



**The World of Languages**  
and Languages of the World

# Nouns

Today we will look at nouns and how they are used in different languages.

Get your thinking caps on...

# Objectives

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- We can see that, in many languages, noun endings change depending on their gender, number and their function within a sentence.
- We can spot patterns: similarities and differences.
- We can see how these patterns can be linked to other languages.

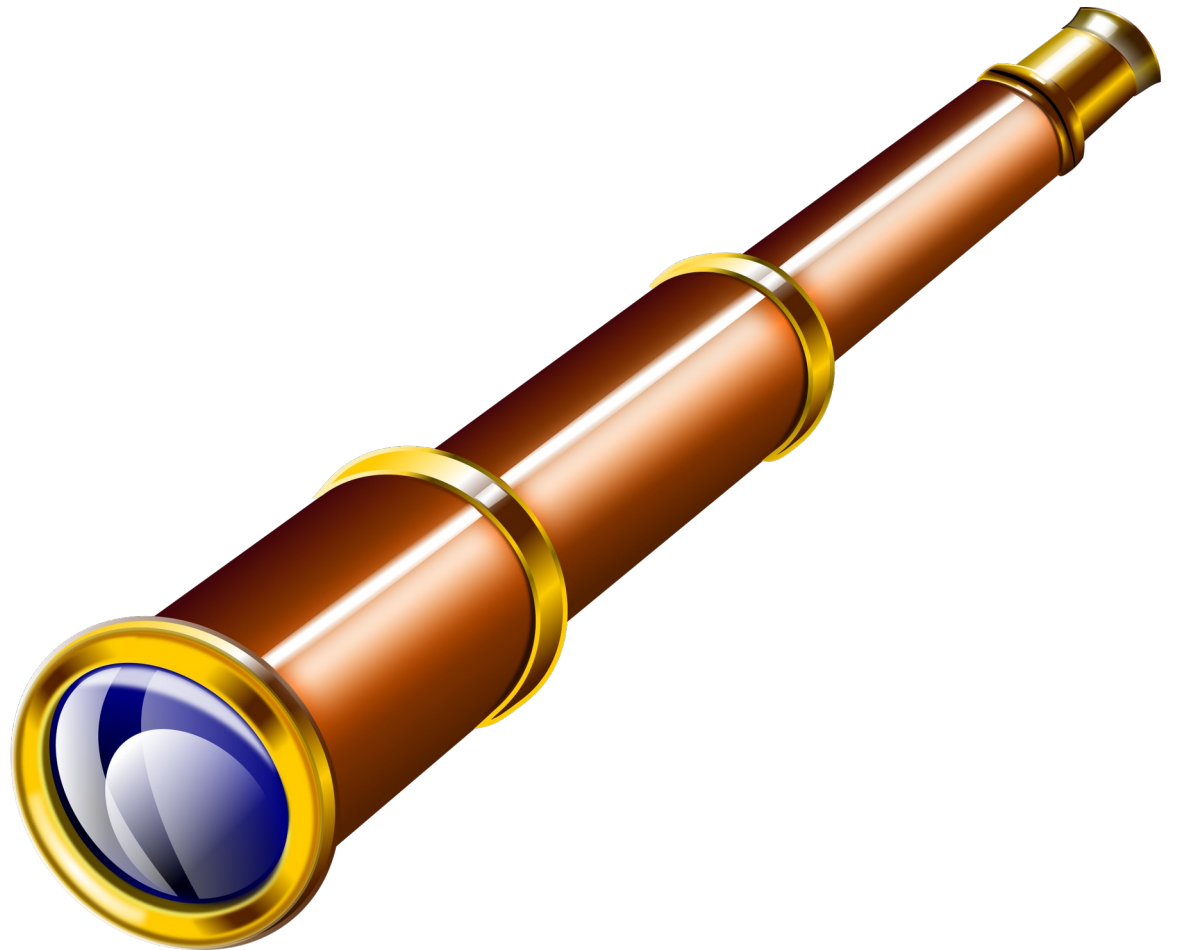


**ἵπποπόταμος**  
WoLLoW the HiPPo

# Let's go!

*I spy with my little eye...*

- Look around the room and name several objects that you can see.
- And now name some of your friends and your teacher.
- And lastly name some places.



# Definition

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*Whiteboard*  
*Window*

*Pencil*  
*Glasses*

*Notebook*  
*Teacher*

*Chair*  
*Friend*

- All the words that you mentioned are nouns. Can you explain what type of word a noun is?
- Nouns are the words we use for persons, things, places, states or qualities. The word noun is also a noun! How many nouns can you spot in this question?
- Are nouns in English always the same or do they change? Do we ever add anything to these words?



