



Unit# 1.1

The Farewell Sermon (Speech)

By

Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W)

INTRODUCTION:

The Farewell Sermon of The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) is one of the most inspiring sermons to be read. After fourteen hundred years the contents of the message in it are still powerful and intense. The final message of the Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) is relevant today just as it was fourteen hundred years ago. It is important to deeply understand its content. It teaches simplicity, humility and equality for all.

SUMMARY:

Salient Points of Sermon:-

Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) delivered his last sermon on the ninth day of Dhul Hajjah in 10 A.H. (632 Common Era) in the Uranah valley of Mount Arafat (in Mecca), at the end of his first and last pilgrimage to Makkah. This momentous address which he gave is known as the "Farewell Sermon" (Khutba-e- Hajjatul -Wida).

After praising and thanking God, the messenger said "O people listen to my words carefully for I know not whether I will meet you on such an occasion again".

The salient points of the sermon are as follows:

A) Trust and Accountability:-

The Holy Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) said, "Your lives and properties are sacred trust amongst you, so return the things to their rightful owners". The Holy Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) stated the sanctity of these things by comparing them with sacred month, the sacred day and the sacred city where he was delivering the sermon.

B) Interest (Ribah):-

The Holy Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) said, "Interest on the loans is forbidden to you. All dues of interest shall stand cancelled and you will have only your capital back".

C) Treatment of Wife:-

The Holy Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) instructed the people to be kind and affectionate to their women. He said, "You have rights over your wives and your wives have rights over you". The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) said, "Remember that you took them as trust from Allah. Men have to feed and clothe them".

D) Warning about Satan:-

In his sermon The Holy Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) warned the Muslims about Satan that "Satan has lost all the hopes, so you never follow him in small things. As a Muslim you should be careful about the Satan and follow the path of righteousness".

E) Brotherhood:-

In his sermon The Holy Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) said about the brotherhood that

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"O people listen carefully; all the believers are real brothers of each other and that Muslims constitute one brotherhood".

F) Superiority is only Piety and Submission:-

The Holy Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) said that all the mankind is from Adam and Eve. There is no preference for the Arabs over the non Arabs or the non Arabs over Arabs. A white has no merit over a black; similarly a black cannot claim any superiority over a white. The superiority and preference depends on **Piety and Good actions**.

G) In order to be successful we must obey Both God and his Messenger:-

The Holy Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) said "O people, I leave behind me two things, the Quran and my example (Sunnah.) If you follow these two you will never fail in your life".

H) Observe the Pillars of Islam:-

The Holy Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) instructed the people to worship God and offer five prayers, observe fast in the month of Ramadan, pay the Zakat and perform Hajj if you can afford.

I) Mohammad(S.A.W) was the Last Prophet:-

The Holy Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) said about Khatam-e- Nabuwwat "O people, no Prophet or messenger will come after me and no new faith will emerge". The process of appointing prophets and messengers by Almighty Allah has been terminated and sealed.

J) Our Duty is to spread the message of the Prophet (Quran)

The Holy Prophet said "All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others and those to others again". He prayed that may the last ones understand his words better than those who were listening to him directly.

Conclusion

At the end of his sermon The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) asked the people "Have I conveyed the message of God to you"? The pilgrims replied in one voice, "In truth you have, God is witness".

The Holy prophet raised his forefinger and said "O Allah be thou my witness that I have conveyed your message to your people".

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CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION.

