

Noun

What is a Noun?

A noun is used as the name of a person, thing, place, idea and quality of a person, a thing and a place.

Kinds of Noun:

- **Common Noun:** It is the name given in common to every person or a thing of the same kind. It is not a name of any particular person thing or place. For example boy, girl, teacher etc.
- **Proper Noun:** It is the name given to some particular person, thing or place. For example Delhi, Sania, India, Jupiter.
- **Collective Noun:** It is the name of a collection of persons and things treated and spoken together as a whole. For example fleet, audience, class, committee, crowd, mob etc.
- **Abstract Noun:** It is the name of a quality, idea, concept or state. For example beauty, youth, honesty, death etc.
- **Material Noun:** Such as gold, coal, wheat, tea.

Number of a Noun – Singular & Plural

Gender of a Noun – Masculine, Feminine, Neuter, Common

Rules of Noun

Rule 1

- (A) Uncountable Nouns are used in the singular forms only.
- (b) Indefinite article is not used before them.
- (c) They are not used with plural verbs.
- (d) 'Much' or 'Some' are used in place of 'Many' for denoting plurality.

Some of the important Nouns of this kind are

"Advice, information, hair, luggage, business, work, word (in the sense of promise, message, discussion) mischief, bread, scenery, abuse, vacation, evidence, employment, alphabet, poetry, food, furniture, baggage, fuel, paper, equipment, machinery, material etc'. For example

1. He gave me an information. (Find the error)

➤ He gave me information.

2. He was punished for committing many mischiefs. (Find the error)
➤ He was punished for committing much mischief.
3. Young persons dislike the advices of the elderly people. (Find the error)
➤ Young persons dislike the advice of the elderly people.

These nouns may be used to denote singularity as follows:

(i) a piece/a word of advice.

(ii) a word of abuse

These nouns may be used to denote plurality as follows:

(i) much/some advice.

(ii) a lot of/many words/many pieces of advice.

(iii) words of abuse.

Rule II

There are some of the collective nouns which are used with plural verbs. For example 'cattle, gentry, peasantry, poultry, clergy, people, majority, folk.'

The nouns committee, jury, house, ministry, family, mob, crowd, audience, police, team, number, board, staff, public' are used with singular verbs when they are used as a body or group and not as members but when these nouns denote members or individuals, the verb is used in Plural form.

- I. Cattle are grazing in the field.
- II. Majority are in favour of this proposal.
- III. The committee is unanimous on this issue.
- IV. The committee are divided and there is bitterness among the members.
- V. The team are full of high spirits.
- VI. The team is at the top in this competition.

Rule III

Offspring, deer, fish, sheep are expressed as singular or plural only by the use of verb. Both in singular and the plural they have the same form.

- I. Sheep are economically useful.
- II. A sheep is grazing in the field.

[Fishes may be used in the sense of different number and kind.]

Rule IV

Some of the nouns (ending in 's' or 'es') are used with singular verb.

1. Branches of learning. For example [Mathematics](#), [Physics](#), [Mechanics](#), [Politics](#), [Statistics](#), [Statics](#), [Economics](#),

[Statistics as subject is used with singular verb Statistics when taken as collection of data is used with plural verb.]

2. Diseases. For example: [Mumps](#), [Measles](#), [Rickets](#) etc.
3. Games and sports. For example: [Billiards](#), [Aquatics](#), [Gymnastics](#), [Athletics](#) etc.
4. Titles of books. For example: [Three Musketeers](#), [Gulliver's Travels](#), [Arabian Nights](#), [War and Peace](#), [Tale from Shakespeare](#) etc.
5. Descriptive names of countries. For example: [United States](#), [United Arab Emirates](#) etc.
6. Some other nouns are
Innings, Series, News, Summons. For example
 - I. The measles has broken out in the town.
 - II. Politics is a dirty game.
 - III. This news is disappointing.
 - IV. A/The summons has been served on him.
 - V. A series of matches is being played.
 - VI. Two series of matches were played last year.

