

NOUN AND ITS CATEGORIES

1. The general characteristics of the noun as a part of speech. Classification of nouns.
2. The category of gender: the traditional and modern approaches to the category of gender.
3. The category of number. Singularia Tantum and Pluralia Tantum nouns.
4. The category of case: different approaches to its interpretation.
5. The category of article determination.
6. The oppositional reduction of the nounal categories: neutralization and transposition.

The general characteristics of the noun as a part of speech.

- Meaning.
- Form.
- Function.

- The **categorial meaning** of the noun is “substance” or “thingness”.
- **Form:** noun is characterized by a specific set of word-building affixes:
 - suffixes of the doer (*worker, naturalist*, etc.),
 - suffixes of abstract notions (*laziness, rotation, security, elegance*, etc.),and word-building models: special conversion patterns (*to find – a find*), etc.
- **Function:**

the function of a subject and an object: *The teacher took the book.*

as a predicative (part of a compound predicate), e.g.: *He is a teacher*;

as an adverbial modifier, e.g.: *It happened last summer*

as an attribute: when it is used in the genitive case (*the teacher's book*), when it is used with a preposition (*the book of the teacher*), or in contact groups of two nouns the first of which qualifies the second (*cannon ball, space exploration, sea breeze, the Bush administration*, etc.).

“The cannon ball or the stone wall problem”:

is it a contact group of two
nouns or *is the first word in
this phrase an adjective
homonymous with a noun?*

- **Points for the discussion:**

- the first noun in such groups may be used in the plural,
e.g.: *translations editor*;
- the first word in such contexts does not display any other
qualities of the adjective, except for the function.

- **How to check: ask the question**

Compare: *a dangerous corner* – *a danger signal*; the
adjective *dangerous* describes the thing referred to by the
following noun, so it is possible to ask a question “*What
kind of ...?*”, while the noun *danger* tells us what the
purpose of the signal is, so the possible question is “*What
is it for?*”

The cannon ball: the ball for cannons;

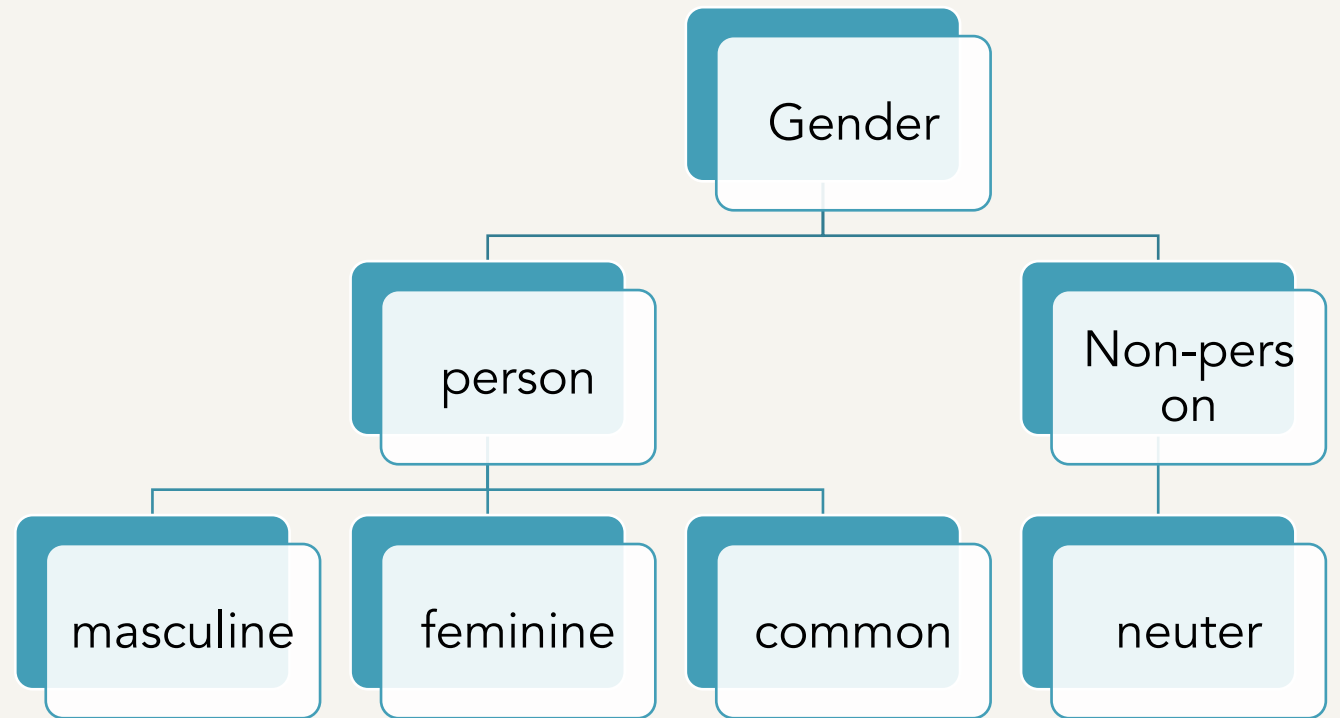
The stone wall: the wall of stones.

