

Nouns

What is a Noun?

- A noun is a part of speech that denotes a person, animal, place, thing, or idea.
- The English word noun is derived from the Latin word *nomen*, which means “name.”
- Every language has words that are nouns.

Types of Nouns

- Common Noun
- Proper Noun
- Abstract Noun
- Collective Noun
- Material noun

Common Noun

- Common nouns are used to refer to general things or places rather than specific examples.
- Common nouns are not normally capitalized unless they are used as part of a proper name or are placed at the beginning of a sentence.
- Examples:
 - **People** are strange.
 - Would you like a **coffee** or **tea**?

Proper Noun

- A name used for an individual person, place, or organization is a proper noun.
- It is spelled with an initial capital letter.
- Examples:
 - I study in **Chennai**.
 - **Arjun** lost the bet.
 - **India** is a developing nation.

Abstract Noun

- Abstract nouns are those referring to ideas, concepts, emotions, and other “things” you can’t see, taste, touch, smell, or hear.
- Examples:
 - **Success** seems to come easily to certain people.
 - **Honesty** is a valuable quality.
 - The reason for his failure is his **pride**.

Collective Noun

- A collective noun is a word that refers to a group.
- It can be either singular or plural, but is usually used in the singular.
- Examples:
 - Our **class** graduates next year.
 - The **audience** loved her performance.
 - We should play as a **team**.

Material Noun

- Material Noun are names of materials or substances out of which things are made.
- Material Noun is not a subset of Common Noun.
- Examples:
 - **Cotton** dress is cheap.
 - This is a building of **marbles**.

Exercise #1

- Identify the noun and the type of the noun.
 - I saw a ship in the distance.
 - Did you meet Arun on your way?
 - He loves music.
 - We eat three meals a day.
 - Tarun usually tells jokes.
 - The boys are on their way out.
 - She loves to wear silk.

Countable Noun

- Countable nouns are for things we can count using numbers.
- They have a singular and a plural form.
- The singular form can use the determiner "a" or "an".
- If you want to ask about the quantity of a countable noun, you ask "How many?" combined with the plural countable noun.

Uncountable Noun

- Uncountable nouns are for the things that we cannot count with numbers.
- They may be the names for abstract ideas or qualities or for physical objects that are too small or too amorphous to be counted (liquids, powders, gases, etc.).
- Uncountable nouns are used with a singular verb.
- They usually do not have a plural form.

Exercise #2

- Identify the following nouns as countable or uncountable.
 - Flower
 - Magazines
 - Tea
 - Milk
 - Lemon
 - Butter
 - Eggs