

English III

Nouns

MENG211 - 2020

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Lesson 1

What is a noun?

- A **noun** is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea.
- Nouns have the ability to perform different functions, or jobs, in sentences.

What is a noun?

1) Subject: nouns that tell us whom or what a sentence is about:

- *“Mr. Smith teaches English.”*

subject = Mr. Smith

verb = teach

What is a noun?

2) Direct Object: nouns that receive the action of certain kinds of verbs.

A direct object answers the question: “what?” or “who?”

- *“Mr. Smith teaches English.”*

subject = Mr. Smith

verb = teach

direct object = English

What is a noun?

3) Indirect Object: nouns that receive the action of the direct object.

There must be a direct object for an indirect object to be placed in a sentence; an indirect object cannot exist without a direct object.

An indirect object answers the question: “to whom?” or “for whom?”

What is a noun?

3) Indirect Object: nouns that receive the action of the direct object.

- *“Mr. Smith sent Tom a postcard.”*

subject = Mr. Smith

verb = send

direct object = postcard

indirect object = Tom (*To whom did Mr. Smith send the postcard?*)

What is a noun?

4) Object of Prepositions: nouns that come after prepositions in prepositional phrases.

- *“Mr. Smith met Tom at school.”*

subject = Mr. Smith

verb = meet

direct object = Tom

object of preposition = school

How can we describe or classify nouns?

1) Common: These describe general, *non-specific* people, places, things, or ideas. They are usually written with a lowercase letter unless they begin a sentence.

- student, hospital, pencil, dream, etc.

How can we describe or classify nouns?

2) Proper: These describe *specific* people, places, things, or ideas. They always start with a uppercase letter.

- Xi Jinping, Macao, Disneyland, Catholicism, etc.

How can we describe or classify nouns?

3) Concrete: These describe something that physically exists; you can realize with your senses.

- dog, perfume, pizza, etc.

How can we describe or classify nouns?

4) Abstract: These describe something that does not physically exist; opposite of concrete.

- happiness, wealth, freedom, etc.

How can we describe or classify nouns?

5) Singular: These refer to *one* person, place, thing, or idea.

- box, notebook, moose, antenna, etc.

How can we describe or classify nouns?

6) Plural: These refer to *more than one* person, place, thing, or idea.

- boxes, notebooks, moose, antennae, etc.

How can we describe or classify nouns?

7) Collective: These are nouns that refer to a group of things as a whole. Collective nouns are *usually* singular, but can be plural depending on its use in a sentence.

- class, audience, pair, etc.

How can we describe or classify nouns?

8) Countable: Nouns that have singular and plural forms; things that can be counted. A plural noun is countable.

- class \Leftrightarrow classes
- book \Leftrightarrow books
- pants \Leftrightarrow pants

How can we describe or classify nouns?

9) Uncountable: Nouns that have only singular forms; things that cannot be counted.

- sand, gold, air, rice, etc.