

# THE NOUN

Имя существительное



## What is a Noun?

The simplest definition of a noun is a *thing* and nouns are the basic building blocks of sentences. These things can represent a person, animal, place, idea, emotion - almost any *thing* that you can think of. *Dog, Sam, love, phone, Chicago, courage* and *spaceship* are all nouns. The more nouns you know in a language, the better you will be able to communicate your ideas. Here, we' ll take a closer look at what makes a noun a noun, and we' ll provide some examples of how nouns are used.

**Noun examples:** respect, faith, apple, seashore, peanut, motorcycle

## Examples:

1. The **boy** and **girl** were holding **hands** as they crossed the **bridge** on the **way** to **town**.

2. I love watching **my cat** play with the pink **yarn**.

3. **It** is raining! **Everyone**, grab **your umbrella** and rain **hat** and watch out for the **puddles**!

## Categories of Nouns:

There are several categories of nouns, and there can be an overlap across the categories. For example, there are *common* and *proper* nouns, and *concrete* and *abstract* nouns, yet some nouns are both concrete and common, or concrete and proper. It will become clear as you read on.

*Common* nouns are the words that refer to most general things: country, evening, laughter, puppy, umbrella

Common noun examples in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification.

- Cathy loves the **weekends** in the **country**.
- We enjoy **swimming** after **breakfast**.
- The **cup** fell and broke.

**Proper** nouns are the name that identifies someone or something, a person or a place. Proper nouns are capitalized. John is a proper noun, since the word John represents a particular, single example of a thing, John.

Proper noun examples: Mary, Jimmy, Aunt Audrey, Honda, Philadelphia

Proper noun examples in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification.

- **Emily** loved spending time with her **Aunt Nancy** in **Paris**.
- **Buick** and **Jeep** are two important carmakers.
- We visited **Lake Erie**, which separates the **United States** and **Canada**.

**Concrete** nouns represent a thing that is real and tangible: *pig, person, rock, smell, air, soup, Larry* are all concrete nouns.

Concrete noun examples: cup, computer, diamond, rollercoaster, shampoo, Debby

Concrete noun examples in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification.

- The **person** threw the **rock** across the **yard**.
- **My dog, Oreo**, jumped in the **air** and caught the **ball**!
- Can **you** smell the **soup**, **John**?

An *abstract* noun represents a thing that is more like a concept or idea: *love, integrity, democracy, friendship, beauty, knowledge* are examples of abstract nouns.

Abstract noun examples in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification.

- **Love** and **friendship** are equally important.
- **Beauty** is in the eye of the beholder.
- Your **mind** can know a million things.

Nouns can also be categorized as countable or uncountable.

**A countable** noun is a thing can be numbered or counted: airplane, sock, bowl, noodle, teacher, as in two airplanes, three socks, 1000 noodles.

Countable noun examples: peach, horse, shirt, telescope

Countable noun examples in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification.

- There are five **dogs** in the street.
- I bought three **tons** of coal.
- Margaret has six **pairs** of blue **sandals**.

For example





**Uncountable** nouns can have a quantity or amount but cannot be actually counted: water, music, clothes, understanding. In the second example above, *tons* is a countable noun, but *coal* is not. Coal is referred to as an **uncountable** noun.

Uncountable noun examples: hate, confidence, attractiveness, wisdom

Uncountable noun examples in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification.

- **Love** is in the air.
- The four elements are **air**, **earth**, **fire** and **water**.
- Her **humor** knows no **bounds**.

For example



**Collective** nouns refer to a group of people or things: audience, team, bunch, family, class. When speaking of collective nouns, Americans consider them as singular, using singular verbs with them, such as the group dances happily. When speaking British English, both singular verbs and plural verbs might be used, as in the group dance crazily before the Queen.

Collective noun examples: government, jury, team, bunch, school, class, and room (the people in the room or building)

Collective noun examples in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification.

- The **team** threw **confetti** when it was over.
- Steve buys the **band** some sandwiches.
- Meredith told the **class** she was getting married.