

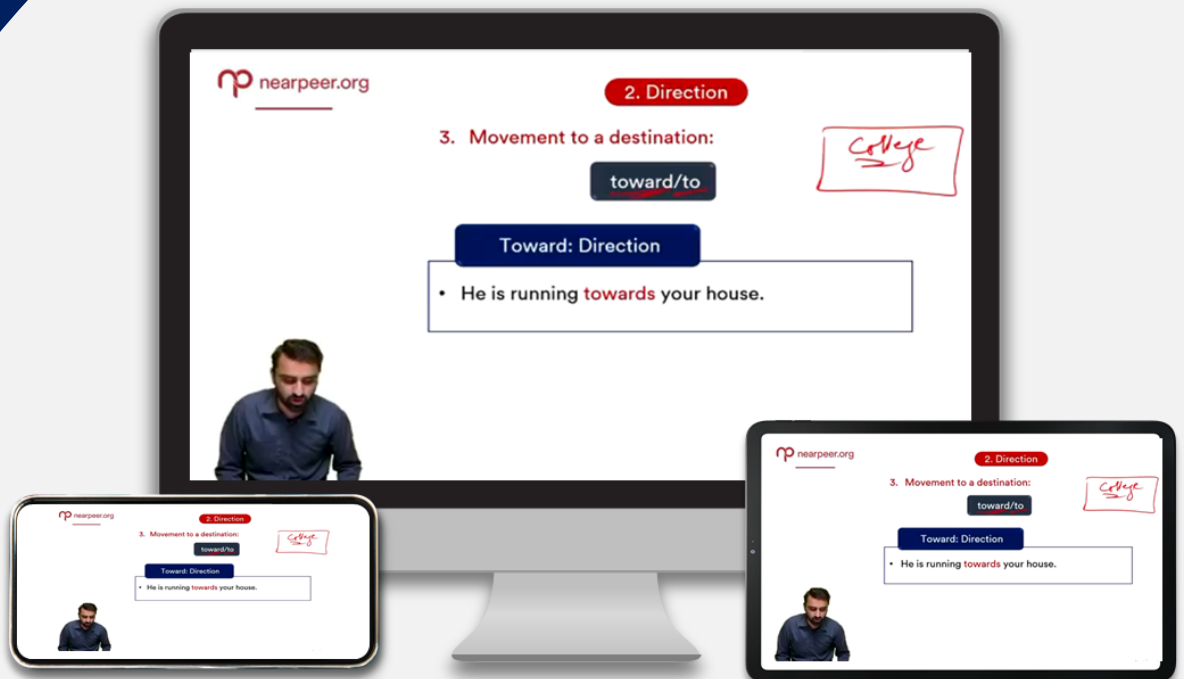
MDCAT

English

Quick Practice Book

www.nearpeer.org

Oldest, Largest and Most Credible Platform



Chapter 03

Nouns



Noun

A noun is a word that names something, such as a person, place, thing, or idea. In a sentence, nouns can play the role of subject, direct object, indirect object, subject complement, object complement, or appositive.

Types of Nouns:

1. Common Noun
2. Proper Noun
3. Material Noun
4. Abstract Noun
5. Collective Noun

1. Common Noun:

Generic name of a person, place or thing is called a common noun.

Example:

- A boy
- A girl
- A hand
- A college
- A city
- A country
- An apple
- An elephant

2. Proper Noun:

Specific name of a person, place or thing is called a proper noun.

Example:

- | | | |
|---------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ▪ A boy | → | Ali |
| ▪ A girl | → | Anusha |
| ▪ A college | → | King Edward Medical College |
| ▪ A city | → | Lahore |
| ▪ A country | → | Pakistan |
| ▪ An elephant | → | Susi |

Rule 1:

Common nouns are generic names, so their first letter is not capital; whereas, proper nouns are specific names, so their first letter is always capital.

Example:

- A boy → Aliyan
- A girl → Ayesha

Rule 2:

All proper nouns do have their generic names along with their specific names.

Example:

- A boy → Kashif
- A college → King Edward Medical College

But all common nouns may not have their specific names.

Example:

- A hand
- A tree

3. Material nouns

Material nouns are names of matter in its raw form.

Water	Wood	Iron	Oxygen
Plastic	Gold	Aluminum	Paper
Sugar	Milk	Sand	Silicon

4. Abstract Noun:

Nouns that show ideas, quality or state are called abstract nouns.

