

A noun is based on substantivity.

A noun denotes all kinds of physical objects, such as persons, animals, inanimate objects, places, events, states, abstract phenomena: *a flower, a diamond, a tiger, sensitivity, conscience, pride, James, Paris.*



Distinctive features of nouns

1. category of number;
2. category of case;
3. category of gender (not marked);
4. determination;
- 5.



Syntactically a noun can function in a sentence as:

- a) subject;
- b) an object;
- c) predicative complement, e.g. *She is a student.*

Their apologies were accepted. The police are investigating the case. No news is good news.

Classification of nouns



- 1) common nouns and proper nouns;
- 2) concrete and abstract;
- 3) animate and inanimate;
- 4) countable and uncountable.



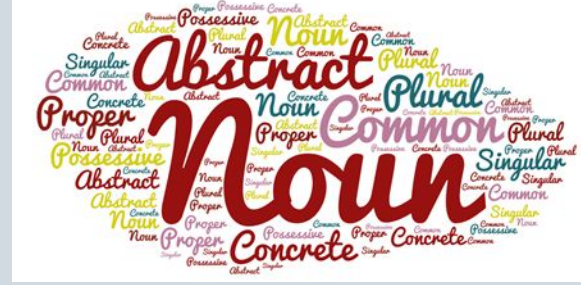
Common nouns denote not specified objects but the whole classes of homogeneous objects.

Proper nouns give names to people or things.

A proper noun has two distinctive features:

- 1) it will name a specific usually a one-of-a-kind item,
- 2) it will begin with a capital letter no matter where it occurs in a sentence.

Common and proper nouns



Proper nouns lack both the contrast in number and definiteness (e.g. *Sue*, but not normally a *Sue*, *the Sue*, *Sues*).

They need no specification of number and definiteness, because they only name instances and do not denote classes (compare *Sue* /*a girl*)

Common Noun

a writer
a teacher
a beagle
a cookie
a city
a restaurant
a document
a school

Proper Noun

Michael Cunningham
Mrs. McCarthy
Snoopy
Pims
Brighton
Orlando
Declaration of Independence
University of Virginia





*Tina offered Antonio one of her mother's homemade oatmeal **cookies** but only an **Oreo** would satisfy his sweet tooth.*

*Charlie had wanted an easy **teacher** for his composition class, but he got **Mrs. Hackett**, whose short temper and unreasonable demands made the semester a torture.*

*Gloria wanted to try a new **restaurant**, so Richard took her to **Tito's Taco Palace**, where no one dips into the hot sauce until the drinks have arrived at the table.*



Grammatically, these nouns have the characteristic that they are used without determiners and **do not vary in number**.

Orthographically, they are marked by **an initial capital letter**.



Semantically proper names are complex names.

*The court heard that **little Harry's** death could have been prevented if social workers had not overruled detective.*

***Beautiful Di** is not so perfect.*

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Capitalized nouns

personal names

geographical names

objects and commercial products

holidays, months, and days of the week

religions, followers of particular religions, some religious concepts

persons or bodies with a unique public function

public buildings, institutions, laws, etc.

political parties and members of political parties

languages and nationalities

adjectives, and common nouns, themselves derived from proper nouns

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ!
HIJKLMNÑ
OPQRSTU
VWXYZ!?

designed by  vexels



‘The’ with proper nouns

Plural geographical names (e.g. the Cayman Islands, the Bahamas): They crossed the Great Smoky Mountains in midwinter.

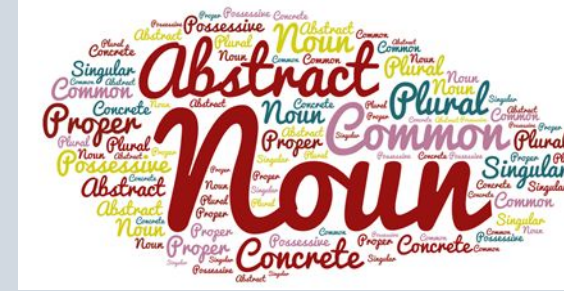
Other geographical names, such as rivers, seas, and canals (e.g. the Potomac, the Panama Canal; the Pacific).

Public institutions, such as hotels, restaurants, theatres, museums, libraries, etc. (e.g. the Ritz, the Metropolitan Museum; The Library of Congress).

Names of ships, particularly those well-known in history, take the definite article (e.g. The Titanic, the Bos Esperanca):

Many newspapers and some periodicals take the definite article (e.g. The Times, The Guardian, v. Time, Newsweek):

Proper nouns functioning as common nouns



On the one hand, proper nouns may derive from ordinary descriptive phrases.

On the other, proper nouns can behave like common nouns, or they may themselves acquire uses as common nouns.

A person or family called X

I haven't been in touch with the Joneses for ages.

B Person like X

I'm well aware that I have neither the imagination nor the intellectual capacities of a Jefferson.

But a man who takes control of a state whether it be for good or ill, a Napoleon or a Genghis Khan, a Caesar these are remembered..

C Product of X

I got a Bentley, two Cadillacs, a Chrysler station wagon, and an MG for my boy.

An action associate with a person

You could do an Arnold Schwarzenegger, just go - break the door.





The BBC is only acting in the public interest.

The BBC are only acting in the public interest.

Vietnam is refusing to join the economic summit.

Vietnam are refusing to join the economic summit.



