General characteristics

The noun is the central lexical unit of language. It is the main nominative unit of speech. As any other part of speech, the noun can be characterised by three criteria: **semantic** (the meaning),**morphological** (the form and grammatical catrgories)
and **syntactical** (functions, distribution).

Semantic features of the noun. The noun possesses the grammatical meaning of **thingness, substantiality**. According to different principles of classification nouns fall into several subclasses:

1.According to the type of nomination they may be **proper** and **common**;

COMMON NOUNS	PROPER NOUNS
restaurant	In-N-Out Burger
chocolate	Snickers
laptop	Macbook
car	Porsche
suit	Giorgio Armani
subject	Math
lizard	Komodo Dragon
toy	Barbie
movie	Spiderman
drink	Pepsi
singer	Justin Bieber

2.According to the form of existence they may be **animate** and **inanimate**. Animate nouns in their turn fall into **human** and **non-human.**

Animate		Inanimate	
Кто это?	Who is it?	Что это?	What is it?
челове́к	a human	стол	a table
соба́ка	a dog	дом	a house
кот	a cat	маши́на	a car
ма́ма	mama	компью́тер	a computer
друг	a friend	сок	juice
учи́тель	a teacher	кни́га	a book
дире́ктор	a director	ла́мпа	a lamp
студе́нт	a student	метро́	metro
лев	a lion	биле́т	a ticket

3.According to their quantitative structure nouns can be **countable** and **uncountable.**

