Noun

What is a noun?

A **Noun** is the name of any person, place or thing.
The word 'thing' includes things that one can feel, taste, touch and also things one can simply think of but cannot see or touch.

Eg:

1. **Aarnav** is an intelligent boy. (Aarnav is the name of a person)
2. **Delhi** is the capital of India. (Delhi is the name of a place)

Kinds of noun

Nouns can be classified according to what they refer to.
There are **five major** kinds of noun:

1. Common noun
2. Proper noun
3. Concrete noun
4. Abstract noun
5. Collective noun

COMMON NOUN:

A common noun is a name given to any person, place or thing in general. It is the name given in common to every person or thing of the same class or kind.
(names like **boy, city, woman, Tv** etc., are common names. We don't know exactly which boy it refers to. It applies to all boys in general. The names which do not refer to anything specific or particular are called common nouns)

Points to be noted/ Hints:

● Also known as **general nouns.**
● We must **use an article** before a singular Common noun.
● **Do not** start with a **Capital letter** unless they begin a sentence.

Examples:

1. **Birds** live on **trees.**
2. A **child** is playing near the swimming pool.

PROPER NOUN:

Nouns that are '**really**' **names** are called proper nouns.

Proper nouns usually refer to a particular named person or thing. (**Eg:** Arun and Varun are the names of boys. Similarly, Chennai, Delhi are the names of cities. These are the names given to a particular person, a particular city. The names which are given to a specific person, place of a common kind are called proper nouns).

Points to be noted/Hints:
- Always begins with the **capital letter,** no matter where they occur within a sentence.
- Also called **proper names.**

Examples:
1. **Nila** is the tallest girl in her class.
2. I ordered the laptop from **Amazon.**
3. **Rakesh** is my best friend.

The difference between common nouns and proper nouns becomes clearer when they're side by side:

Common nouns - names given in common to every person, place or things in general.	Proper nouns - names given to each person, place or things in particular.
- planet	- Earth, Neptune
- city - country	- Paris - India, China
- Girl - Cat	- Neha - Fluffy (the name was given to a cat).
Eg: I have to go to the <u>doctor</u> for these persistent headaches.	Eg: I should see <u>Dr. Morgan</u> for these persistent headaches.

Other Examples:
- **The car** I'd like to buy is a **Toyota. (The car** is a **common noun. Toyota** is a **proper noun)**

- We wanted to try a new **restaurant,** so we went to **Taste of Thai. (Restaurant** is a **common noun. Taste of Thai** is a **proper noun.)**

Every common noun can be classified as at least one of the following noun types.

CONCRETE NOUN:

A concrete noun is a name for something tangible (can be touched). It refers to the things we see and have physical existence. A **concrete noun** is a **noun** that can be identified through one of the five senses. (**Noise** is also a concrete noun because, Even though *noise* can't be touched and the noise may even be coming from several places, you can **hear** the noise

Points to be noted/Hints:

- These are the nouns that we can perceive using our five senses. (Five senses are the sense of sight, sound, taste, smell, and touch)
- Rainbows is a **concrete noun** as they can be **seen.**

Examples:

1. These are the **lemon trees** in my **backyard.**
2. The **rainbows** are colourful.

ABSTRACT NOUN:

An **abstract noun** is a word that refers to ideas, qualities, and conditions. It is exactly opposite to the concrete noun as they cannot be seen or have no physical existence.

Points to be noted/Hints:

Showing Human Qualities or Characteristics: **Beauty, Bravery, Brilliance, Calmness, Charity...** are called abstract nouns.

Most abstract nouns end with these suffixes:

e.g.

-ism	-ment	-ity
nationalism	argument	personality

-tion	-ship	-ence
aggravation	friendship	silence

This abstract noun cannot be seen, heard, touched or tasted but it can only be felt by our senses. The abstract noun is not visible.

e.g.

Quality	wiseness, goodness, kindness, whiteness, darkness, honesty, wisdom, bravery
Action	quarreling, jog, laughter, theft, movement, judgement, hatred
State	poverty, childhood, boyhood, manhood, youth, slavery, sleep, death

Abstract nouns can be formed from adjectives, verbs, and common nouns.

By Addition Of Ness

Word	Word + ness
calm	calmness
foolish	foolishness
good	goodness

Addition of 'ce' replacing 't'

Word	Addition of 'ce' replacing 't'
intelligent	intelligence
obedient	obedience

Addition of 'th' and change in vowels

Word	Addition of 'th' and change in vowels
strong	strength
long	length
true	truth

Deletion Of 'Y'

Word	New word
Easy	ease
Greedy	Greed

By Addition Of "Ence Or Ance Or Ce"

Word	Abstract noun
Silent	Silence
Enter	Entrance
Perform	Performance

Abstract Nouns Formed From Verbs By Addition Of "Tion/Sion"

Word	Abstract noun
Attract	Attraction
Protect	Protection
Act	Action

Abstract Nouns Formed From Common Nouns By Addition Of "Hood":

Common Noun	Abstract noun
child	childhood
Man	manhood

Abstract Nouns Formed From adjectives by addition of 'ty' or 'cy' or ' ly'

Word	Abstract noun
honest	honesty
efficient	efficiency
cruel	cruelty

Names of Arts and Sciences, Grammar, Physics, Music, Pottery etc. are also Abstract nouns.