1. Hurt no one so that no one _____ you.
(A) Tease (B) **Hurt** (C) Abuse (D) Destroy
2. Allah has you to take usury.
(A) Ordered (B) Claimed (C) Announced (D) **Forbidden**
3. Beware of Satan, for the safety of your _____.
(A) Goods (B) **Religion** (C) Custom (D) Culture
4. Do treat your women well and be ___ to them.
(A) Loyal (B) **Kind** (C) Careful (D) Merciful
5. All _____ is from Adam and Eve.
(A) People (B) Human (C) **Mankind** (D) Men
6. Learn that every Muslim is a _____ to every other Muslim.
(A) Father (B) **Brother** (C) Relative (D) Well wisher
7. "O people, no _____ or Apostle shall come after me.
(A) **Prophet** (B) Messenger (C) Guide (D) Advise
8. Be my_____, O Allah, that I have conveyed your message to your people.
(A) Guide (B) Power (C) Words (D) **Witness**
9. Apostle means _____.
(A) **Messenger** (B) Orator (C) Speaker (D) Adviser
10. The Holy Prophet (SAW) delivered the Farwell sermon on the _____ day of Dhul Hijjah 10.
(A) 8th (B) 9th (C) 10th (D) 11th
11. The Farewell sermon is mentioned in almost all books of _____.
(A) Islam (B) **Hadith** (C) General Knowledge (D) Religion
12. _____ has given the longest and perhaps most complete version of this sermon.
(A) Imam Abu Hanifa (B) **Imam Ahmed bin Hanbal** (C) Imam Malik (D) Imam Shafi.....
13. The Holy Prophet (SAW) delivered this sermon in the valley of _____.
(A) Mina (B) Arafat (C) Muzdalifa (D) **Uranah**
14. There was a crowd of _____ pilgrims
(A) 100,0000 (B) **120,000** (C) 130,000 (D) 140,000
15. The Holy Prophet (SAW) said, O people lend me an _____ ear.
(A) Attractive (B) Positive (C) **Attentive** (D) Meditative
16. Return the goods entrusted to you to their _____ owners.
(A) **Rightful** (B) Sound (C) Colourful (D) Dutiful

EXERCISE

STUDY QUESTIONS

Recalling:

Q1. When and where did The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) deliver his last sermon?

REFERENCE:

Chapter's Name: **The Farewell Sermon**

Speakers' Name: **Prophet (S.A.W)**

WHEN:

Ans: The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) delivered his farewell sermon on the **9th day of Dhul Hijjah 10 A.H. (632 C.E.)**.

WHERE:

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) delivered his farewell sermon in the **Uranah valley of mount Arafat (in Mecca)**, at the end of his first and last pilgrimage to Makkah.

This momentous address which he gave is known as the 'Farewell Sermon' (Khutba-e Hajjatul- Wida).

Q2. Whom did The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) ask to repeat the sermon sentence by sentence after him and why?

RAB'AH IBN UMAYYA IBN KHALAF:

Ans: The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) appointed his trustworthy and pious follower "**Rab'ah Ibn Umayya Ibn Khalaf**" to repeat the sermon sentence by sentence after him. It was the procession of over 120,000 pilgrims, his voice could not reach out to all those who were present, for this reason The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) asked the "**Rab'ah Ibn Umayya Ibn Khalaf**", who was famous for his loud voice, so that the people could hear the sermon clearly.

Q3. State in your own words what did The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) say about the sanctity of the life and Property of Muslim Brethren?

MUSLIM BRETHREN:

Ans: The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) said, "Your lives and properties are sacred trust amongst

you, so return the things to their rightful owners". The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) forbade the people from taking the lives and properties of others. He (S.A.W) said all the believers are brothers. You are not allowed to keep the things belonging to another Muslim unless he gives it to you willingly. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) stated the sanctity of these things by comparing them with sacred month, the sacred day, and the sacred city where he was delivering the sermon.

Q4. What did The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) instruct the people with regard to their women?

INSTRUCTIONS OF PROPHET (S.A.W):

Ans: The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) instructed the people to be kind and affectionate to their women. He said, "You have rights over your wives and your wives have rights over you". The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) said, remember that you took them as trust from Allah. Women have been stated the partners and committed helpers to men. Men have to feed and clothe them. Women are not allowed to have relations with other men. It is the right of men, that women should always remain chaste and loyal to their husbands.

Q5. What did The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) say about the superiority of one individual over another? What it depends upon?

