

Nouns

- ▣ Types of nouns
- ▣ Functions of nouns
- ▣ Positions of nouns
- ▣ Forms of nouns
- ▣ Markers of nouns

Types of nouns

▣ Meaning classification

1. Proper versus common nouns
2. Concrete versus abstract nouns
3. Countable versus uncountable nouns
4. Collective nouns versus unit nouns

▣ Form classification

1. Compound nouns

Proper versus common nouns

▣ Proper nouns

1. Personal names: David; Henry Widdowson;
2. Names of geographic units: Iran; Isfahan; New York; the Nile; the Pacific; Mount Everest; the Great Salt Lake
3. Names of holidays: Valentine's Day; Golden Week; Now Rowz
4. Names of time units: Sunday; Esfand;
5. Names of historic events and documents: the French Revolution; the Emancipation proclamation; World War I

6. Words used for personification:

Justice; Death; Liberty; Destiny

7. Names of objects and commercial products:

Mazda 3; Kleenex

8. Names of religions, followers of particular religions, and some religious concepts:

Islam; Christianity; Shinto; Shiite; Doomsday; Heaven; the Devil

9. Persons or bodies with a particular function:
the Leader; the King; Majlis; Congress

10. Public buildings, institutions, laws etc:
the University of Tabriz; Iran Language
Institute; Bank Tejarat;
11. Political parties and their members: the
Conservative party; the Republicans;
12. Languages and nationalities: Chinese;
Japanese; Iranian; Lebanese

Defining features of proper nouns

Grammatically:

1. Proper nouns do not vary for number.
2. Proper nouns are not used with determiners.

Orthographically:

1. Proper nouns begin with capital letters.

Common nouns

Common nouns

books; vegetables; people; houses; war;
independence

1. Common nouns are preceded by determiners.
2. Common nouns begin with small letters.

Concrete versus abstract nouns

- Concrete nouns: words for physical objects perceived by the senses

Boat; car; house; food; coffee; flower;

- Abstract nouns: words for concepts, ideas existing in speakers' minds

Justice; brotherhood; nationality; religion

- Is “music” a concrete or an “abstract noun”?

■ Countable versus uncountable nouns

■ Countable (count) nouns

1. Names of separate people, objects, ideas:
doctor; carpet; hour
2. Countable nouns have plural forms: doctors;
carpets; hours
3. Countable nouns are preceded by a/an: a
doctor; a carpet; an hour
4. Countable nouns are preceded by numbers:
two doctors; five carpets; three hours

■ Uncountable (noncount(able) or mass) nouns

1. Names of materials, liquids, abstract qualities, collections, and other things without clear boundaries: coffee; life; weather;
2. Uncountable nouns are usually singular without plural forms: ~~waters; golds; woods~~
3. Uncountable nouns are not usually preceded by a/an: ~~a water; a gold; a wool; an accommodation~~
4. Uncountable nouns are not preceded by numbers:
~~two waters; three golds; five woods~~


■ Types of uncountable nouns

- Foods: rice; wheat; barley; salt; milk; corn; spaghetti; rye; maize; sugar; fruit; bread; butter; cheese; chicken; beef; lamb; cream; soup
- Fluids: water; tea; coffee; oil; gasoline; vinegar; wine; ink
- Raw materials: wood; paper; glass; iron; metal; cement; plastic; glass;

- Gases: oxygen; air; steam; nitrogen;
- Languages: English; French; Persian
- Groups: baggage; luggage; machinery; scenery; cash; clothing; jewelry;
- Academic field of study: physics; mathematics; statistics; psychometrics; medicine; dentistry
- Names of sports: football; chess; darts;

- Names of diseases or illnesses: mumps; measles; flu; smallpox; malaria; typhoid; gastritis; blephritis
- Metals: gold; silver; copper; lead
- Abstract nouns: beauty; relief; suspicion; information; management;
- Verbs ending in--ing: swimming; coughing; surfing; flying; merging; shopping; parking; camping
- Others: damage; furniture; equipment; furniture; homework; mail; traffic

Collective nouns versus unit nouns

-  Collective nouns: words for a group of people, animals, plants, or objects as a single unit

Army, audience, board, committee, crew, family, jury, staff, team, class, crowd, enemy, faculty, flock, folk, government, herd, majority, minority, orchestra, press, public, the Air Force, the BBC, the Senate, Congress, Parliament, bank, choir, firm, union, school, ministry, party

● Some features of collective nouns

1. Collective nouns are countable
 - a. A welcoming committee greets newcomers to the neighbourhood.
 - b. Civil servants give evidence to parliamentary committee and other official inquiries.
 2. Collective nouns are followed by either singular or plural verbs
- Editorial board has/have decided to reject your paper.

