

## PART I. PARTS OF SPEECH. NOUNS

*Parts of Speech* are words classified according to their functions in sentences, for purposes of traditional grammatical analysis. According to traditional grammars eight parts of speech are usually identified: nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.

### I. Nouns

I. Nouns are **words** that name people, places, things, or ideas.

**1. Subjects** are nouns that tells us whom or what a sentence is about

Example: Mary kicked the ball.

**2. Direct Object** are nouns that receive the action of certain kind of verb.

Mary kicked the ball.

**3. Indirect object** are nouns that receive the direct object

Mary kicked Jimmy the ball.

**4. Object of preposition** are nouns that come after prepositions in prepositional phrases.

Mary kicked the ball to Jimmy.

**5. Predicate nouns** are nouns that rename the subject. They come after linking verbs.

Mary is a soccer player.

**6. Object complements** are nouns that complete the direct object.

They named the baby April.

**Nouns are divided into several types.**

**Common nouns:** These name general, *nonspecific* people, places, things, or ideas. They start with a lowercase letter unless they begin a sentence.

*writer, city, park, religion*

**2. Proper nouns:** These name *specific* people, places, things, or ideas. They always start with a capital letter.

Victor Hugo, Paris, Disneyland, Christianity

**3. Abstract nouns.** These are the opposite of concrete. They name something that you cannot perceive with your five senses - something that *does not physically* exist. *happiness, freedom, Christianity*

**4. Concrete nouns:** These name something that you can perceive with your five senses - something that *physically* exists.

*Cat, chocolate, Martha*

**5. Countable nouns:** These *can be counted*, and they use both the singular and the plural forms. Anything that you can make plural is a countable noun.

*clock/clocks, David/Davids, poem/poems*

**6. Uncountable nouns** *cannot be counted*, they only use the singular form.

*Snow, water, air, light*

**7. Compound nouns:** These are made up of two or more smaller words.

*tablecloth, haircut, applesauce*

**8. Collective nouns:** These are singular nouns that refer to a group of things as one whole.

*class, audience, swarm*

**9. Singular nouns:** These refer to *one* person, place, thing, or idea.

*box, face, road, ball*

**10. Plural nouns:** These refer to *more than one* person, place, thing, or idea. They generally end in with an s.

*boxes, faces, roads, balls*

11. **Possessive nouns:** These show ownership.

*Dad's car, the student's book, Marc's hat*

### Plural of nouns

There are two grammatical numbers in English: a) Singular b) Plural

There are several ways of writing the plural:

1. By adding “s” to the singular, e.g. *boy- boys, school- schools*

2. By adding “es”

a) To most words that end in “o” e.g.

*potato-potatoes, hero-heroes, cargo-cargoes;*

But note: *piano- pianos*.

b) To words that end in the sounds: [s], [ʃ], [tʃ], [ks], [z], e.g.

*kiss-kisses; brush- brushes; church- churches; box-boxes; size-sizes.*

3. Words ending ‘y’ to ‘ies’

*lady-ladies; story- stories; city- cities; army-armies*

Words ending in ‘y’ with a vowel immediately before it simply add ‘s’, e.g.

*valley-valleys; donkey-donkeys.*

4. Words ending in ‘f’ or ‘fe’ generally changes this to ‘ves’, e.g.

*leaf-leaves; wife-wives; loaf- loaves; thief- thieves; shelf-shelves.*

But note : *roof-roofs; cliff- cliffs; handkerchief- handkerchiefs.*

5. Some words form their plural by a change of vowel, e.g.

*man-men; woman-women; foot-feet; mouse-mice.*

6. Two words form their plural differently from all the others. They are

*child-children; ox-oxen*

7. Some words have the same form for singular or plural, e.g.

*sheep; deer .*

With compound nouns, if they are made of two nouns, only the last part takes the plural form, e.g.