Countable and uncountable nouns

Countable nouns have singular and plural.

persons	<i>businessman, journalist, guitarist</i>
concrete objects	<i>boat, present, vacuum cleaner</i>
actions/events	<i>event, tragedy, race</i>
other abstractions	<i>contribution, conclusion, rule</i>



Uncountable nouns refer to entities which cannot be counted and do not vary for number:

air, sky, grass, gold, silver, sugar, water

They are singulars – singularia tantum.

They cannot take plural morpheme, cannot combine with numerals, or their substitutes.

Uncountable nouns cannot express number by themselves.

Uncountable nouns have quantitative structure, countable nouns have numeric structure.

Uncountable nouns to be counted need container words or measure words. Such words as a glass, a cup gives boundaries: two cups of tea.



Meanings of uncountable nouns

substances (*air, ice*),

emotional and other states (love, fear, anger),

qualities (*importance, tenderness*),

liquids (water, milk, coffee)

powders (*sugar, flour*)

abstract concepts (*feedback, news, theory, time, friendship*).



Countable and uncountable uses of nouns

A window was broken by a stone.

In this flat landscape of stone there was nowhere one could hide.

Uncountable nouns that can be countable:

contact (denoting a social connection, a person one knows who is in a position to help, or an electrical part),

time (denoting a particular occasion or a period in history),

ice (serving of ice cream, in BrE),

love (denoting an object of love or a person who is loved),

air (denoting a tune or type of appearance/manner).



The rattling carriage was full of rucksacks and hikers, arid black-dressed Greek ladies with chickens.

*Would you like some **chicken** for dinner?*

*Plant beverages include **tea**, coffee, wine, alcoholic drinks, intoxicants, and - sweet beverages.*

*Six **teas** please.*

*I think I would like some **wine** though.*

*A lot of non-alcoholic **wines** are expensive.*



Plural uncountable nouns

These are morphologically plural nouns which do not vary for number and do not combine with numerals:

She wears those jigsaw-type clothes, the trousers usually.

He was a grey-haired man with a plausible voice and careful manners.

She reached for the scissors.

The scissors are on the desk.



Both count and uncountable nouns are subject to gradability in two respects: quality and quantity.

Quantity of uncountable nouns can be expressed by **unit** nouns and **measure** nouns.

Quantity of countable nouns can be expressed by **numerals** and **measure** nouns.

Quality can be expressed by **species** denoting nouns.

Unit nouns



They make it possible to split undifferentiated mass and refer to separate instances of a phenomenon.

*I watched **a bit of** television news.*

*They offered him **a slice of** soft white bread.*

*Eric Robinson has **two pieces of** advice for worried customers.*

*I found **a chip of** glass on the floor.*



An act of

- adultery, aggression, courage, defiance, kindness

A bit of

- cake, beef, cheese, sugar, cloth, paper, grass, wood;

A chip of

- glass, ice, paint, stone

Modifiers can qualify the unit.

A valuable piece of advice means more or less the same as a piece of valuable advice.

Quantifying nouns



Quantifying nouns are used to refer to quantities of both masses and entities.

- 1) Nouns denoting type of container;
- 2) Nouns denoting shape;
- 3) Standardized measure terms



Nouns denoting type of container

basket of eggs, bread, fruit, toiletries

box of books, cigars, matches, soap, tissues

cup of coffee, soup, tea

packet of biscuits, candles, chips, envelopes

stick of butter, dynamite, chalk



The suffix -ful can be added to almost any noun denoting some kind of container.

armful of grass, magazines, red roses

fistful of cash, dollars, matches, money

handful of peanuts, pencils,

mouthful of coffee, cereal, food, ice cream,

spoonful of broth, cream, custard, sugar, tea

Nouns denoting shape

heap of ashes, blankets, bones, leaves, rubble

pile of bills, bricks, cushions, rocks, rubbish,

wedge of cake, ice



Measure nouns



Measure nouns relate to precise quantities. They denote standardized measure terms.

<i>pint, litre</i>	<i>of beer, milk, oil, petrol, whisky, wine</i>
<i>foot, inch, yard, metre</i>	<i>of cloth, concrete, wire.</i>
<i>ounce, gramme</i>	<i>of gold, perfume, cocaine</i>
<i>kilogramme</i>	<i>of butter, cheese, meat, sugar</i>
<i>tone</i>	<i>of explosives, coal</i>

Nouns denoting large quantities

loads of books, cakes, friends, work

masses of homework, money, people





Species nouns

They are used to the type of entity or mass expressed by a following of-phrase: *class of*, *kind of*, *make of*, *sort of*, *species of*, *type of*:

Some sort of rice or something.

There are two types of people.

Under these conditions certain species of bacteria break down the waste to form methane gas.



Singular species noun + plural noun:

I don't know what kind of dinosaurs they all are.

Plural species noun + singular noun:

Thieves tend to target certain types of car

Collective or group nouns

Collective nouns refer to groups of single entities.

Typical examples are: *army, audience, board, committee, crew, family, jury, staff, team.*

*They elected a leader and **a committee** to represent the three urban communities where they lived.*



The family is very big. The family are very big.

The team has won a victory. The team have won a victory.



The choice of a plural verb focuses on the individuals that make up the collection, on the members of the committee or jury or whatever, rather than on the collection as a unit, the official body that the members constitute.

However, some do not vary in agreement:

*The **staff** are working under pressure.*

*The **police** have appealed for witnesses to come forward.*



*tens of thousands,
hundreds of applicants,
thousands of accidents,
billions of dollars*



Thank You