SUPERIORITY OF INDIVIDUALS:

Ans: The Holy Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) said about the superiority of one individual over another in these words, "All the mankind is from Adam and Eve. There is no preference for the Arabs over the non Arabs nor the non Arabs over Arabs. A white has no merit over a black; similarly a black cannot claim any superiority over a white".

PIETY & GOOD ACTIONS:

The Holy Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) said in his "Farewell Sermon" that, "Superiority and preference depends on **Piety and Good actions**".

Q6. What did he say about "Khatme Nabuwwat"?

KHATME NABUWWAT:

Ans: The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) said about "Khatme Nabuwwat" in these words, "O people no Prophet or messenger shall come after me. I am the last prophet of God and no new faith will emerge". The process and routine of appointing prophets and messengers by

Almighty Allah has been terminated and sealed. No one will be appointed as Prophet after me. His Prophet Hood will continue until the “Day of Judgment”.

Q7. What did The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) ask the people towards the end of the sermon?

QURAN & SUNNAH:

Ans: The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) said at the end of the sermon “O people, I leave two things behind me for your guidance, the “**Quran**” and my example, the “**Sunnah**”, if you follow these two you will never be out of the right path in your life”. He asked the people to pass his words to those who were not present over there. He prayed that may the last ones understand his words better than those who were listening to him directly.

Interpreting:

Q8. What was the significance of the verses

Prophet (S.A.W) say that he may not be amongst his people the year after?

Ans: Verse 4 of surah#5 (AL-Maidah), which Holy Prophet had just received as a revelation from Allah and recited to the people as a part of his sermon. It was significant because it contained the message of the completion of the Quran and the Prophet-Hood. One tradition has it that Abu Bakar (R.A) cried, when he heard these verses because he probably got apprehended that Islam was perfected and they might find the Holy Prophet depart from them in the near future. The Holy Prophet said that he may not be amongst his people the year after because he felt that he had completed his mission of delivering the message of Allah to the people.

Extending:

Q9. There is only one clause without worshipping Allah

.....Why there is more emphasis on man in society?

Ans: There is more emphasis on man in society than the worship of Allah in the last sermon of Prophet (S.A.W) because the basic meaning of Islam is “Peace”. And its main purpose is to promote peace and respect which is possible only maintaining balance

between rights and duties. The success of man depends on realizing his obligations towards other fellow beings and this is what the sermon basically aims to.

Q10. What do the religious scholars of today emphasize most often upon? What has it resulted in?

Ans: The religious scholars of today emphasize most often upon the worship of Allah while ignoring the total spirit of Islam involving the fulfillment of one's obligations, duties and performing good actions. As a result we find chaos and injustice among the Muslims, having no respect of each other ultimately falling victims to sectarianism and violence. It is evident from the last sermon of Holy Prophet (S.A.W) that "superiority and preference depends upon good actions and piety".

Writing Skills:

Writing Skills

The Last Sermon is in direct narration. Change the following paragraphs to indirect speech.

1. "O People, just as you regard this month, this day, this city as sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners. Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your LORD, and that HE will indeed reckon your deeds. ALLAH has forbidden you to take usury (interest), therefore all interest obligations shall henceforth be waived. Your capital, however, is yours to keep. You will neither inflict nor suffer any inequity. Allah has judged that there shall be no interest..."

2. "Beware of Satan, for the safety of your religion. He has lost all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in big things, so beware of following him in small things."

3. "O People, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women, but they also have rights over you. Remember that you have taken them as your wives only under Allah's trust and with His permission. If they abide by your right then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness. Do treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers. And it is your right that they do not make friends with any one of whom you do not approve, as well as never to be unchaste."

