a van the other day.

If a compound noun includes a personal pronoun, all of them will have to be in the possessive form. This is done by adding the apostrophe s ('s) to the noun and making the pronoun a possessive personal pronoun.

Ali's and my school is on the other side of the river.

Take those that are Janet's and yours.

ETEA PAST PAPERS (Lesson No. 1 Nouns)

ETEA MEDICAL PAPER YEAR 2017

- Q 1) Naila has two
(a) Sister in law (b) Sisters in law
(c) Sister in law's (d) sister's in law

ANSWER: (b)

ETEA MEDICAL PAPER YEAR 2016

- Q 2) Choose the correct sentence:
(a) Each contained a different specie of insect
(b) Each contained a different species of insect
(c) Each contained a different specie of insects
(d) Each contained a different specei of insect

ANSWER: (b)

ETEA MEDICAL PAPER YEAR 2015

- Q 3) There are _____ fish in this pond.
(a) many (b) much
(c) any (d) more

ANSWER: (a)

ETEA MEDICAL PAPER YEAR 2014

- Q 4) Choose the correct sentence:
(a) We bought some new clothing.
(b) We bought some new clothings.
(c) We bought some new piece of clothings.
(d) We bought some new pieces of clothings.

ANSWER: (a)

- Q 5) Choose the correct sentence:
(a) He will reach in two hours time.
(b) He will reach in two hour time.
(c) He will reach in two hour's time.
(d) He will reach in two hours' time.

ANSWER: (b)

ETEA MEDICAL PAPER YEAR 2011

- Q 6) Your _____ too long; you had better go to the hairdresser today
(a) hair is (b) hair are
(c) hairs are (d) hairs is

HINT: "hair" is uncountable noun and takes singular verb "is."

ANSWER: (a)

- Q 7) _____ in the world.
(a) Our's is not one of the quickest response system.
(b) Our is not one of the quickest response systems.
(c) Ours is not one of the quickest response systems.
(d) Our is not one of the quickest response system.

HINT: "Ours" constitutes the correct usage of a possessive case of the pronoun in this sentence.

ANSWER: (c)