*housemaid- housemaids; shoemaker- shoemakers, classroom-classrooms.*

There is one exception to this rule. If the first part of the word is man (or woman), then both words take the plural form:

*manservant-menservants; woman-teacher- women-teachers*

If the compound noun is made with a preposition, then only the first part

takes the plural form:

*father-in-law- fathers-in-law; man-of war (is a battleship) – men-of-law.*

8. Some words are never used in the plural, e.g.

*news; advice; information; knowledge, furniture; luggage*

So we say: *The news is good; the furniture is new.*

So, too, names of substances, like *water, air, bread, wood*, things that can’t be counted, naturally can’t have a plural. Sometimes we have plural forms for these ‘uncountables,’ but with a different meaning.

Compare: The desk is made of *wood*. (*material*)

There are some pretty *woods* in England . (*collection of trees*)

The mountain is made of *rock*.

The ship ran on the *rocks*.

The engine is made of *iron*.

We have two electrical *irons* to iron the clothes.

9. Some words have no singular, e.g. *people* (in the singular we can say *a person*), trousers, scissors, clothes, goods, police, thanks.

We must say: *My trousers are new; the police were there yesterday; the scissors are sharp;*

### Practice. Nouns.

Task 1. Choose an appropriate verb (and tense) to complete the sentences. Answers are below with explanations.

- *There \_\_\_\_\_ dozens of pigs in the road.*

There *are* dozens of pigs in the road. – Pigs are countable, and a plural, so we need *are*.

- *There \_\_\_\_\_ lots of pork on the table.*

There *is* lots of pork on the table. – Pork is uncountable, so is treated as singular.

1. This tomato \_\_\_\_\_ ripe.
2. Now my pyjamas \_\_\_\_\_ stains on them!
3. Those cups of tea \_\_\_\_\_ very hot. Because the tea \_\_\_\_\_ boiling.
4. Can I \_\_\_\_\_ some cake?
5. The glasses \_\_\_\_\_ full of whisky.
6. That pair of glasses \_\_\_\_\_ broken.
7. They \_\_\_\_\_ questioning him now, but the police \_\_\_\_\_ no evidence.
8. The crowd \_\_\_\_\_ dispersing.
9. Janette and Paul \_\_\_\_\_ been together for fourteen years.
10. Our reserves of grain \_\_\_\_\_ running out. But the grain \_\_\_\_\_ still good.
11. My scissors \_\_\_\_\_ getting blunt.
12. Your pizza \_\_\_\_\_ cold, you should reheat it.

## Countable and uncountable nouns exercise 2: Quantifiers

Choose an appropriate quantifier to complete the sentences. The spaces can include single words or multiple words (for example *many / lots of* ). Answers are below with explanation

- **Task 2.** *Do you have \_\_\_\_\_ sugar?*

Do you have *any/some* sugar? – Sugar is uncountable, so it uses a quantifier. Any/some might be used for countable or uncountable nouns, but would be incorrect for a countable singular noun.

- *Do you have \_\_\_\_\_ car?*

Do you have *a* car? – Car is countable and needs an indefinite article.

1. Can I have \_\_\_\_\_ water?
2. Please give me \_\_\_\_\_ ticket.
3. How \_\_\_\_\_ burgers would you like? And how \_\_\_\_\_ sauce?
4. People seem to care \_\_\_\_\_ about appearance now.
5. It's busy because there are \_\_\_\_\_ dogs in the park.
6. We needed \_\_\_\_\_ potatoes for dinner.
7. They didn't have \_\_\_\_\_ cheese left, but there weren't \_\_\_\_\_ cheeses to choose from to begin with.
8. Clifford had too \_\_\_\_\_ cake, he'll be sick.
9. You need to invite \_\_\_\_\_ people, or the party will be too crowded.

10. If this bill passes, I hope there will be \_\_\_\_\_ litter on the streets.

11. The supermarket has \_\_\_\_\_ bread, but not \_\_\_\_\_ milk.

12. Please pass me \_\_\_\_\_ paper, I seem to have run out.

13. I went to the shop to get \_\_\_\_\_ carton of milk.