ENGLISH COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Lecture 3:

Types of nouns and their use

Skimming and Scanning

English Communication Skills
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Types of nouns and their uses

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Let's recall some nouns...

Common vs. Proper Nouns

- Common nouns are generic words, like *tissue* or *watch*. They are lower-cased (unless they begin a sentence). A proper noun, on the other hand, is the name of a specific thing, like the brand name *Kleenex* or *Rolex*. Proper nouns are always capitalized.

- common noun: name

- proper noun: Ester

Let's recall some nouns...

Concrete vs. Abstract Nouns

- Concrete nouns are things you can hold, see, or otherwise sense, like *book*, *light*, or *warmth*.

- Abstract nouns, on the other hand, are (as you might expect) abstract concepts, like *time* and *love*.

- concrete noun: rock

- abstract noun: justice

Try:

- Buddhism
- Robert
- cathedral
- talent

Let's recall some nouns...

Count vs. Non-Count Nouns

- A **count noun** (also **countable noun**) is a noun that can be modified by a numeral (*three chairs*) and that occurs in both singular and plural forms (*chair*, *chairs*). They can also be preceded by words such as *a*, *an*, or *the* (*a chair*). Quite literally, count nouns are nouns which can be counted.

- A **non-count noun** (also **mass noun**), on the other hand, has none of these properties. It can't be modified by a numeral (*three furniture* is incorrect), occur in singular/plural (*furnitures* is not a word), or co-occur with *a*, *an*, or *the* (*a furniture* is incorrect). Again, quite literally, non-count nouns are nouns which cannot be counted.

Let's recall some nouns...

Read the following sentences. Decide if the bolded words have been treated correctly as count or non-count nouns.

1. Satya has a lot of **clothings**. Her mother has told her that before she can buy any more, she must get rid of five **shirts** and two **pants**.

2. There were a lot of types of **food** at the event, including different **soups**, **salads**, and **desserts**.

3. Miguel loved studying **outer space**—especially the different **galaxy**.

Let's recall some nouns...

- ## LESS VS. FEWER?

- The adjectives *less* and *fewer* are both used to indicate a smaller amount of the noun they modify. People often will use these words interchangeably; however, the word *fewer* is used with count nouns, while *less* is used with non-count nouns:

  - The pet day care has **fewer** dogs than cats this week.

  - Next time you make these cookies, you should use **less** sugar.

- The adjectives many and much also follow this pattern. *Many* is used with count nouns, and *much* is used with non-count nouns. *Much* usually follows the adverb *too* (i.e., *too much*):

  - **Many** poets struggle when they try to determine if a poem is complete or not.

  - There's too **much** goodness in her heart for her own good.

Let's recall some nouns...

Choose the correct word to fill in the gaps in the following sentences:

1. Evelyn wished there was (less / fewer) rain in the weather forecast.

2. You can only be in this line if you have fifteen items or (less / fewer).

3. I made a list of my (many / much) ideas for the project.

4. Arturo drank too (many / much) water before his workout.

Let's recall some nouns…

Compound Nouns

- A **compound noun** is a noun phrase made up of two nouns, e.g., *bus driver*, in which the first noun acts as a sort of adjective for the second one, but without really describing it. (For example, think about the difference between *a black bird* and *a blackbird*.)

Let's recall some nouns...

Types of Compound Nouns

- Short compounds may be written in three different ways:

- **The solid or closed forms** in which two usually moderately short words appear together as one. Solid compounds most likely consist of short units that often have been established in the language for a long time. Examples are *housewife*, *lawsuit*, *wallpaper*, *basketball*, etc.

- **The hyphenated form** in which two or more words are connected by a hyphen. This category includes compounds that contain suffixes, such as *house-build*(*er*) and *single-mind*(*ed*)(*ness*). Compounds that contain articles, prepositions or conjunctions, such as *rent-a-cop* and *mother-of-pearl*, are also often hyphenated.

- **The open or spaced form** consisting of newer combinations of usually longer words, such as *distance learning*, *piano player*, *lawn tennis*, etc.

Let's recall some nouns...

Plurals

- The process of making compound nouns plural has its own set of conventions to follow. In all forms of compound nouns, we pluralize the chief element of a compound word (i.e., we pluralize the primary noun of the compound).

- fisher**man** → fisher**men**

- black **bird** → black **birds**

- **brother**-in-law → **brothers**-in-law

- The word *hand-me-down* doesn't have a distinct primary noun, so its plural is *hand-me-downs*.

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Let's recall some nouns...

What is the plural of:

1. do-it-yourself
2. rabbit's foot
3. have-not
4. passerby
5. time-out
6. lieutenant general

Skimming and Scanning

https://human.libretexts.org/Courses/Community_College_of_Allegheny_County/Book%3A_Reading_and_Writing_for_Learning/5%3A_Academic_Literacy%3A_Psychology_-_%22Emerging_Adulthood%22_(Week_5)/5.2%3A_Skimming_and_Scanning/5.2.2%3A_Skimming_and_scanning_-_Anne_Arundel

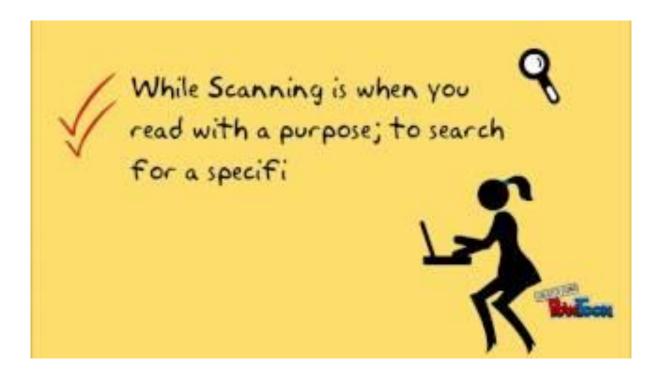# Skimming and Scanning (refer L3 handout 1)

SKIMMING (general points)

- looking *only* for the general or main ideas

- best with non-fiction (or factual) material.

- don't read everything (your overall understanding is reduced)

- read only what is important to your purpose.

- Skimming takes place while reading and allows you to look for details in addition to the main ideas.

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SCANNING (a few specific points)

- look *only* for a specific fact or piece of information without reading everything.

- scan when you look for your favorite show listed in the cable guide, for a friend's phone number in a telephone book, and for the sports scores in the newspaper.

- need to understand how your material is structured as well as comprehend what you read so you can locate the specific information you need.

- allows you to find details and other information in a hurry.

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More on skimming and scanning ...

https://youtu.be/EhqgKv37Tw4

Skimming and Scanning

Skimming

http://teach.files.bbci.co.uk/skillswise/en05skim-l1-w-skimming-a-school-prospectus.pdf

Scan

http://teach.files.bbci.co.uk/skillswise/en05skim-l1-w-scanning-a-school-prospectus.pdf

Thank you!

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