The difference between concrete nouns and abstract nouns becomes clearer when they're side by side:

A concrete noun - a name for something tangible (can be touched).	An abstract noun - a word that refers to ideas, qualities, and conditions.
Can be identified by at least one of the five senses.	Cannot be identified by five senses.
Book, car, apple, voice	Anger, confidence, luck, strength
Eg: She reads ten books in a week.	Eg: They laughed at my idea.

COLLECTIVE NOUN:

A collective noun is a word or phrase that refers to a group of people or things as one entity. In simple words, a collective noun is a name given to a **collection** of persons, animals, things taken **together as one.**

- **a team** (for example eleven football players)
- **a family** (for example mother, father and two children)
- **a crew** (for example 100 sailors)

Points to be noted/Hints:

Usually, collective nouns are used as **singular.** They can be used as **plural if there is a division among the members** of the collective noun or the **members are being talked about.**

Eg: The jury **has** delivered **its** conclusion to the judge.

Eg: The jury **have not concluded** because **they** are still arguing among themselves.

Is a Collective Noun Singular or Plural?

Collective noun treated as singular	Collective noun treated as plural
The school **reopens** in September.	The school **are** preparing for **their** winter marathon.
The club **was** founded in 2003.	The club **are** currently displaying **their** best photos.
The board of directors **uses** this room for **its** meetings	The board of directors **are** eating sandwiches for **their** lunch

- We should treat a collective noun as singular unless the context **highlights the individuals** in the group.
- Once we decide whether the collective noun is singular or plural, it should be consistent throughout the sentence. The whole sentence should be in same number (singular, singular) or (plural, plural) (**Eg:** The group **is** changing **its** name)
- While some collective nouns (e.g., pack, group) can be used with different things, most can't.

For example, you probably shouldn't say:
- a **bouquet** of wolves
- a **swarm** of lions

Examples:

Here are some examples of collective nouns:

1. A <u>class</u> of students
2. A <u>crowd</u> of people
3. A <u>gang</u> of thieves
4. A <u>pack</u> of thieves

More Examples of Collective Nouns

Common Collective Nouns Used for People:

- A band of musicians
- A board of directors
- A choir of singers
- A class of students
- A crowd of people

- A gang of thieves
- A pack of thieves
- A panel of experts
- A team of players
- A troupe of dancer

Common Collective Nouns Used for Animals:

- An army of ants
- A flock of birds
- A flock of sheep
- A herd of deer
- A hive of bees
- A litter of puppies
- A murder of crows

- A pack of hounds
- A pack of wolves
- A school of fish
- A swarm of locusts
- A team of horses
- A pride of lions

Common Collective Nouns Used for Things:

- A bouquet of flowers
- A bunch of flowers
- A fleet of ships
- A forest of trees
- A galaxy of stars

- A pack of cards
- A pack of lies
- A pair of shoes
- A range of mountains
- A wad of notes

Words Denoting Groups:

1	A band of musicians.
2	A board of directors, etc.
3	A bevy of girls, women, officers etc
4	A bunch of grapes, keys, etc.
5	A bundle of sticks and hay
6	A caravan of merchants, pilgrims, travellers.
7	A chain / range of mountains or hills.
8	A choir of singers.
9	A class of students
10	A retinue of servants / attendants

11	A clump / grove of trees.
12	A code of laws.
13	A cluster / constellation / galaxy of stars.
14	A company / regiment / army of soldiers
15	A convoy of ships, cars etc. moving under an escort.
16	A course or series of lectures
17	A crew of sailors.
18	A crowd / mob of people.

19	A curriculum of studies.
20	A flight of steps, stairs.

21	A fleet of ships or motorcars.
22	A flock of geese, sheep and birds
23	A gang of robbers, laborers.
24	A garland / bunch / bouquet of flowers.
25	A heap of ruins, sand, stones
26	A herd of cattle.
27	A litter of puppies.
28	A pack of hounds, cards, thieves.
29	A pair of shoes, scissors, compasses, trousers.
30	A series of events.

31	A sheaf of corn, arrows
32	A swarm of ants, bees or flies.
33	A train of carriages. Followers etc.
34	A troop of horses (cavalry), scouts
35	A volley of shots, bullets

COUNTABLE NOUNS & UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS:

Nouns that can be **counted** are called countable nouns. A countable noun is a noun that can be pluralized (e.g., "cat/cats," "device/devices'').

A non-countable noun (or **mass noun**) is a noun without a plural form (e.g., "food," "music," "ice"). Though these nouns can be measured, they cannot be counted.

