

# Nouns



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# Objectives

**By the end of this lecture, the student will be able to,**

Know what are nouns

Decide on different types, kinds, functions of nouns.

Gain experience on countable/uncountable, and compound nouns.

**Prerequisites:**

Students must know what are nouns.

Students should know how to formulate the plural form for certain countable nouns.



# Nouns

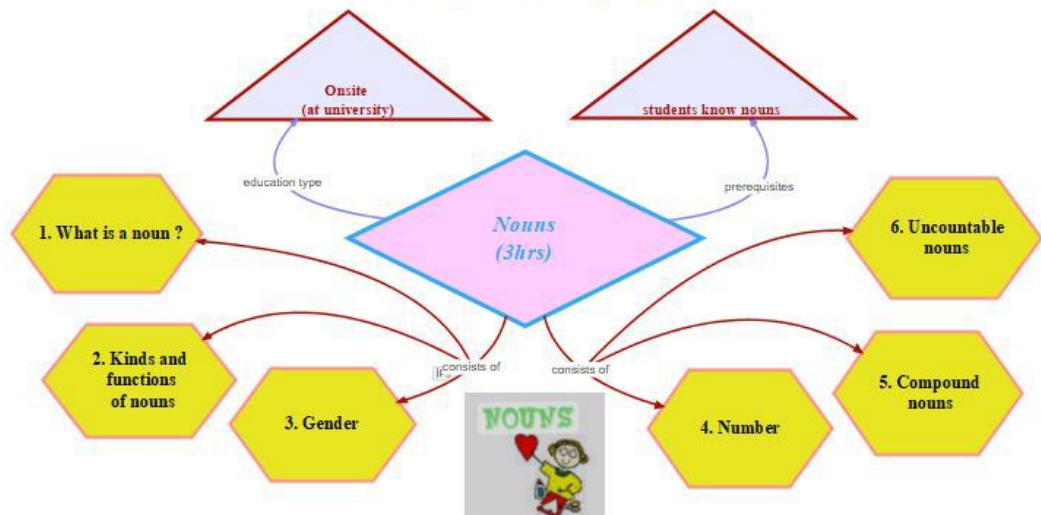


**Objectives:**

By the end of this chapter, students are capable to:

- Identify the different kinds of nouns.
- Differentiate between both singular and plural forms of nouns.
- Combine words to form compound nouns.

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*Mind Map for Nouns*

## 1. What is a Noun?

*🔑 Definition*

A noun is a word that names **a person, a place, a thing, or an idea**. For Example, Sarah, lady, cat, New York, Canada, room, school, football, reading, motivation, happiness, love.

*👉 Example*

- **Emma** passed the **test**.

- My **parents** are traveling to **Japan** next **month**.

## 2. Kinds and Functions of Nouns

### 2.1. Kinds

#### *Fundamental*

There are four kinds of noun in English:\*

1. **Common** nouns
2. **Proper** nouns
3. **Abstract** nouns
4. **Collective** nouns

#### *Example*

- Dog, man, table
- France, Madrid, Mrs. Smith, Tom
- Beauty, chanty, courage, fear, joy
- Crowd, flock, group, swarm, teamM2.

### 2.2. Functions

#### *Fundamental*

A noun can function as:\*

1. **The subject of a verb**
2. The **complement** of the verbs be, become, seem:
3. **The object of a verb**
4. **The object of a preposition**
5. A noun can also be **in the possessive case**

#### *Example*

- Tom arrived
- Tom is an actor.
- / saw Tom
- / spoke to Tom.
- Tom's books.

## 3. Gender

#### *Fundamental*

A noun can be:

**Masculine**\*: men, boys and male animals (pronoun he/they).

**Feminine**\*: women, girls and female animals (pronoun she/they)

**Neuter:** \* inanimate things, animals whose sex we don't know and sometimes babies whose sex we don't know (pronoun it/they)

### *Note*

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- Ships and sometimes cars and other vehicles when regarded with affection or respect are considered **feminine**.
- Countries when referred to by name are also normally considered **feminine**

### *Example*

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The ship struck an iceberg, which tore a huge hole in her side Scotland lost many of her bravest men in two great rebellions

### *Reminder*

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**The majority of nouns indicating occupation have the same form**

artist, cook, driver, guide

assistant, dancer, doctor

some exceptions are,

- **Some exceptions,**

actor, actress/ host, hostess

conductor, conductress/ manager, manageress

heir, heiress/ steward, stewardess

hero, heroine/ waiter, waitress

### *Note*

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**Domestic animals and many of the larger wild animals have different forms.**

### *Example*

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- bull, cow/ duck, drake
- ram, ewe/ stallion, mare
- cock, hen/ gander, geese
- stag, doe/ tiger, tigress
- dog, bitch/ lion, lioness

## 4. Number

### *Fundamental*

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1. The plural of a noun is usually made by adding s to the singular.

- **s** is pronounced /s/ after the sounds // (months), /p/ (tapes), /k/ (forks) or /f/ (proofs). Otherwise, it is pronounced **Iz**.
  - When **s** is placed after **ce, ge, se** or **ze** an extra syllable (/iz/) is added to the spoken word.
2. Nouns ending in **o** or **ch, sh, ss** or **x** form their plural by adding **es**.
  3. Nouns ending in **y** following a consonant form their plural by dropping the **y** and adding **ies**  
Nouns ending in **y** following a vowel form their plural by adding **s**-
  4. Twelve nouns ending in **f** or **fe** drop the **f** or **fe** and add **ves**. These nouns are **calf, half, knife, leaf, life, loaf, self, sheaf, shelf, thief, wife, wolf**.
  5. A few nouns form their plural by a vowel change: **foot, feet/ louse, lice/ mouse, mice/ woman, women**. The plurals of **child** and **ox** are **children, oxen**.
  6. Names of certain creatures do not change in the plural, **fish** is normally unchanged. Some types of fish do not normally change in the plural, **carp, pike, salmon, trout**...etc, but if used in a plural sense they would take a plural verb. Others add **s**.
  7. A few other words don't change.
  8. Words plural in form but singular in meaning include **news, certain diseases, certain games**.