Honesty	Bravery	Advice
Divorce	Ability	Confidence

5. Collective Noun:

Names of groups are called collective nouns.

I. Common Groups of People:

Collective Noun	Group
Board	A group of directors
Band	A group of musicians
Choir	A group of singers
Class	A group of students

Crowd	A group of people
Audience	A group of (spectators, viewers)
Gang	A group of thieves/robbers/gangsters
Team	A group of players
Troup	A group of dancers
Audience	A group of (spectators, viewers)
Company	Group of soldiers/military
Battalion	
Brigade	
Corps	
Army	
Crew	Group of working party

II. Common Groups of Animals:

Collective Noun	Group
Flock	A group of birds/sheep
Pack	A group of hounds/wolves
Pride	A group of lions
Herd	A group of deer/cows/goats/buffaloes
Cattle	cows/goats/buffaloes
Murder	A group of crows
Hive	A group of bees
School	A group of fish
Swarm	A group of locusts
Team	A group of horses
Litter	A group of puppies/cubs
Army	A group of ants

III. Common Groups of Animals:

Collective Noun	Group
Bouquet/bunch	A group of flowers
Fleet	A group of ships
Forest	A group of trees
Galaxy	A group of stars
Pack	A group of cards/lies

Range	A group of mountains
Wad	A group of notes

Collective Nouns are singular or Plural?

Collective nouns can be either singular or plural depending on context.

1. Singular Collective Nouns:

People often behave in the same manner, doing one thing in unison with the other members of their group. When these people are part of a collective noun, that noun becomes singular and requires singular verbs and pronouns.

Example:

- The team neither follows its coach nor shows any respect towards him.
- The jury has decided in my favor.

2. Plural Collective Nouns:

Members of collective nouns can behave in a similar fashion. When the members are acting as individuals, the collective noun is plural and requires plural verbs and pronouns.

Example:

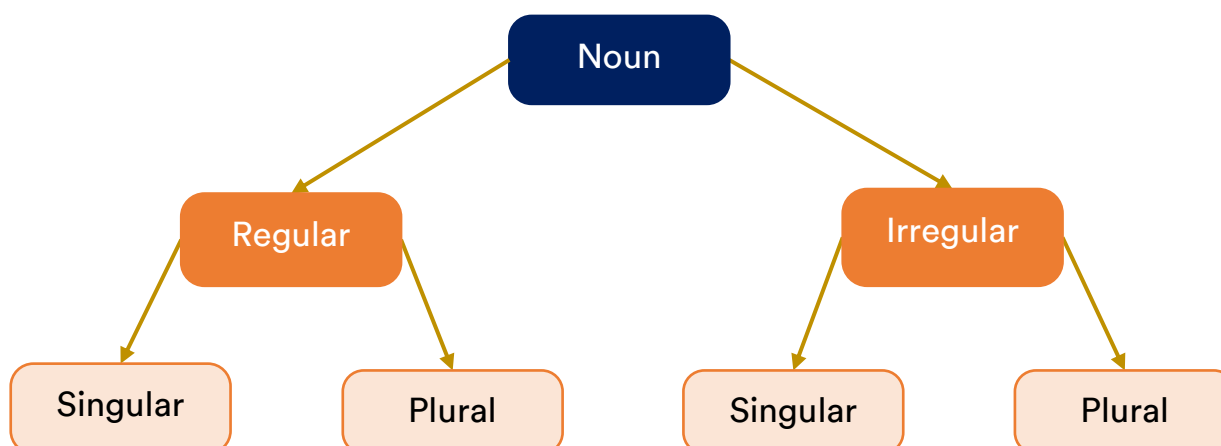
- After the match, the team shower, change their uniform and head toward their homes.
- The jury disagree about the innocence of the accused.

Note

Police and people are always plural and agree with plural verb and plural pronoun.

Example:
Police have caught the thieves.

Number of Noun/ Singular & Plural



1. Regular Nouns:

Regular plural nouns form their plural by adding an “s” or “es” at their end.

Example:

- Boy → Boys
- Book → Books
- Girl → Girls

2. Irregular Nouns:

Irregular plural nouns are nouns that do not become plural by adding -s or -es, as regular nouns in the English language do.