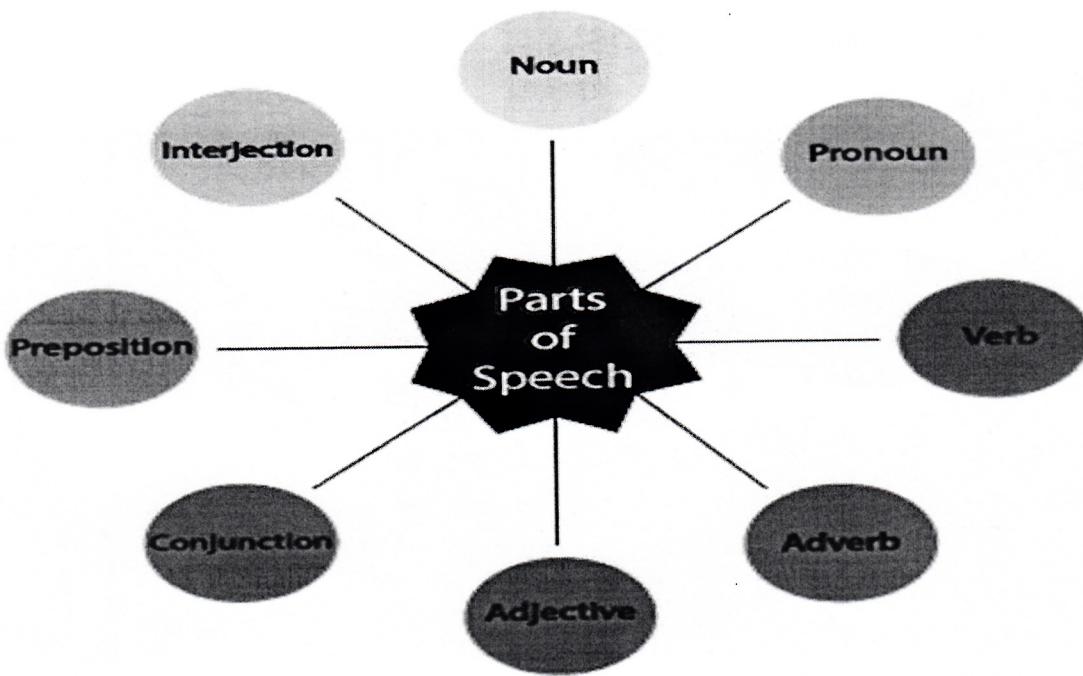
4. "All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over a black nor does a black have any superiority over a white except by piety and good action. Learn that every Muslim is a brother to every other Muslim and that the Muslims constitute one brotherhood. Nothing shall be legitimate to a Muslim which belongs to a fellow Muslim unless it was given freely and willingly. Do not, therefore, do injustice to yourselves."

Language Study:

Part of Speech:

In the English language, words can be considered as the smallest elements that have distinctive meanings. Based on their use and functions, words are categorized into several types or parts of speech.

Parts of Speech are eight in number.



1. Noun

This part of a speech refers to words that are used to name persons, things, animals, places, ideas, or events. Nouns are the simplest among the 8 parts of speech, which is why they are the first ones taught to students in primary school.

Examples:

- *Dogs* can be extremely cute.
- In this example, the italicized word is considered a noun because it names an animal.

2. Pronoun

A pronoun is a part of a speech which functions as a replacement for a noun. Some examples of pronouns are: *I, it, he, she, mine, his, hers, we, they, theirs, and ours*

Examples:

- Janice is a very stubborn child. *She* just stared at me and when I told her to stop.
- *We* are number one.

The italicized words in the sentences above are the pronouns in the sentence.

3. Adjective

This part of a speech is used to describe a noun or a pronoun. Adjectives can specify the quality, the size, and the number of nouns or pronouns.

Examples:

- The carvings are *intricate*.
- The italicized word describes the appearance of the noun “carvings.”

4. Verb

This is the most important part of a speech, for without a verb, a sentence would not exist. Simply put, this is a word that shows an action (physical or mental) or state of being of the subject in a sentence.