### Example

- day, days/ dog, dogs/ house, houses
- tomato, tomatoes/ brush, brushes/ box, boxes  
dynamo, dynamos/ kimono, kimonos/ piano, pianos/ kilo, kilos
- baby, babies country, countries fly, flies lady, ladies  
boy, boys day, days donkey, donkeys guy, guys
- loaf, loaves/ wife, wives/ wolf, wolves
- goose, geese/ man, men/ tooth, teeth
- crabs/ herrings/ sardines/ eels/ lobsters/ sharks
- aircraft, craft (boat/boats) quid (slang for £1), counsel (barristers working in court)
- The news is good, mumps rickets shingles, billiards darts draughts bowls dominoes

*Choose two of the words below as the most likely ways of completing each sentence. For one answer you will need to make the word plural, and for the other you will need to make no change. (B)*

accommodation    bag    equipment    house    jewellery    job    luggage  
painting    shower    sunshine    tool    work

- 1 On the weather forecast they said there would be.....this afternoon.
- 2 The waiting room was so full of people and their....., there was nowhere to sit.
- 3 Repairing car engines is easy if you've got the right.....
- 4 In Stockholm at the moment there's a fascinating exhibition of.....from 19th century Sweden.
- 5 Both my brothers are looking for.....
- 6 The price of.....has increased by 12% this year alone.

*Complete the following sentences by inserting the suitable nouns, make the plural form whenever necessary:*

## 5. Compound Nouns

### Fundamental:Combinations

1. **Noun + noun**
2. **Noun + gerund**



### 3. Gerund + noun

#### Example

- London Transport/ Fleet Street/ Tower Bridge/hall door/ traffic warden/ petrol tank
- fruit picking/ lorry driving/ coal-mining/ weight-lifting/ bird-watching/ surf-riding
- waiting list/ diving-board/ driving licence/ landing card/ dining-room/ swimming pool

#### Method: Some ways in which these combinations can be used:

1. When the second noun belongs to or is part of the first
2. The first noun can indicate the place of the second
3. The first noun can indicate the time of the second:
4. The first noun can state the material of which the second is made
5. The first word can indicate the purpose of the second
6. Work areas, such as factory, farm, mine etc , can be preceded by the name of the article produced.
7. These combinations are often used of occupations, sports, hobbies and the people who practise them.

#### Example

- shop window / picture frame / college library
- city street/ corner shop/ country lane
- summer holiday/ Sunday paper/ November fogs
- steel door/ rope ladder/ gold medal
- coffee cup/ escape hatch/ chess board
- fish-farm/ gold-mine/ oil-rig
- sheep farming/ sheep farmer/ pop singer

## 6. Uncountable Nouns

#### Note

**Uncountable nouns are also known as non-count nouns or mass nouns.\***

#### Fundamental

Uncountable nouns generally include:

1. Names of substances considered generally.
2. Abstract nouns.
3. Also considered uncountable in English.
4. Uncountable nouns are always singular and are not used with a/an.

These nouns are often preceded by some, any, no, a little etc. or by nouns such as bit, piece, slice etc. + of.

#### Example

- bread, cream, gold, paper, tea.
- advice, experience, horror, pity

- baggage, damage, luggage, shopping
- I don't want (any) advice or help. I want (some) information. He has had no experience in this sort of work.  
a bit of news a grain of sand a pot of jam

 **Reminder**

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Many of the nouns in the above groups can be used in a particular sense and are then countable.

They can take **a/an** in the singular and can be used in the plural. Some examples are given below.

- hair (all the hair on one's head) is considered uncountable, but if we consider each hair separately, we say one hair, two hairs etc.

 **Extra**

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Some **abstract nouns** can be used in a particular sense with **a/an**:

**a help:** My children are a great help to me. A good map would be a help.

**a relief:** It was a relief to sit down.

**a knowledge + of:** He had a good knowledge of mathematics.

**a dislike/dread/hatred/horror/love + of** is also possible: a love of music a hatred of violence

**a mercy/pity/shame/wonder** can be used with that-clauses introduced by it: It's a pity you weren't here. It's a shame he wasn't paid.

**it + be + a pity/shame + infinitive** is also possible: It would be a pity to cut down these trees


a fear/fears, a hope/hopes, a suspicion/suspicious

*Choose from the words below to complete each sentence. Decide if the word should be countable or uncountable. If the word is countable, add a/an or make it plural as appropriate. (C)*

chicken   dislike   improvement   language   life   success

- 1 Mary used to keep.....in her garden until they started to get out.
- 2 A score of 40% may not be very good but it's certainly.....on her last mark.
- 3 After so many previous....., it was inevitable that one of his films would be unpopular.
- 4.....is too short to worry about keeping your house spotlessly clean.
- 5 I've had.....of green vegetables ever since I was a child.
- 6 Our students study both.....and literature in their English degree.

*Decide on countable and uncountable nouns in the following*

 **Complement: An online video on nouns**

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<https://youtu.be/62X2omOnVjE>

# References



*book 1*

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# Bibliography

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