Example:

- Man → Men
- Woman → Women
- Tooth → Teeth

Rule 1:

Regular nouns that end with a “Consonant Sound + Y” form their plural by removing “y” and adding “ies” at their end.

Example:

- Baby → Babies
- Fly → Flies
- Sky → Skies

Rule 2:

Some nouns ending with “f”, or “fe” form their plurals by replacing “f”, “fe” with “ves”.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Wife	Wives	Thief	Thieves
Life	Lives	Calf	Calves
Knife	Knives	Half	Halves
Leaf	Leaves	Loaf	Loaves
Shelf	Shelves	Wolf	Wolves

Exception:

Roof, Giraffe, Belief, Proof, chef etc. are regular nouns and form their plural by adding an “s” at the end.

- Roof → Roofs
- Giraffe → Giraffes
- Belief → Beliefs
- Chef → Chefs

Plurals of Greek and Latin Words in English

Rule 3:

Nouns ending with “on”, “ium” form their plural by adding “ia” at the end.

Example:

- Criterion → Criteria
- Phenomenon → Phenomena
- Bacterium → Bacteria
- Memorandum → Memoranda

Exception:

However, “Media” and “Data” can be used as singular and plural both.

Rule 4:

Nouns ending with “is” form their plural by replacing “-is” with “-es”

Example:

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Basis	Bases	Analysis	Analyses
Thesis	Theses	Crisis	Crises
Hypothesis	Hypotheses	Praxis	Praxes
Axis	Axes	Diagnosis	Diagnoses

Rule 5:

Nouns ending with “us” form their plural by replacing “us” with “i” at the end.

Example:

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Focus	Foci	Radius	Radii
Nucellus	Nucelli	Cactus	cacti
Alumnus	Alumni	Fungus	Fungi
Magus	Magi		

Exception:

However, “Virus” and “Octopus” form their plural in a regular way i.e. “Viruses” and “Octopuses”.

Plurals of Compound Nouns

Rule 6:

The plural of the compound noun is formed by adding an “s” or “es” at the end of the real noun; “head word”.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Board Marker	Board Markers	Table chair	Table chairs
Germ Killer	Germ Killers	Key chain	Key chains
Class fellow	Class fellows	Motor bike	Motor bikes
Car park	Car parks	Bottle opener	Bottle openers

Exception:

However, following nouns do not follow the previous rule.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Mother-in-law	Mothers-in-law	Commander in chief	Commanders-in-chief
Sister-in-law	Sisters-in-law	Man in charge	Men-in-charge
Brother-in-law	Brothers-in-law	Director general	Directors general
Father-in-law	Fathers-in-law	Attorney at law	Attorneys at law

Nominal Adjectives

Rule 7:

An adjective functioning as a noun is called a nominal adjective. We do not add an “s” with the nominal adjectives to make them plural. In fact, no adjective has plural form in English Language.

Article “the” indicates their plurality when they are working as nominal adjectives.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Poor	The poor	Injured	The injured
Rich	The rich	Retired	The retired
Honest	The honest	Brave	The brave

English (Person of England)	The English (People of England)	French (Person of France)	The French (Person of France)
-----------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Nouns That Are Always Singular

Rule 8:

The following nouns neither take “a/an” nor have plural forms and agree with singular verbs.

Baggage, Democracy, Progress, Equipment, Music, Garbage, Apparatus, Bread, Traffic, Furniture, Luggage, Machinery, Scenery Information, Hair

Exception:

- I. Hair (when on head) is a singular noun and agrees with a singular verb.
 - Her hair is long.
 - Anusha’s hair is beautiful.
- II. Hairs (in the form of threads that could be counted or root hairs) are plural and agree with plural verb.
 - The inspector examined the comb. There were five, six long shining hairs there.

Nouns that are always Plural

Rule 9:

The following nouns do not have singular form and always agree with plural verb.

Surroundings, Qualifications, Belongings, Ablutions Guts, Goods, Odds, Riches Crossings, Savings Thanks, Congratulations, Outskirts damages, Wages

Exception:

The following nouns are plural but when “a pair” or “the pair” is used before them, they agree with singular verb.

- Trousers, Jeans, Knickers, Pants, Shorts, Tights
- Tweezers, Headphones, Scissors, Binoculars. Glasses, Clippers

Nouns That Stand as both Singular and Plural

Rule 10:

Following nouns stand as both singular and plural. We do not use an “s” or “es” to make their plurals.

