

Some nouns have distinct, meaning clear, unique and obvious, endings. Some of these common endings are -hood, -ness, -ment, -ity, -ation, -ance and -ence. For example; neighborhood, stupidity, disappointment, responsibility, formation, dominance and consequence. If you speak a Romance language, like French or Spanish, the words that end in -ity, -ation, -ance and -ence are usually the same, with only slight spelling changes.

Another way to recognize a noun is by looking at what comes before it. In English, adjectives usually come before the noun. Big book, smart student, cloudy morning.

Determiners, which includes the articles a, an, the, as well as words like this, these, such, and his, also come before nouns. A book, an apple, the smart student, these cloudy mornings, his umbrella, such arrogance.

Types of nouns.

Names of specific people, places, animals, companies and organizations, days of the week and months of the year are proper nouns. You easily notice a proper noun because the first letter will be capitalized no matter where it is in a sentence. I've already mentioned Albert Einstein and my own name, Kallan. A few places are the United States, New Delhi, and the Amazon rainforest. As a child, I had a dog called Katie and today my parents have cats called Orion and Twain. A few companies and organizations are the United Nations, Tesla, Xbox and Mastercard. And I'm writing this on a Thursday, but I probably won't film it until Friday. As well, it's January so it's cold outside, but I'm looking forward to warmer weather in April.

If a noun is referring to a person, place, thing or idea in a general, non-specific way, that means it's a common noun, and is not capitalized unless it's at the beginning of a sentence or used in a title. Like, 'This is a picture of the dog I had as a child'. I told you before my dog was called Katie, but in this case I'm not mentioning her specific name, but instead using the common noun, dog, to first refer to what type of animal she was.

Another example, 'This man is a writer'. Man is a common noun referring to a person. With a proper noun I could also say, 'Mark Twain is an author.'

Concrete nouns.

If we have a 'concrete noun' that means that it's a physical thing, person or place that we can touch, smell, taste, hear or see. Like cellphones, perfume, pasta, music and the road when driving. We're constantly touching our cellphones, a nice perfume smells great, I love the taste of a good pasta, I'm always listening to music and it's hard to see the road when it's really cloudy.

Abstract nouns.

The opposite of concrete nouns are abstract nouns. I just talked about how we experience concrete nouns through our 'five senses', which are touch, smell, taste, hearing and sight.

We don't interact with abstract nouns through our senses, meaning we don't touch, smell, taste, hear or see them, instead they are related to our emotions, feelings and concepts that we think. For example, 'happiness' and 'sadness' are opposite emotions. 'Boredom' is the feeling we have when we are not entertained while 'excitement' means we are enjoying what is happening.

Some important concepts that we try to obey in our daily lives are 'respect', 'courtesy' and 'politeness'. And whether you are a business person studying an abstract noun like statistics or a scientist developing a new theory, also an abstract noun, everyone should be as respectful, courteous and polite as possible.