● Unit nouns

- Like collective nouns, unit nouns are also countable

A slice/slices

- Unlike collective nouns, unit nouns refer to separate instances of a phenomenon

Compare: A pack of wolves, but an item of news

- Unlike quantifying collectives, unit nouns are always followed by an of + uncountable nouns

Compare: a set of factors, but a sprinkling of snow

■ Compound nouns (noun compounds)

- Noun + noun: log book; football match; motherboard; gas station; restroom; waste-bin
- Adjective + noun: common practice; highway; blueberry; whiteboard
- Possessive noun + noun: doctor's office; singer's bodyguard; men's room; gents hairdressing shop;
- Verb + noun: cookbook; swimsuit; pickpocket

- Noun + verb: handshake; lifeguard;
- Gerund + noun: dining room; swimming pool; parking lot;
- Noun + gerund: windsurfing; Thanksgiving; ethnic cleansing; air conditioning;
- Preposition + noun: by-product; overalls;
- Verb + preposition/adverb: push-up; sit-up; break-out; breakdown; downtown
- Noun + prepositional phrase: commander-in-chief; brother-in-law;

Functions of nouns

■ Subject of the verb

1. Mom is cooking in the kitchen.
2. Enemy fighters shot down his plane.

■ Object (of the verb)

1. Direct object: He lent me his book.
2. Indirect object: I sold him my bicycle.
3. Cognate object: He lived a happy life.
4. Object of preposition: He was sitting in the sitting room.
5. Prepositional object: She frowned at the young man.

■ Complement

1. Subjective complement:

The Catcher in the Rye is an American novel.

He is the English department head.

2. Objective complement:

Students elected him the chairperson.

We called him a coward.

■ Appositive:

1. Earnest Hemingway, the famous American short story writer and novelist, won the Noble prize.
2. The US poet and short story wrier Edgar Allen Poe most is famous for his strange, frightening stories about death and evil powers.

■ Vocative or direct address

1. Edward, open the window please!
2. Hold these books for a second please, David!

■ Noun adjunct

1. Babies are fond of playing with toy guns.
2. These youngsters work 70 meters below ground level.
3. His house was surrounded by high stone walls.

■ Number

- Singular and plural nouns
- Plural nouns
 1. Regular plurals
 2. Irregular plurals
 3. Special plurals
 4. Distributive plurals
 5. Others

Regular plurals

- In English, nouns are made plural by adding-s

Cat	cats
Hat	hats
Tree	trees
Mountain	mountains
Computer	computers
Pager	paggers
Mp 5 player	mp 5 players

- Words ending in—y preceded by a consonant change to—i and add—es.

Party

parties

Country

countries

Lady

ladies

Baby

babies

Ferry

ferries

Fly

flies

- Words ending in –ch, sh, x, s(s), or zz are made plural by adding –es.

Match

matches

Dish

dishes

Box

boxes

Bus

buses

Class

classes

Buzz

buzzes

Church

churches

Waltz

waltzes

- Words ending in a single—o are also made plural by adding —es.

Tomato

tomatoes

Negro

negroes

Hero

heroes

Potato

potatoes

Echo

echoes

Ⓢ Irregular plurals

- Ⓢ Words ending in –f(e)
- Ⓢ Foreign plurals
- Ⓢ Plurals by changing a vowel

Word ending in –f(e)

- ▣ They change into “ves” when they are made plural.

Shelf	shelves
Self	selves
Calf	calves
Loaf	loaves
Wolf	wolves
Wife	wives
Knife	knives
Life	lives
Sheaf	sheaves
Thief	thieves
Half	halves
Leaf	leaves
Elf	elves

☑ Foreign plurals

- ☑ They vary according to the origin of the words (these are mostly Greek or Latin words).

1. Words ending in—*is* become—*es*:

Basis

bases

Analysis

analyses

Synthesis

syntheses

Parenthesis

parentheses

Oasis

oases

4. Words ending in--us become—i

Fungus	fungi
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Focus	foci
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Radius	radii
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5. Words ending in—ex or ix become —ices

Appendix	appendices
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Index	indices
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6. Words ending in—eau become—eaux

Plateau	plateaux
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Bureau	bureaux
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Plurals by changing a vowel

- Some nouns are made plural by a vowel change

Man men

Woman women

Foot feet

Goose geese

Mouse mice

Louse lice

Tooth teeth

➡ Special plurals

➡ Compound nouns

1. The last word is usually made plural

Car parks; road bridges; bookshelves

2. Both parts are made plural when compounds are made up with man and woman

Men drivers; women players

3. The noun is made plural when the compound is made up with prepositions or a noun + er + adverbs

Prisoners of war; editors-in-chief; passers-by; lookers-on; runners-up

- ▶ Letters of alphabets, dates, and abbreviations are made plural by adding-s

Two As; 1960s; Mps

- ▶ Child, brother, ox, person, penny and die have the following plurals:

Children; brethren; oxen; people; pence; dice

Markers of nouns

■ Modifiers

1. Determiners

- a. Articles: a, an, the: a book, an orange, the students
- b. Possessive adjectives: my, your, his, her, its, our, your, their; your bicycle; their houses
- c. Demonstratives: this, that, these, those: this tree, those cars
- d. Quantifiers: all, each, some, no, enough: enough money, some sugar

e. Cardinal and ordinal numbers: one/first; two second; three/third; four/fourth

One country/the first country/ three libraries; the third library

f. Adjectives, present and past participles, nouns acting as adjectives: nice job/ smiling faces/ given conditions/ door handle

2. Prepositions: in, on, over, down, up etc

In the car, down the village, up the river