

NOUNS

WHAT ARE NOUNS?

- Nouns are naming words.
- They name people, places and objects.
- They can also name ideas, emotions, qualities and activities.
- Here are some examples of nouns:
- Peter, Elizabeth, driver, sister, friend.
- Bristol, Severn, Brazil, pen, dog, money.
- Love, beauty, industry, nature, greed, pain.

Types of noun

- All nouns can be divided into **common** and **proper** nouns.
- Common nouns can then be divided into **countable** and **uncountable** nouns.
- Both countable and uncountable nouns can then be further divided into **concrete** and **abstract** nouns.
- We'll look at each type in turn.

Proper nouns

- Proper nouns start with capital letters.
- They are the names of people, places, times, organisations etc.
- They refer to unique individuals.
- Most are not found in the dictionary.
- They often occur in pairs or groups.
- Here are some examples.

Tony Blair

The Jam

Oxfam

Coronation Street

Carly

Christmas

Keynsham

John

President Bush

Sony

Thames

China

Coca Cola

Bridget Jones

Portugal

The Ford Motor Company

King Henry

Macbeth

Saturn

Common nouns

- All nouns which are not proper nouns are common nouns.
- A few examples: cup, art, paper, work, frog, bicycle, atom, family, mind.
- Common nouns are either *countable* or *uncountable*.

Countable nouns

- Use these tests for countable nouns:
- Countable (or just "count") nouns can be made plural: a tree... two trees; a man... men; a pony... ponies.
- In the singular, they may have the determiner *a* or *an*: a sausage; an asterisk.
- We ask: *How many words/pages/chairs?*
- We say: *A few minutes/friends/chips?*

Uncountable nouns

- Use these tests for uncountable nouns:
- Uncountable (or non-count) nouns cannot be made plural. We cannot say: *two funs*, *three advices* or *five furnitures*.
- We never use *a* or *an* with them.
- We ask: *How much money/time/milk?*
(Not *How many?*)
- We say: *A little help/effort*. (Not *A few*.)

Dual category nouns

- Some nouns may be countable or uncountable, depending on how we use them.
- We buy a box of *chocolates* (countable) or a bar of *chocolate* (uncountable).
- We ask: *How much time?* but *How many times?* (where *times* = *occasions*).
- We sit in front of a *television* (set) to watch *television* (broadcasting)

Concrete nouns

- Concrete nouns are the words that most people think of as nouns.
- They are mostly the names of objects and animals (countable) and substances or materials (uncountable).
- *Cake, oxygen, iron, boy, dog, pen, glass, pomegranate, earthworm and door* are all concrete nouns.

Abstract nouns

- Abstract nouns name ideas, feelings and qualities.
- Most, though not all, are uncountable.
- Many are derived from adjectives and verbs and have characteristic endings such as *-ity*, *-ness*, *-ence*, and *-tion*.
- They are harder to recognise as nouns than the concrete variety.

Abstract noun or adjective

- You won't confuse abstract nouns with adjectives, as long as you apply a few tests.
- *Happy* is an adjective. It behaves like one: very happy; so happy; happier; as happy as
- *Happiness* behaves like a noun: The happiness I feel; her happiness; great happiness.

The morphology of nouns

- Nouns change their form for only two grammatical reasons:
- Countable nouns have a plural form. This is usually formed by adding -s, of course, but there are some irregular forms.
- The possessive form of a noun is created by adding -'s (*Henry's cat*) or just an apostrophe (*all our students' results*).

Noun phrases

- When we see a noun as performing a role in a sentence, we think of it as a noun phrase.
- A noun phrase may function as the subject or object of a clause.
- A noun phrase may consist of a single word (a noun or pronoun) or a group of words.
- The most important noun in a noun phrase is called the headword.

Examples of noun phrases (headword in brackets)

- (She) always bought the same newspaper.
- A young (man) in a suit was admiring the (view) from the window.
- Concentrated sulphuric (acid) must be handled carefully.
- My old maths (teacher) was Austrian.

Clauses modifying nouns

- We can use a clause (a group of words containing a verb) to post-modify a noun.
- A clause which post-modifies a noun is called a relative clause or adjectival clause.
- Here are some examples:
- *This is the (house) that Jack built.*
- *(People) who live in glass houses should not throw stones.*

GROUP 1: Proper or Common Nouns

Instruction: Identify whether the underlined word is a **Proper Noun** or a **Common Noun**.

1. We visited Boracay last summer. → _____
2. The teacher gave us homework. → _____
3. Jose Rizal is our national hero. → _____
4. My mother cooks delicious food. → _____
5. Nike is a popular brand. → _____

GROUP 2: Countable or Uncountable Nouns

Instruction: Tell if the underlined word is **Countable** or **Uncountable**.

1. I bought three apples at the market. → _____
2. Please give me some water. → _____
3. The chairs in the classroom are new. → _____

4. He has little patience with noisy people. →

5. _____
I saw five cars parked outside. → _____

GROUP 3: Concrete or Abstract Nouns

Instruction: Tell whether the underlined word is **Concrete** or **Abstract**.

1. The dog ran across the street. → _____

2. His honesty is admired by everyone. →

3. _____
The cake smells delicious. → _____

4. She was filled with anger after the argument. →

5. _____
The book is on the table. → _____