noun

A person, place, thing, or idea

What is a Noun?

Of all the parts of speech, nouns are perhaps the most important. A noun is a word that identifies a person, animal, place, thing, or idea. Here, we'll take a closer look at what makes a noun a noun, and we'll provide some noun examples, along with some advice for using nouns in your sentences.
Identifying a Noun
A noun is a part of speech that denotes a person, animal, place, thing, or idea. The English word noun has its roots in the Latin word nomen, which means "name." Every language has words that are nouns. As you read the following explanations, think about some words that might fit into each category.

- **Person** – A term for a person, whether proper name, gender, title, or class, is a noun.

- **Animal** – A term for an animal, whether proper name, species, gender, or class is a noun.

- **Place** – A term for a place, whether proper name, physical location, or general locale is a noun.

- **Thing** – A term for a thing, whether it exists now, will exist, or existed in the past is a noun.

- **Idea** – A term for an idea, be it a real, workable idea or a fantasy that might never come to fruition is a noun.

Categories of Nouns

- ***Nouns*** can be classified further as count nouns, which name anything that can be counted (four books, two continents, a few dishes); mass nouns (or non-count nouns), which name something that can't be counted (water, air, energy, blood); and collective nouns, which can take a singular form but are composed of more than one individual person or items (jury, team, class, committee, herd). We should note that some words can be either a count noun or a non-count noun depending on how they're being used in a sentence:

- a. He got into trouble. (non-count)

- b. He had many troubles. (countable)

- c. Experience (non-count) is the best teacher.

- d. We had many exciting experiences (countable) in college

Some texts will include the category of abstract nouns, by which we mean the kind of word that is not tangible, such as warmth, justice, grief, and peace. Abstract nouns are sometimes troublesome for non-native writers because they can appear with determiners or without: "Peace settled over the countryside." "The skirmish disrupted the peace that had settled over the countryside.", words that can be singular or plural, depending on context.

Forms of Nouns

- *Nouns* can be in the subjective, possessive, and objective case. The word *case* defines the role of the noun in the sentence. Is it a subject, an object, or does it show possession?

- **The English professor [subject] is tall.**
- **He chose the English professor [object].**
- **The English professor's [possessive] car is green.**

Identifying nouns

- It is not always possible to identify a noun by its form. However, some word endings can show that the word is probably a noun.

ending	examples
-age	postage, language, sausage
-ance/-ence	insurance, importance, difference
-er/-or	teacher, driver, actor
-hood	childhood, motherhood, fatherhood
-ism	socialism, capitalism, nationalism
-ist	artist, optimist, pianist
-itude	attitude, multitude, solitude
-ity/-ty	identity, quantity, cruelty
-ment	excitement, argument, government
-ness	happiness, business, darkness
-ship	friendship, championship, relationship
-tion/-sion	station, nation, extension

Questions

- **What is noun?**

- **Nouns can be classified…**

- **Nouns can be…**

Zhanatayeva Moldir 2FL 311