

Types of nouns.

With nouns we're taught that they can be people, places, things, animals and ideas. That means nouns are both things we can see or feel physically, destinations we visit, as well as ideas and concepts we can only think of in our heads or communicate to others by speaking or writing.

If you're at school, some common nouns referring to people are teacher, student, janitor and advisor. At work there's your boss, colleague, assistant and supervisor. And once you're back home, you might see your brother, sister, mom, dad, husband or wife.

For places, I already mentioned a few like school, work and home. But nouns can be any type of place. The city you live in, your favorite café where you eat breakfast, the park where you walk your dog, and France, where a lot of tourists spend their summer vacations.

Moving on to things, you have a ton of them around you right now. I have my computer over here, there's the camera recording me, there's flowers and a picture over on this wall, I have a table in front of me with a pencil and notebook and the fridge is over there with lots of food.

Then there's animals. A lot of people have pets to keep them company, like a dog, cat, bird or fish. In the city, I only see squirrels and bunnies, but at the zoo I can see lions, tigers, bears and a lot more.

Lastly with nouns, we have ideas like our thoughts, opinions, beliefs and emotions. We first get an idea in our head and then share it with other people by speaking about it, writing it down or visualizing or expressing it in some way. Some of Albert Einstein's most famous discoveries started as simple thoughts he had from dreams, which he would then write down and develop into scientific theories. Democracy is the idea that we should vote for people to represent our beliefs in government. Peace is the idea that

we should live in harmony, and avoid a different idea, anger. But peace is sometimes difficult because we have different ideas about how things should be, and our emotions, like being selfish, can get in the way.

How to use a noun.

Let's look at the two main uses of nouns. First, nouns often do an action, meaning they are the subject of a verb. Let's use Albert Einstein as an example again. Albert Einstein created theories. The subject in our example is Albert Einstein, and his action is the verb 'to create', but in our example, the action, or verb, is in the past simple tense, so we conjugate it as 'created'. Another example, Coffee wakes up Kallan. Coffee is our subject, and it has a verb. The verb, or action, is 'to wake up'. And who does the coffee wake up? Kallan, that's me, I'm Kallan and coffee gives me energy, it wakes me up. So the action, wake up, belongs to the subject and changes depending on the subject and tense we're using. The verb in this sentence is in the present simple, but a verb will change, we will have to 'conjugate' the verb differently depending on the subject and the tense we want to use.

Second, nouns can also be the object of a verb. You know the subject of the verb is doing the action, but who or what is receiving that action? That's what the object of the verb answers, it tells us who or what the verb did. Before, I said Albert Einstein created theories. What did he create? Theories, theories is the object of the verb. I also said coffee wakes up Kallan. Who does coffee wake up? Kallan, Kallan is the object of the verb.