Rule V

Study the uses of Nouns as singular and plural in forms

Noun	Used For	Noun	Used for
Wood	Material	Woods	Forest
Water	Material	Waters	Sea
Asset	Quality	Assets	Property
Sand	Material	Sands	Land
Iron	Material	Irons	Chains
Cloth	Material	Clothes	Dress
Abuse	Indecent words	Abuses	Misuse
Work	Labour	Works	Literary Writings
Air	Element	Airs	Behaviour
Advice	Suggestion	Advices	Bills
Custom	Habit	Customs	Tax
Effect	Result	Effects	Goods
Colour	Material	Colours	Flag
Fruit	Edible thing	Fruits	Results
Wit	Ability to talk	Wits	Intelligence

Arm	Organ	Arms	Weapons
Good	Advantage/use	Goods	Articles

Rule VI

Some of the nouns are generally used in the plural form with plural verb.

(a) Articles of dress. For Example: [Trousers, breeches, Jeans](#)

(b) Names of instruments. For Example: [Scissors, spectacles, shears, scales](#)

(c) Other nouns such as

[Alms, thanks, proceeds, riches, contents, credentials, orders, refreshments, requirements, customs, rations, archives, annals, ashes arrears, assets, stairs, spirits, statistics \(data\), quarters, earnings, manners outskirts, savings, auspices \(support\), surroundings.](#) For example

- I. My scissors are not sharp.
- II. My spectacles are very costly.
- III. A pair of spectacles has been bought by me.
- IV. Orders for his transfer have been issued.

Rule VII

[A compound noun \(numerical + noun\) is not used in plural if a noun does the work of an adjective.](#) For example

- I. Ten-day tour
- II. A ten-year old boy
- III. A five-rupee note
- IV. A ten-mile race
- V. He is ten years old
- VI. Five-foot long room

Rule VIII

Nouns expressing number are used in singular with numerical adjectives [Two hundred, two thousand, five dozen, two score, two million, three lakh.](#) For example

- I. I gave him two hundred rupees.
- II. I gave him five dozen pencils.
- III. There are hundreds of partially built houses.

Rule IX

Use of Apostrophe with 's'

The use of apostrophe with 's' is not correct in the case of non-living things. It is restricted only to living things, time, weight, distance, amount or personified nouns.

- I. Boy's hand.
- II. Time's march.
- III. A one-kilometre's journey.
- IV. A rupee's worth.
- V. A night's journey.
- VI. A metre's length.
- VII. Nature's laws.
- VIII. A week's holiday.

Two nouns in the possessive case denote plural form. When apostrophe with 's' is used with one noun, it expresses singular form. For example

- I. Sheela and Rohit's father.
- II. Sheela's and Rohit's fathers are meeting today.

With compound nouns apostrophe with 's' should be added only with the last word.

- I. Mother-in-law's behaviour
- II. Maid-servant's absence.

Pronouns are written by omitting apostrophe but 's' is added. For example

- I. Yours truly
- II. Its colour
- III. Hers

Possessive case is indicated by apostrophe without 's' after Plural nouns or words ending with 's'.

- I. John Keats' poems.
- II. Girls' Hostel.
- III. Dickens' novels.
- IV. Jesus' sake.
- V. Kalidas' works.

Rule X

Two adjectives denoting different meanings and qualifying the same noun are considered plural and are used with plural verbs. For example

- I. Cultural and social life in India are changing.
- II. Summer and winter vacation are compulsory in our schools.

Rule XI

Noun after preposition is repeated in singular form. For example

- I. Hour after hour.
- II. Word for word.
- III. Door to door.

Rule XII

The use of fractions.

- I. One and a half years are wasted.
- II. A year and a half is wasted.
- III. One and a half hours are wasted.
- IV. An hour and a half is wasted.

Rule XIII

Plural form of certain nouns:

Singular Form	Plural Form	Singular Form	Plural Form
Commander- in – Chief	Commanders – in - Chief	Medium	Media
Major General	Major Generals	Forum	Forums, For a
Attorney General	Attorneys General	Stadium	Stadia
Maid servant	Maid servants	Criterion	Criteria
Looker- on	Lookers – on	Phenomenon	Phenomena
Passer- by	Passers- by	Formula	Formulae
Mother- in- Law	Mothers- in- law	Oasis	Oases
Man servant	Men servant	Lacuna	Lacunae
Woman servant	Women servant	Erratum	Errata
M.A.	M.A. `s	Memorandum	Memoranda
Mouse	Mice	Alumnus	Alumni
Ox	Oxen	Syllabus	Syllabi
Datum	Data	Addendum	Addenda