COUNTABLES

BUN   SANDWICH   APPLE   ORANGE

BURGER   FRIES   EGGS   SALAD

VEGETABLES   COOKIES   POTATOES

TOMATO   CARROT   HOT DOG   CANDIES

OLIVES   PEANUTS   PANCAKES

WATERMELON   PEA   GRAPES   CHEERIES

UNCOUNTABLES

BREAD   FRUIT   JUICE   MEAT

RICE   CEREAL   JAM   MILK

COFFEE   SUGAR   FLOUR

SALT   SOUP   TEA   COTTAGE CHEESE

PASTA   HONEY   WATER   CHEESE

BUTTER   SEAFOOD   MUSTARD
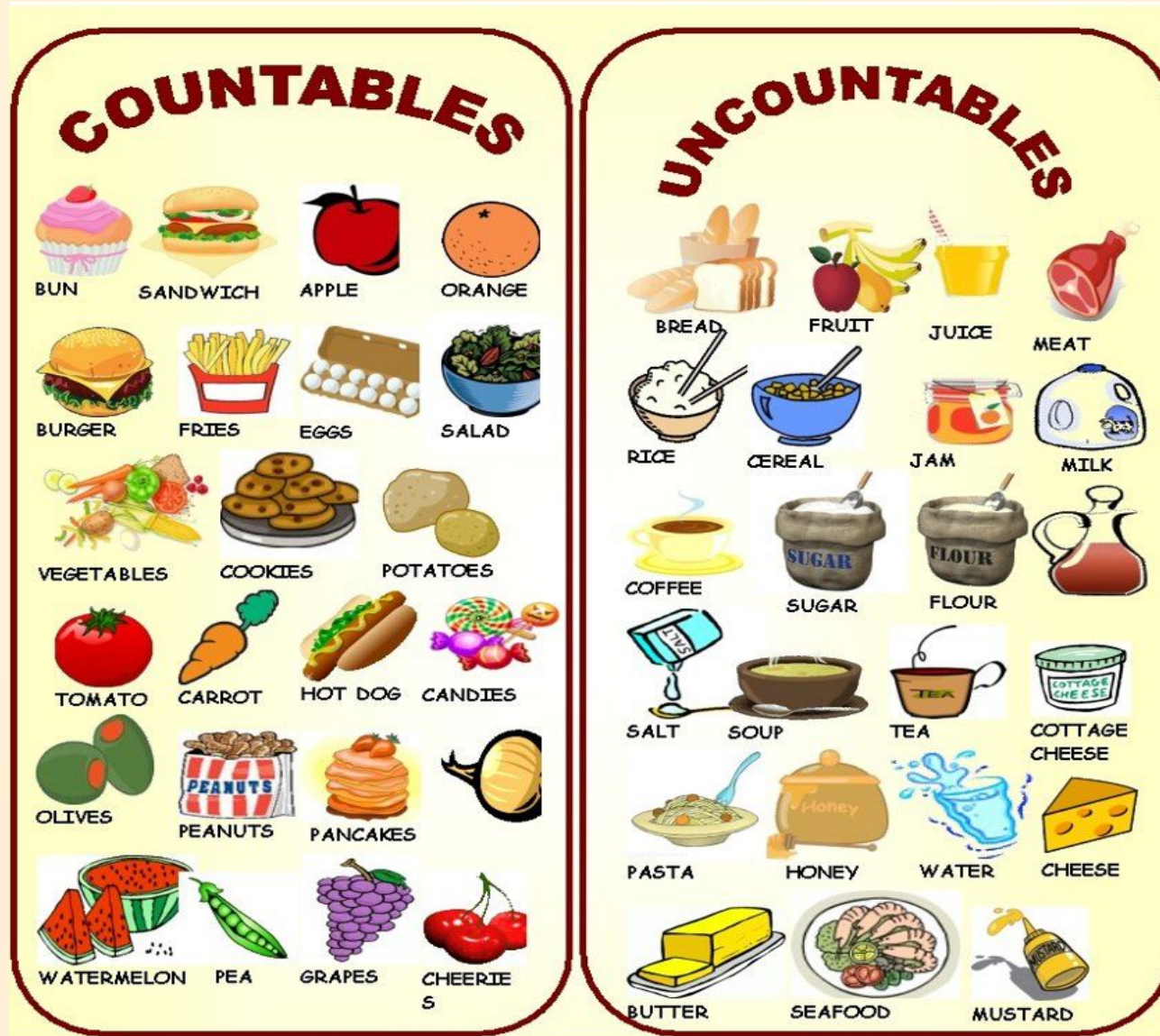
Morphological features of the noun. In accordance with the morphological structure of the stems all nouns can be classified into: <u>simple</u>, <u>derived</u>, <u>compound</u>.

1) simple (without affixes), e.g. map, room, world – It is only stems
2) derivative nouns (affixes), e.g. read**er**, child**hood**
3) compound, built from two stems:

affixes

- noun + noun = snowball, apple-tree
- adjective + noun = bluebell, blackbird
- verb + noun = pickpocket

Syntactic features of the noun. The noun can be used un the sentence in all <u>syntactic</u> <u>functions</u> but predicate. Speaking about noun <u>combinability</u>, we can say that it can go into right-hand and left-hand connections with practically all parts of speech. That is why practically all parts of speech but the verb can act as noun <u>determiners</u>.

Syntactical characteristics (function in the sentence)

1) subject, e.g. <u>A cat</u> scratches.
2) object, e.g. Give <u>a book</u> to me.
3) predicative, e.g. I am <u>a student</u>. (compound nominal predicative)
4) attributive, e.g. a girls' school
5) adverbial modifier, e.g. I go to work <u>by car.</u> (always with a preposition)
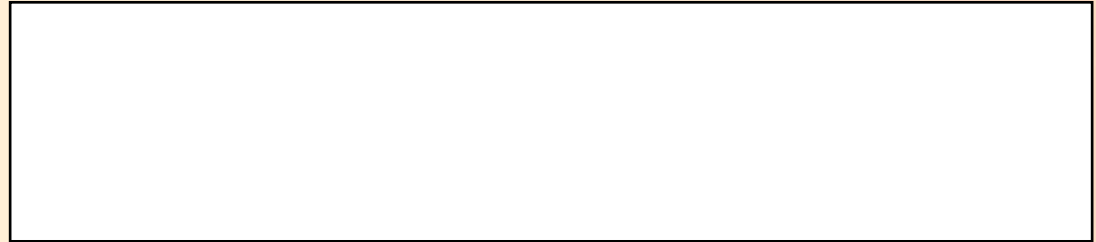
The category of number

Number is a grammatical category of nouns which denotes the number of objects, expressed by a word.

