

NOUNS AND ITS GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES .

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Abstract: *A grammatical category or grammatical feature is a property of items within the grammar of a language. Within each category there are two or more possible values (sometimes called grammemes), which are normally mutually exclusive. Another way to define a grammatical category is as a category that expresses meanings from a single conceptual domain, contrasts with other such categories, and is expressed through formally similar expressions. Another definition distinguishes grammatical categories from lexical categories, such that the elements in a grammatical category have a common grammatical meaning – that is, they are part of the language's grammatical structure.*

Key words: *noun, common nouns, proper nouns, singular, plural, compound nouns, concrete nouns, abstract nouns, collective nouns.*

Categories may be described and named with regard to the type of meanings that they are used to express. For example, the category of tense usually expresses the time of occurrence (e.g. past, present or future). However, purely grammatical features do not always correspond simply or consistently to elements of meaning, and different authors may take significantly different approaches in their terminology and analysis. For example, the meanings associated with the categories of tense, aspect and mood are often bound up in verb conjugation patterns that do not have separate grammatical elements corresponding to each of the three categories; see Tense–aspect–mood

In elementary school you probably learned that a noun refers to a person, place, or thing. In addition, nouns name qualities, feelings, concepts, activities, and measures.

Persons: Stephanie, Dr. Smith, teacher, accountant

Places: Canada, island, Italy, college

Things: novel, surfboard, bicycle, horse

Qualities: patience, honesty, initiative, enthusiasm

Feelings: happiness, anger, confusion, sadness

Concepts: knowledge, freedom, friendship, travel

Activities: snowboarding, dancing, management, eating

Measures: day, week, inch, kilometer, million

Nouns are important words in our language. Sentences revolve around nouns because these words function both as subjects, and as objects of verbs. To determine whether a word is really a noun, try using it with the verb *is* or *are*. Notice that all the nouns listed here would make sense if used in this way: *Stephanie is young, Chicago is in Illinois, horses are beautiful, dancing is fun*, and so on.

Nouns can be common or proper; proper nouns require a capital letter.

- Common: book, apple, crayon
- Proper: Houston, Mr. Brown, the Bible

Nouns can be singular or plural.

- Singular: bird, road, wish, army, crisis, Mrs. Brown

Making a noun plural usually involves adding an “s” or “es” to the singular noun, but there are many exceptions.

- Plural: birds, roads, wishes, armies, crises, the Browns.

Add *-s* to the end of most nouns. For example: *cat/cats, umbrella/umbrellas*.

1- Add *-es* to the end of a noun ending in *ch*, *s*, *sh*, *x*, or *z*. For example: *church/churches, loss/losses*.

2- Drop the *-y* and add *-ies* to a noun ending in a consonant followed by *-y*. For example: *penny/pennies, candy/candies*.

3- Change *f* to *v* and add *-es* to many nouns ending in *f* or *fe*. For example: *knife/knives, thief/thieves*.

4- Some nouns change in unpredictable ways when they become plural. For example, *child/children, foot/feet*.

5- Some nouns do not change when they become plural. For example, *deer/deer, sheep/sheep*.

Some nouns are made up of two or more words put together. These are called compound nouns or compound words. Examples include:

thunderstorm	teardrop	bumblebee
sunshine	dishwasher	daydream
firefighter	baseball	sunset

b- Compound Nouns

A *compound noun* is made up of two or more words set together as a single noun.

— The parts of a compound noun may be written as one word, as separate words, or as a hyphenated word :

One Word	basketball, filmmaker, drugstore, doghouse, grasshopper, grandson, Passover, Greenland, Iceland
Separate Words	fire drill, chain reaction, <i>The Call of the Wild</i> , Thomas A. Edison, House of Representatives, North Americans
Hyphenated Word	self-control, cross-references, fun-draiser, mother-in-law, out-of-doors, president-elect

c- Common Nouns and Proper Nouns

A *common noun* names any one of a group of persons, places, things, or ideas.

A common noun generally does not begin with a capital letter.

A *proper noun* names a particular person, place, thing, or idea.

A proper noun begins with a capital letter.

A *proper noun* names a particular person, place, thing, or idea and begins with a capital letter. A *common noun* names any one of a group of persons, places, things, or ideas. It is usually not capitalized.

Common Nouns

poem
country
athlete
ship
newspaper
river
street
day
city
organization

Proper Nouns

“The Raven,” *I Am Joaquín*
Spain, Ivory Coast
Lance Armstrong, Venus Williams
Mayflower, U.S.S. *Constitution*
The New York Times, *USA Today*
Rio de la Plata, Ohio River
Market Street, University Avenue
Friday, Independence Day
Los Angeles, New Delhi, Houston
National Forensic League, Girl Scouts of America

d- Concrete Nouns and Abstract Nouns

A *concrete noun* names a person, place, or thing that can be perceived by one or more of the senses (sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell).

An *abstract noun* names an idea, a feeling, a quality, or a characteristic.

Concrete Nouns hummingbird, telephone, teacher, popcorn, ocean, Golden Gate Bridge, Jesse Jackson

Abstract Nouns knowledge, patriotism, love, humor, self-confidence, beauty, competition, Zen Buddhism

e- Collective Nouns

A *collective noun* is a word that names a group.

People	Animals	Things
audience	brood	batch
chorus	flock	bundle
committee	herd	cluster
crew	litter	collection
faculty	pack	fleet
family	pride	set

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