Sheep, Offspring, Deer, Aircraft, Fish, Species, Trout, Goldfish

Nationalities

Rule 11:

Nationalities ending with “ese”, “ish”, “iss”, “ch” do not require an “s” to form plural. They remain unchanged to form plurals.

Singular	Plural
Chinese	Chinese
French	French
Irish	Irish
English	English
Scottish	Scottish
Chinese	Chinese

Other nationalities require an “s” to form plurals.

Singular	Plural
Indian	Indians
Pakistani	Pakistanis
African	Africans
American	Americans
Russian	Russians
Greek	Greeks

Plurals of Material Nouns

Rule 11:

Material nouns are names of matter in its raw form. Material nouns neither make plural nor use “a, an” before them.

Water, Wood, Plastic, Gold, Sugar, Milk, Iron, Oxygen
Aluminum, Paper, Sand, Silicon

Exception:

If following material nouns use an “s” with them their meaning is changed.

Water	Aqua/liquid	Waters	Water body
Wood	Timber/plank	Woods	Forest
Paper	Material manufactured from pulp of wood	Papers	Exams/flyers
Iron	A common metal	Irons	Tools to press clothes

Assessment 01

1. The police have been trying to chase up the dead mans sister, but they have no idea where she lives.
 - A. Have
 - B. Chase up
 - C. Mans
 - D. Lives
2. I hung on the outskirt of a crowd around an ice-cream barrow wondering whether the ice-cream man would be miraculously inspired to offer me a 'cornet' or a 'slider' free.
 - A. Outskirt
 - B. An
 - C. Whether
 - D. Inspired
3. The total number of stars in the universe is probably something like the total number of grains of sands on all the seashores of the world.
 - A. In
 - B. Is
 - C. The
 - D. Sands
4. It was Katherine who suggested that a team from the mission should come up to Brookfield and play one of the Schools elevens at Soccer.
 - A. Was
 - B. That
 - C. Should
 - D. Schools
5. In the software competition, developers must play for one inning before winning the game.
 - A. In
 - B. Play
 - C. Inning
 - D. Winning
6.
 - A. But even if the trousers are ready, there is no word on what will happen to the ashen remain of a structure known by locals, because of its shape and location, as the "little phallus".
 - B. But even if the trouser is ready, there is no word on what will happen to the ashen remains of a structure known by locals, because of its shape and location, as the "little phallus".

- C. But even if the trousers are ready, there is no word on what will happen to the ashen remains of a structure known by locals, because of its shape and location, as the "little phallus ".
- D. But even if the trousers are ready, there is no word on what will happen to the ashen remains of a structure known by locals, because of it's shape and location, as the "little phallus ".

7.

- A. This job enables me to buy the latest fashion accessories and clothes without relying at my parents.
- B. This job enables me to buy the last fashion accessories and clothes without relying on my parents.
- C. This job enables me to buy the latest fashion accessory and clothes without relying on my parents.
- D. This job enables me to buy the latest fashion accessories and clothes without relying on my parents.

8.

- A. For years, the landed gentries have striven to keep secret the payments they received from Europe.
- B. For years, the landed gentry has striven to keep secret the payments they received from Europe.
- C. For years, the landed gentry have striven to keep secret the payments they received from Europe.
- D. For years, the landed gentries have striven to keep secret the payments they received from the Europe.

9.

- A. In the modern times, an honesty doesn't seem to be the good policy any more.
- B. In the modern times, the honesty doesn't seem to be the good policy any more.
- C. In the modern times, the honesty doesn't seem to be the better policy any more.
- D. In the modern times, the honesty doesn't seem to be the good policy any more.

10.

- A. The Darts are popular game in England, and I am a great fan of it.
- B. Darts are popular game in England, and I am a great fan of it.
- C. Dart is popular game in England, and I am a great fan of it.
- D. Darts is popular game in England, and I am a great fan of it.

Assessment 02

1. These should be put on a properly raised bird table out of reach of vermin which is dangerous disease carriers.
A. Put
B. Raised
C. Out
D. Is
2. To have a conversation with this large, an audience are invaluable in helping us get where we need to go as a joint team.
A. With
B. Are
C. Get
D. Need
3. The sum of behaviour is to retain a dignity of man, without intruding upon the liberty of others.
A. Is
B. Dignity of man
C. Intruding
D. Others
4. The increase in the number of young people leaving to work in the citys has had a dramatic impact on the demography of the villages.
A. Leaving
B. Citys
C. Had
D. On
5. Shells crashed around the football stadium landing zone while the injured was being carried on board.
A. Crashed
B. Landing
C. Was
D. Carried
6. The Chineses may have introduced the smile policy, but the Occidentals certainly launched the warm hug.
A. Chineses
B. Introduced
C. The
D. Certainly
7.
A. People often do the same mistakes.