Countable nouns - Nouns that can be counted.	Uncountable nouns - Nouns that cannot be counted
Have singular/ plural form	do not have a singular or plural form.
coin, cup, plate, table, chair, cat	Water, drinks, cloud, Music, sand
Eg: There are <u>four milk bottles</u> in the fridge.	Eg: Add some more <u>sugar</u> to a cup of tea.

MATERIAL NOUNS:

The material noun is a name given to a material or substance of which things are made. **Eg:** Gold, steel, wool, Cotton, Flour

Points to be noted/ Hints:

Material nouns are usually **uncountable nouns** which means they can not be counted. So, they do not have a singular or plural form.

Example:

- This bottle is made of plastic.
- This table is made of food.

GENDER NOUNS:

Gender Noun words can be divided into:

Masculine Nouns - Masculine nouns represent males.	Feminine Nouns - Feminine nouns represent females
Boys, men and male animals. **Eg: Prince, man, king, boy, cock, lion etc.**	Girls, women and female animals. **Eg: Princess, woman, queen, girl, hen, lioness, etc.**
These nouns are referred to as he, him, his, himself.	These nouns are referred to as she, her, hers, herself.
Eg: <u>He</u> is a good actor.	**Eg:** <u>She</u> is talking to <u>her</u> friend.

But some nouns that represent both males and females are called **nouns of common gender**. **For example** Children, artists, principals, teachers, singers, lawyers, etc

COMPOUND NOUNS:

Compound nouns are formed by **joining two or more words together**. There are three different ways to form compound nouns:

- The one-word form **Eg:** notebook, firefly and keyboard.
- The hyphenated (-) form **Eg:** x-ray, co-pilot and mother-in-law.
- The two-word form **Eg:** the post office, history book, mineral water.

Points to be noted/ Hints:

- One-word compound nouns (also called "closed compound nouns")
- Two-word compound nouns (also called "open compound nouns")

Examples:

1. We played **<u>football</u>** today
2. My **<u>mother-in-law</u>** is a very kind person.

Summary:

- A **Noun** is the name of any person, place or thing.
- The names which do not refer to anything specific or particular are called common nouns.
- Proper noun usually refers to a particular named person or thing.
- A concrete noun is a name for something tangible (can be touched). It refers to the things we see and have physical existence.
- An **abstract noun** is a word that refers to ideas, qualities, and conditions.
- A collective noun is a name given to a **collection** of persons, animals, things taken **together as one.**
- The noun that can be **counted** is called a **countable noun**
- **The uncountable noun** is a noun that cannot be counted.
- The **material noun** is a name given to a material or substance of which things are made.
- Gender nouns are divided into - **Masculine Nouns** - Masculine nouns represent males. **Feminine Nouns** - Feminine nouns represent females. Some nouns that represent both males and females are called **nouns of common gender.**
- A compound noun is formed by **joining two or more words together**.
- **It is common for a noun to fit into several noun categories.**

EXERCISE

Identify the correct form of noun :

(I) **Rice** is the staple food of South Indians. Rice is a/an _____ noun.

(II) The **book** was lying on the table. Book is a/an _____ noun.

(III) The **childhood** of Peter was full of misery. Childhood is a/an _____ noun.

(IV) **Complete the following sentence with appropriate noun**: a. An _____ of soldiers. b. A _____ of wolves. c. A _____ of fish.

(V) My *sister* is going to join an MNC next week. sister is a/an _____ noun.

(VI) A group of sheep is called a **_flock_** of sheep. Identify the type of noun.

(VII) All the **girls** were singing. Girls is a/an _____ noun.

(VIII) **Julie** is my youngest **sister**. Identify the type of noun for the underlined words.

(IX) King Solomon was famous for his **wisdom.** Wisdom is a/an _____ noun.

(X) We saw a **fleet of ships** in the harbour. **Fleet** is a/an _____ noun.

ANSWERS:

(I) Material noun

(II) Common noun

(III) Abstract noun

(IV) army, pack, school

(V) Common noun

(VI) Collective noun

(VII) Common noun

(VIII) Proper noun, common noun

(IX) Abstract noun

(X) Collective noun

Exercise II

Choose the word which can be used in place of the given phrase or set of words.

1 A group of ants
a) Nest
b) Column
c) Bevy
d) army

2 A group of horses

a) Union
b) String
c) Troop
d) tribe

3 A group of robbers/thieves
a) Host

b) Crowd
c) Gang
d) band

4 A group of lions
a) Pride
b) Team
c) Shoal
d) hive

5. A group of girls, ladies
a) Corps
b) battalion
c) choir
d) bevy

6. A group of geese
a) Column
b) Drove
c) Gaggle
d) Brood

7. A group of sailors

a) Crew
b) Flurry
c) Council
d) Bevy

8. A group of bees
a) Haul
b) Herd
c) Hive
d) Nest

9. A group of people
a) Regiment
b) Squad
c) Crowd
d) String

10.   A group of wolves
a) School
b) Pack
c) String
d) train

ANSWERS:

1. D

2. B

3. C

4. A

5. D

6. C

7. A

8. C

9. C

10. B