The formal signal of the singular number is a zero morpheme, while the usual signal of plurality -/e/s. The formation of plural by means -/e/s is considered to be productive

In Modern English there are some non-productive types of plural number, as for instance:

a) suffix - en : <u>ox - oxen</u>

b) variation of vowels in the root of a word: <u>tooth-teeth; goose-geese; mouse-mice; man-men,</u>

c) variation of vowels of the root + suffix- <u>"ren" children</u>;

d) homonymous forms for both sing and plural: <u>sheep – sheep deer – deer swine – swine</u>

Non-productive type of number we find in some borrowed words from Latin and Greek, such as:

With regard to the category of number English nouns fall under two subclasses: countable and uncountable. The latter is again subdivided into those having no plural form and those having no singular. The former type is called Pluralia tantum: clothes, goods, the latter - singularia tantum: milk, water.

The lexical and grammatical morphemes of a word linked together so closely that sometimes it seems impossible to separate them. The relation between foot and feet, goose and geese, man and men is similar to the relation between. bag – bags; desk – desks

To sum it up, all nouns may be subdivided into three groups:

1. The nouns in which the opposition of explicit discreteness/indiscreteness is expressed : cat::cats;

2. The nouns in which this opposition is not expressed explicitly but is revealed by syntactical and lexical correlation in the context. There are two groups here:

A. Singularia tantum. It covers different groups of nouns: proper names, abstract nouns, material nouns, collective nouns;

B. Pluralia tantum. It covers the names of objects consisting of several parts (jeans), names of sciences (mathematics), names of diseases, games, etc.

3. The nouns with homogenous number forms. The number opposition here is not expressed formally but is revealed only lexically and syntactically in the context: e.g. Look! A sheep is eating grass. Look! The sheep are eating grass.

The category of case

Case expresses the relation of a word to another word in the word-group or sentence (my sister's coat).

The category of case correlates with the objective category of possession.

The Common Case

Possessive case

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Singular
(it belongs to 1 person)

Plural
(it belongs to >1 person)

Peter's computer

Sue's book

My friend 's car

Mum 's job

My parents' house

Friends' pens

Add 's to the person or thing

Plural ends with s – add '.

Exceptions:
Children – children's
people – people's
men – men's
women – women's

The scope of meanings rendered by the Genitive Case is the following :

a) Possessive Genitive :
The boys' shirts - the shirts of the boys.
The girls' hats - the hats of the girls.

b) Subjective Genitive:
John's answer-John has answered.

c) Objective Genitive :
The man's release – The man was released.

d) Adverbial Genitive :
 Two hour's work – X worked for two hours.

e) Equation Genitive :
A mile's distance – the distance is a mile.

f) Genitive of destination:
Children's toys- toys for children

g) Mixed Group:
Yesterday's paper
Nick's school cannot be reduced to one nucleus
John's word

1. There are two cases: The Common one and The Genitive;

2. There are no cases at all, the form `s is optional because the same relations may be expressed by the 'of-phrase': the doctor's arrival – the arrival of the doctor;

3. There are three cases: the Nominative, the Genitive, the Objective due to the existence of objective pronouns me, him, whom;

4. Case Grammar. Ch.Fillmore introduced syntactic-semantic classification of cases. They show relations in the so-called deep structure of the sentence.

1) Agentive Case (A)
Marry closed the door.

2) Instrumental case (I)
The key opened the door; John used the key to open the door;

3) Dative Case (D)
John believed that he would win.
  (the case of the animate being affected by the state of action identified by the verb);

4) Factitive Case (F)
The key was damaged   (the result of the action or state identified by the verb);

5) Locative Case (L)
He is at home.

6) Objective case (O)
Please send him immediately.

The Problem of Gender in English

Gender

Gender

Gender

Gender

Gender

GENDER

Gender

Gender

Gender

Ильиш
Борис Александрович

Boris Ilyish

Husband ⟷ **Wife**

Actor ⟷ **Actress**

Mark Blokh

He

She

It

Accordingly, there are three genders in English:

-the neuter (non-person) gender;

- the masculine gender;

- the feminine gender.

Thank you for your attention!