# Types of Nouns

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- There are several different types of nouns:
- To which type(s) does each of these nouns belong?

Concrete (proper & common)

Abstract

Collective

Compound

Countable & uncountable

Possessive

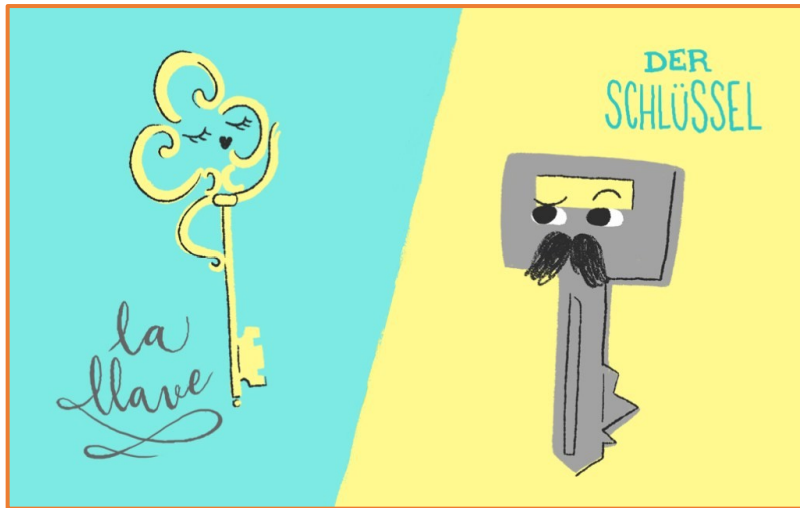
Singular & plural

*Sam's*      *class*      *humour*      *Isobel*

*dictionary*      *books*      *water*  
*lighthouse*



# Is noun a *he*, a *she* or an *it*?



- Did you remember that in some languages, nouns have a grammatical gender?
- In German, there are three possible genders (masculine, feminine and neutral), whereas in Spanish there are only two.
- Are you able to identify the grammatical gender of the following nouns in Spanish? Think back...

*luna   sol   colegio   profesor*

*lengua   libertad   problema   canción*



# Case System

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- Did you know that in various languages, in addition to gender and number, nouns also have *cases*?
- Cases show grammatical function of nouns within a sentence: how nouns relate to other words in a sentence.
- For example, the proper noun *Anna* has different functions here:
  1. *Anna* sings in a school choir.
  2. “*Anna*, will you sing with me?”
  3. Everyone congratulated *Anna* on her singing.

In English, nouns stay the same despite having different functions in a sentence.

But in other languages...



# Let's travel to Ancient F



Case	Function/meaning
Nominative	“Case for naming,” the form of the word in dictionaries
Genitive	Possession: a noun is a possessor of another noun
Dative	Indirect object: The girl gave some fruit to <b>the hippo</b> .
Accusative	Direct object: The girl gave some <b>fruit</b> to the hippo.
Ablative	Place, manner, instrument
Vocative	A person, animal or object being addressed: Hello, <b>pupils</b> !





# Language detectives... are you ready?



What is the stem and what are the case endings in the following table?

**Puella, puellae, (feminine), girl**

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	puella	puellae
Genitive	puellae	puellarum
Dative	puellae	puellis
Accusative	pueallam	puellas
Ablative	puella	puellis
Vocative	puealla	puellae

# Let's travel to Serbia.



Serbian is a Slavic language, just like Bulgarian, Macedonian, Russian, Polish, etc., and it has 7 cases. Did you know that each of the cases below responds to one question? Can you guess the meaning of the noun *lingvista*? What is the stem and what are the case endings?

Case/Padež	Question	Singular
Nominativ	Who?	lingvista
Genitiv	Whose?	lingviste
Dativ	To whom?	lingvisti
Akuzativ	Whom/what?	lingvistu
Vokativ	Hey,...!	lingvisto
Instrumental	With whom/what?	lingvistom
Lokativ	Where?	lingvisti



# Look a little closer...

- What similarities and differences do you notice between Latin and Serbian?

Case	Singular
Nominative	puella
Genitive	puellae
Dative	puellae
Accusative	pueallam
Ablative	puella
Vocative	puealla

Case	Singular
Nominativ	lingvista
Genitiv	lingviste
Dativ	lingvisti
Akuzativ	lingvistu
Vokativ	lingvisto
Instrumental	lingvistom
Lokativ	lingvisti



# A final challenge...

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What about English?  
How do we express  
different functions of  
nouns in a sentence  
without changing their  
form?



# WoLLoW wo uld like to know...

1. Give an example of where we add letters to nouns in English to change meaning.
2. What does a case do?
3. Can you name three cases?



**ίπποπόταμος**  
WoLLoW the HiPPo