



Centre Universitaire Abdelhafid Boussouf Centre E-learning



English – Level1

Lesson 3 English Nouns

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<i>Etudiants Concernés Semestre 1</i>			
<i>Institut</i>	<i>Département</i>	<i>Année</i>	<i>Spécialité</i>
<i>Lettres et Langues</i>	<i>-Langues Etrangère</i>	<i>Licence 1</i>	<i>Français.</i>
<i>Sciences et Technologie</i>	<i>-Mathématique et informatique</i> <i>-Sciences Techniques.</i>	<i>Licence 1</i>	<i>-MI.</i> <i>-ST.</i>
<i>Sciences Economique</i>	<i>-Sciences Economique.</i> <i>-Sciences Commerciales.</i> <i>-Sciences de la Gestion.</i>	<i>Licence 1</i>	<i>Toutes les spécialités.</i>

Objectives of the Lesson:

- i. To familiarize students with some defining features of English nouns;
- ii. To make students aware of the existence of different categories of nouns; and
- iii. To prepare students to readily recognize a noun when they are presented with a sentence to analyze

Definition:

A noun is a word that names a person, a place, a thing or an idea. The following are examples:

Boy, girl, table, chair, honesty, happiness, wisdom, book, etc.

TYPES OF NOUNS:**1. COMMON NOUNS:****Definition:**

A common noun is a name given in common to every person or thing of the same class or kind.

*Common nouns are words for:

Things: chair, bicycle, television, computer

Animals: cat, dog, lion, sheep

Places: university, hotel, school, library, zoo

People: lawyer, teacher, farmer

2. PROPER NOUNS:**Definition:**

Proper nouns are names for particular people, places or things. They always begin with a capital letter.

* Your own name and the names of people are proper nouns, *e.g., Omar, Lisa, Amine, etc.*

* The names of countries and their people are proper nouns, *e.g., America, American, Algeria, Algerian, etc.*

* The names of town, cities, buildings, and landmarks are proper nouns, *e.g., the Statue of Liberty, the Great Wall of China, etc.*

* The days of the week and months are proper nouns, *e.g., Sunday, Monday, January, February, etc.*

* The names of special events and holidays are proper nouns, *e.g., New Year's Day, Halloween, etc.*

* The names of mountains, rivers and seas are proper nouns, *e.g., Mount Everest, the Dead Sea, etc.*

3. CONCRETE AND ABSTRACT NOUN

Concrete noun: names an object that occupies space or can be recognized by any of the senses; are nouns of entities that you can see, hear, smell, taste or touch. *e.g. building, iron, table, food, perfume, etc.*

Abstract noun: names an idea, a quality or a characteristic; nouns that can't be touched or seen.

e.g. honesty, wisdom, intelligence, peace, etc.

4. **Countable and uncountable nouns:**

Countable nouns: refer to the names of objects, people, etc. that we can count. And they have their own singular and plural forms, *e.g. a book: books, an apple: apples, etc.*

Uncountable nouns: refer to the names of things which we cannot count, *e.g. milk, oil, sugar, gold, honesty, etc.*

SINGULAR AND PLURAL

- Nouns can be singular or plural, depending on whether they name one person, place, thing, or idea or more than one.

- ✚ To form the plural of most nouns, add 's' to the singular form of the noun, *e.g. pen: pens; street: streets* and so on.
- ✚ Other plural nouns are formed in different ways:
 - For nouns ending in (*s, ch, sh, x, or zz*) add 'es' to form the plural. (*e.g., bus ⇒ buses brush ⇒ brushes, fox ⇒ foxes, beach ⇒ beaches, quiz ⇒ quizzes*).
 - For nouns ending in 'y' preceded by a consonant, change the 'y' to 'I' and add 'es'.
 - Some nouns ending in 'f' or 'fe' just add 's'. Sometimes it is necessary to change the 'f' to a 'v'. In that case, always end the word with 'es' (*e.g., roof ⇒ roofs, shelf ⇒ shelves*).
 - Other nouns have irregular plurals (*e.g., woman ⇒ women*).
 - Some nouns do not change from singular to plural (*e.g., sheep ⇒ sheep*).

****THE MOST COMMON IRREGULAR NOUN PLURALS:**

SINGULAR	PLURAL
bacterium	bacteria
corpus	corpora
criterion	criteria
curriculum	curricula
datum	data

genus	genera
medium	media
memorandum	memoranda
phenomenon	phenomena
stratum	strata
woman	Women

****NO CHANGE :**

SINGULAR	PLURAL
deer	deer
fish	fish
means	means
offspring	offspring
series	series
sheep	sheep
species	species

Activity

Underline ALL the nouns in these sentences. Give the plural form of each noun you have identified.

- 1) The child asks for his toy.
- 2) The lady uses a knife to cut a potato and a chilli.
- 3) The man is sure that a mouse bit his foot while he was asleep.
- 4) That goose belongs to his wife.
- 5) My loaf of bread is sufficient to feed the fish
- 6) The farmer has a sheep, a deer, and a rhinoceros on his farm.
- 7) The life of a fly and a mosquito is rather short.

References:

- 1) Alexander. L. G. (1990). Longman English Grammar Practice. New York: Longman.
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- 4) Murphy. R. (2012). English Grammar in Use. Cambridge. Cambridge University Press.
- 5) Chalker. S. (1992). A Student's English Grammar. Longman: England.