

NOUN

NOUNS

- Nouns are words that name (a person, place, animal, object, material, idea, emotion, day, etc.)

TYPES OF NOUN



- **Common Nouns**

Name a general kind, category, or species; e.g., boy, cow, day, school, village, country, shop, mall, museum, fish, snake, monkey, book, pen, toy.

- **Proper Nouns**


Name a specific one; e.g., Shishir, Ameena, Kerala, Sunday, Max Hospital, Times of India.

- **Collective Nouns**

Name a group or collection; e.g., class, flock, bunch, army, herd, pack, swarm, crowd, gang, staff, crew, choir, panel, board, set, pride (of lions), shoal(of fish), fleet, horde, mob.

- **Abstract Nouns**

Name abstract (i.e., not physically existent) ideas that can be sensed, but not seen or touched; e.g., youth, love, thought, childhood, justice, hatred, envy, admiration, poverty, honesty, sorrow.



I. Proper nouns are sometimes used as common nouns.

Example:

(a) Amitabh is **Gandhiji** of our class.

(Incorrect)

(b) Amitabh is the **Gandhiji** of our class,

(Correct)

Here Gandhiji does not mean Mahatma Gandhi. The word here stands for the possessor of the qualities that Gandhiji is most known for - truth and non-violence. Thus Gandhiji is being used as a metaphorical common noun.

CASES/FUNCTIONS OF NOUN

1. **Nominative:** As the subject of the verb

- Examples: Rohan is leaving no stone unturned to make amends for his lapses.
- Air India has grounded its entire fleet because of a technical snag.

2. **Objective:** As the object of the verb or preposition

- Examples: She will tell Hardik to prepare the design. [Hardik is the object of the verb tell]
- Pour some water from the jar into the glass. [jar is the object of the preposition from; and, glass is the object of the preposition into]

3. **Possessive:** That shows possession

- Examples: We received Seema's invitation on time.
- The players' kits were arranged by the wall.

4. **Vocative:** As an address to someone

- Examples: Naina, get me a pen and a sheet of paper, please.
- Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears.

5. **Appositive:** As a parallel description (juxtaposed with main noun and demarcated by commas)

- Examples: Mahira Sheikh, the poet, is from Mauritius.
- The Statue of Unity is a magnificent tribute to Sardar Patel, the Ironman of India.

6. **Subject complement:** As a complement after linking verbs be (is, am, are, was, were...), become, appear, seem, feel, grow, look, prove, remain, etc.

- Examples: His parents are doctors.
- He seems (to be) a sportsperson.
- They appear (to be) gypsies.

7. **Object complement:** As a complement after a direct object of a verb.

- Examples: The committee elected Mr. Sandhu its president. [Mr Sandhu is the direct object of the verb elected]
- The Police branded him an imposter. [him is the direct object of the verb branded]
- They declared Ravi the Man of the Match. [Ravi is the direct object of the verb declared]

COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

- Some nouns can be counted, others, cannot. Abstract nouns, as they have no concrete form, are generally uncountable. The other kinds of nouns, which exist in concrete form, are mostly countable.
- Countable nouns are preceded by indefinite articles a/an and other determiners, such as many, few, number of, each, every, etc.

Examples: A few migratory birds have already nested though winter is yet to set in.

- Each student was given a chance to speak. Uncountable nouns take determiners such as much, little, some, any, a piece of, bags of, scores of, etc.

Examples: Some milk is still left in the bottle. Much water has flowed under the bridge.

NUMBER OF NOUNS

Countable nouns can be singular (one) or plural (more than one).

Uncountable nouns are treated as singular only.

Nouns make their plural in different ways.

1. By adding -s: cats, boys, girls, knives, wives {the -f or -fe endings are often changed to -ve before adding -s]
2. By adding -es (to singular nouns ending in s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -x, -o, or -z): buses, classes, marshes, bunches, taxes, mangoes,
3. By changing on ending to -a: phenomenon- phenomena; criterion- criteria

4. By changing-- um to - a : medium-media; stadium-stadia, forum-fora; addendum -addenda; erratum- errata
5. By changing - is to - es: crisis-crises; analysis- analyses; oasis-oases
6. By changing — a to -ae: -alumna-alumnae; formula-formulae; lacuna-lacunae
7. By changing --us to-- i: syllabus-syllabi; radius-radii; alumnus-alumni
8. Some words remain unchanged in their plural form: sheep, series, species, deer, fish, etc.
9. Some words change irregularly: man-men; woman-women; child-children; goose-geese; tooth-teeth; foot-feet; mouse-mice

10. Compound words make their plural by changing their keyword into plural form.

Commander-in-chief

Commanders-in-chief

Major General

Major Generals

Attorney General

Attorneys General

Maid servant

Maid servants

Looker-on

Lookers-on

Passer by

Passers by

Mother-in-law

Mothers-in-law

Man servant

Men servants

Woman servant

Women servants