The categories of NOUN

- 1. The category of gender.**
- 2. The category of number.**
- 3. The category of case.**
- 4. The category of article determination.**

The category of gender: is it purely semantic or semantico-grammatical category?

Double oppositional correlation:



Masculine:

All males (and only males) are said to belong to the masculine gender. (examples: boy, man, landlord, god, tiger, horse, rooster, stag, he, etc)

Feminine:

All females (and only females) belong to this gender category. (examples: girl, woman, goddess, landlady, tigress, mare, hen, doe, hind, she, etc)

Common:

Nouns and pronouns that belong to this gender are either male or female, but we are not concerned about it. (examples: teacher, child, worker, baby, infant, human being, person, etc)

Neuter:

All nouns and pronouns to which maleness or femaleness doesn't apply belong to this gender category. (Material things: stone, table, gold, book; all abstract nouns: e.g. childhood, independence, intelligence, chairmanship, etc.)

The category of gender:

A Guide to Using Pronouns and Other Gender-Inclusive Language

**Gender
Neutral
Pronouns:**

They're
Here,
Get Used
To Them

Men -> People

Mankind -> Humanity

Chairman -> Chairperson

*Policeman -> Police
officer*

Fireman -> Fire fighter

*Mailman -> Mail/ Letter
carrier*

Salesman -> Salesperson

*Freshman -> First year
student*

*Stewardess -> Flight
attendant*

- "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."
- "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for humanity."
- Man has always been driven his desire for happiness.
- People have always been driven their desire for happiness.

Pronouns:

A good manager knows **his** staff. 🙄

A good manager knows **his or her** staff. 😐

A good manager knows **their** staff. 😐

Good managers know **their** staff. 😊

Conventional use of gender:

The United States Navy includes ships named for men (like Eisenhower), women (like Hopper), battles (like Midway), traits (like Fearless), states (like Arizona), planets (like Mars), historic ships (like Independence), cities (like Los Angeles), volcanos (like Vesuvius), fish (like Trout), rivers and others. All of them alike get the pronoun “**she**”.



"She" referred to any overwhelming and mysterious power that controlled or affected the lives of men. These powers included: **women, cars, ships, the Atlantic ocean and even (in one case) the lock on someone's locker.** Women and men equally used "she" in reference to these things.

Firearms, too, have been feminized, from the 15th century bombard Mons Meg to the classic Brown Bess musket and the recalcitrant Martini-Henry rifle, of which Kipling wrote:



*When 'arf of your bullets fly wide in the ditch,
Don't call your Martini a **cross-eyed old bitch**;
She's human as you are -- you treat **her** as sich,
An' she'll fight for the young British soldier*

The category of number:

a classic example of a binary privative grammatical opposition:

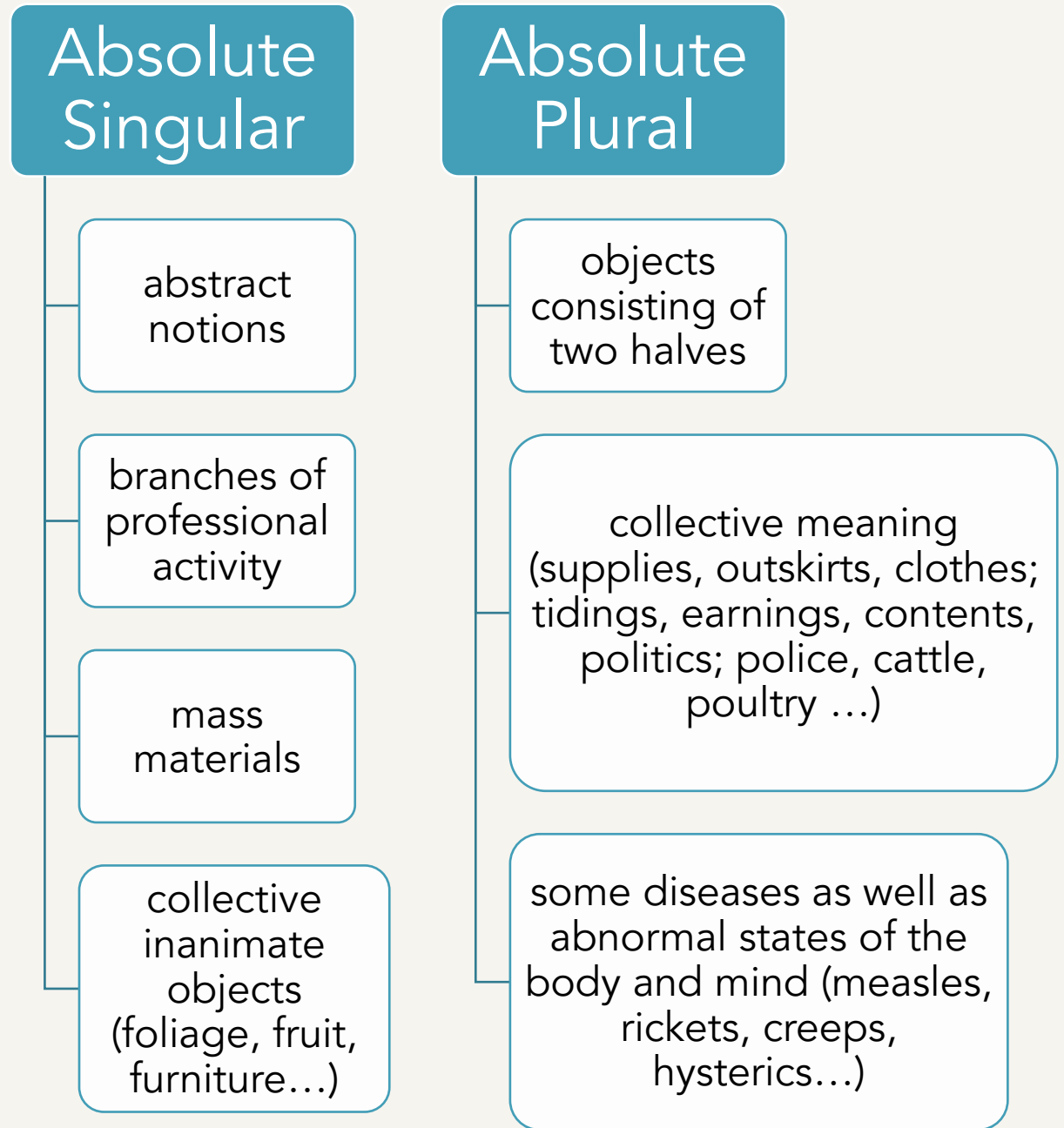
the singular VS the plural

The **productive mark** of the strong member of the opposition – **-s**;

Non-productive marks: the suppletive forms with interchange of vowels (*man – men, tooth – teeth*), the archaic suffix *–en* (*ox – oxen*), suffixes of borrowed nouns (*antenna – antennae, stratum – strata, nucleus – nuclei*);

NB! a number of nouns have a plural form homonymous with the singular (*sheep, fish, deer, etc.*).