- B. Peoples often make the same mistakes.
- C. People often make the same mistakes.
- D. People often repeat the same mistakes again.

8.

- A. You can usually get the best informations about hotels from those friends who have been there for a long time.
- B. You can usually get the best information about hotels from those friends who have been there for a long time.
- C. You can usually get the best informations about hotels from those friends who has been there for a long time.
- D. You can usually get a best information about hotels from those friends who have been there for a long time.

9.

- A. Regrettably, the public is not in a habit of raising their voices against corruption.
- B. Regrettably, the public are not in a habit of raising their voices against corruption.
- C. Regrettably, the public is not in a habit of raising its voices against corruption.
- D. Regrettably, the public are not in a habit of raising its voices against corruption.

10.

- A. The cattle are allowed to wander freely in farm of office as it has been specified for them.
- B. The cattles are allowed to wander freely in farm of office as it has been specified for them.
- C. The cattle is allowed to wander freely in farm of office as it has been specified for them.
- D. The cattle are allowed to wander free in farm of office as it has been specified for them.

Assessment 03

1. Yet four deers are grazing peacefully across a fence line, and scores of cattle are doing the same 200 yards beyond.
A. Deers
B. Across
C. Scores
D. Doing
2. It takes much less time to use indigenous equipments which, when not available, can be promptly prepared.
A. Much
B. Use
C. Equipments
D. Can
3. I send you warm congratulation and hope that there are many more years of happiness ahead for both of you.
A. Send
B. Congratulation
C. That
D. Many
4. Thinning scissors is used by hair dressers and have serrated cutting edges so that hair is cut at different lengths.
A. Thinning
B. Is
C. Have
D. Is
5. We met at the wrong time, but separated at the right time and the most urgent is to take the most beautiful sceneries, the deepest wound was the most real emotions.
A. At
B. To take
C. Sceneries
D. Deepest
6.
A. Measles have destroyed the whole community as the facility of proper treatment is not available in it.
B. Measles has destroyed the whole community as the facility of proper treatment is not available in it.

- C. Measle has destroyed the whole community as the facility of proper treatment is not available in it.
- D. Measles has destroyed the whole community so the facility of proper treatment is not available in it.

7.

- A. Hamlet, Othello and King Lear is great literary work of Shakespeare, and they have brought fame for him as a dramatist.
- B. Hamlet, Othello and King Lear are great literary works of Shakespeare, and they have brought fame for him as a dramatist.
- C. Hamlet, Othello and King Lear are great literary works of the Shakespeare, and they have brought fame for him as a dramatist.
- D. Hamlet, Othello and King Lear are great literary work of Shakespeare, and they have brought fame for him as an dramatist.

8.

- A. It was a horrible experience for me at the Red sea as its waters were hindering our boat because of their rapid movement.
- B. It was a horrible experience for me at Red sea as its waters were hindering our boat because of their rapid movement.
- C. It was a horrible experience for me at the Red sea as its waters were hindering our boat because of its rapid movement.
- D. It was a horrible experience for me on the Red sea as its water were hindering our boat because of their rapid movement.

9.

- A. Eliza will bring beautiful gift to Sophie's party.
- B. Eliza will bring the beautiful gift to Sophie's party.
- C. Eliza will bring a beautiful gift to Sophie's party.
- D. Eliza will bring a beautiful gifts to party of Sophie.

10.

- A. The creativity is a valuable quality in human beings.
- B. Creativity is a valuable quality in human beings.
- C. Creativity is valuable quality in human beings.
- D. A creativity is a valuable quality in human beings.

Key

Assessment 01

1. c
2. a
3. d
4. d
5. c
6. c
7. d
8. c
9. d
10. d

Assessment 02

1. d
2. b
3. b
4. b
5. c
6. a
7. c
8. b
9. b
10. a

Assessment 03

1. a
2. c
3. b
4. b
5. c
6. b
7. b
8. a
9. c
10. b