Uncountable nouns:
singularia tantum (a noun used with singular verbs) VS
pluralia tantum (a noun used with plural verbs)



Reduction of the category of number:

- Oppositional neutralization:

□ *I found **a woman's hair** on my husband's jacket;*

□ ***chicken** soup;*

□ ***The rose** is my favourite flower;*

□ *The jury were unanimous in their verdict.*

- Transposition:

□ *the waters of the ocean, the sands of the desert* (“descriptive uncountable plural”);

□ *thousand upon thousand, tons and tons* (“repetition plural”);

□ Many a + sing. Noun:

- *Many a journalist is not afraid of speaking publicly.*

- *Many a student finds it difficult using this construction.*

- *Many a politician tells lies.*

The category of case:

Case is the category of a noun expressing relations between the thing denoted by the noun and other things, or properties, or actions, and manifested by some formal sign in the noun itself.

CASE THEORY	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES
The theory of positional case	the unchangeable forms of the noun are differentiated as different cases by virtue of the functional positions occupied by the noun in the sentence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The nominative case (subject to a verb): <i>Rain falls.</i> □ The vocative case (address): <i>Are you coming, my friend?</i> □ The dative case (indirect object to a verb): <i>I gave John a penny.</i> □ The accusative case (direct object, and also an object to a preposition): <i>The man killed a rat. The earth is moistened by rain.</i>
The Theory Of Prepositional Cases	combinations of nouns with prepositions in certain object and attributive collocations should be understood as morphological case-forms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ the dative case (to + NOUN, for + NOUN) □ the genitive case (of + NOUN)
The Limited Case Theory	based on oppositional approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ the possessive (genitive) as the strong member; □ the common (non-genitive) as the weak member.
The Theory Of The Possessive Postposition	the GENITIVE CASE form is a combination of a noun with a postposition with preposition-like functions	<p>1) the postpositional element –'s can be used not only with nouns, but also with word-groups: <i>somebody else's daughter</i></p> <p>2) optional use of the possessive postpositional construction: <i>the daughter of somebody else</i></p>

Semantic Types of the Genitive

"genitive of possessor": *Christine's living-room > the living-room belongs to Christine*

"genitive of qualification": *the students' canteen*

"genitive of agent": *the great man's arrival > the great man arrives*

"genitive of patient": expresses the recipient of the action or process denoted by the head-noun

the champion's sensational defeat > the champion is defeated

"genitive of destination": denotes the destination, or function of the referent of the head-noun
women's footwear > footwear for women

The inflected genitive ('s) is common with:

- *personal names – Dr. Brown's students*
- *personal nouns – my father's watch*
- *collective nouns – the party's political platform*
- *higher animals – the lion's cage*

... but can also be used with some inanimate nouns:

- *geographical names – Bulgaria's past*
- *names of institutions – the Chamber of Trade and Industry's Premises*
- *temporal nouns – a two months' holiday*
- *nouns of distance – a three miles' walk*
- *in some set phrases – at a stone's throw; within arm's reach*

Structural Types of Genitive Phrase

the regular genitive phrase – the noun in the genitive case precedes the head noun : the Queen's English

the group genitive phrase – the case marking refers to a group of nouns or a noun phrase: the United States' policy

If it is a group of nouns, the marker is added to the last one: Mary and Paul's home

the double genitive phrase – the relation between the two nouns is marked twice –

1. by means of case ending and

2. the preposition **of** : a friend of my brother's (It is used whenever another determiner besides the genitive is needed: a friend of Tom's, a book of John's)

the elliptic genitive phrase – the head noun is omitted if the context makes it possible for the addressee to recover the relation: Ann's office is larger than Tom's.

the local genitive phrase. The omitted noun refers to buildings or establishments: at St. Paul's (Cathedral); at the newsagent's

The category of article determination

A/AN	‘0’	THE
1. Nominating f-n	1. Nominating f-n with nouns in the plural and uncountable nouns	1. Individualizing f-n: serves to single out an object for the group of objects.
2. Numeric f-n (a=1)		2. Restricting f-n: restricts an object to a certain quantity, quality or locality: <i>Pass me the salt, please.</i>
3. Aspective f-n (serves to bring out a special aspect of an object): <i>A dull anger rose in my chest.</i>		3. Generic f-n: serves to show that a noun denotes a composite image: <i>The rose is a symbol of love.</i>
4. To show the rheme of the sentence: <i>I bought a book yesterday.</i>		