Examples of “State of Being Verbs”: *am, is, was, are, and were*

- As usual, the Storm troopers *missed* their shot.
- The italicized word expresses the action of the subject “Storm troopers.”

5. Adverb

Just like adjectives, adverbs are also used to describe words, but the difference is that adverbs describe adjectives, verbs, or another adverb.

Examples:

- Annie *danced* gracefully.
The word “gracefully” tells how Annie *danced*.
- She came *yesterday*.
The italicized word tells when she “came.”

6. Preposition

This part of a speech basically refers to words that specify location or a location in time.

Examples of Prepositions: *above, below, throughout, outside, before, near, and since*

Examples:

- Micah is hiding *under* the bed.

- The italicized preposition introduces the prepositional phrase "under the bed," and tells **where** Micah is hiding.

7. Conjunction

The conjunction is a part of a speech which joins words, phrases, or clauses together.
Examples of Conjunctions: *and, yet, but, for, nor, or, and so*

Examples

- Kiyoko has to start all over again *because* she didn't follow the professor's instructions.
 - Homer always wanted to join the play, *but* he didn't have the guts to audition.
- The italicized words in the sentences above are some examples of conjunctions.

8. Interjection

This part of a speech refers to words which express emotions. Since interjections are commonly used to convey strong emotions, they are usually followed by an exclamation point.

Examples

- Ouch!** That must have hurt.
- Hurray,** we won!

The bold words attached to the main sentences above are some examples of interjections.

Exercise 1

Name the part of speech of each italicized word in the following sentences, giving each case your reason for the classification:

1. Still waters run deep. (*Adjective*)
2. He still lives in the house. (*Adverb*)
3. After the storm comes the calm. (*Preposition*)
4. The after effects of the drug are bad. (*Adjective*)
5. The up train is late. (*Adjective*)
6. It weighs about a pound. (*Adverb*)
7. He told us all about the battle. (*Preposition*)
8. He was only a yard off me. (*Adverb*)
9. Suddenly one of the wheels came off. (*Preposition*)
10. Mohammedans fast in the month of Ramzan. (*Verb*)
11. He kept the fast for a week. (*Noun*)
12. He is on the committee. (*Preposition*)
13. Let us move on. (*Verb*)
14. Sit down and rest a while. (*Noun*)
15. I will watch while you sleep. (*Conjunction*)
16. They while away their evenings with books and g...

The Noun: Kinds of Noun

A noun is a word used as the name of a person, place or thing

Note: The word thing is used to mean anything that we can think of. Look at the following sentence:

- Asoka was a wise king.

The noun Asoka refers to a particular king, but the noun king might be applied to any other king as well as to Asoka. We call Asoka a proper Noun, and king a common Noun.

Def. — A common Noun is a name given in common to every person or thing of the same class or kind.

[common here means shared by all]

Def. — A proper Noun is the name of some particular person or place. [proper means one's own. Hence a Proper Name is a person's own name]

Note 1: Proper Nouns are always written with a capital letter at the beginning

Note 2: Proper Nouns are sometimes used as Common Nouns as—

1. He was the Lukman (=the wisest man) of his age.
2. Kalidas is often called the Shakespeare (=the greatest dramatist of India)

Common Nouns include what are called collective Nouns and Abstract Nouns.

A **collective Noun** is the name of a number (or collection) of persons or things taken together and spoken of as one whole; as,

Crowd, mob, team, flock, herd, army, fleet, jury, family, nation, parliament, committee.

A fleet = a collection of ships or vessels.

An army = a collection of soldiers.

A crowd = a collection of people

The police dispersed the crowd.

The French army was defeated at Waterloo.

The jury found the prisoner guilty.

A herd of cattle is passing.

An **abstract Noun** is usually the name of quality, action, or state considered apart from the object to which it belongs; as

Quality: Goodness, kindness, whiteness, darkness, hardness, brightness, honesty, wisdom, bravery.

Action: Laughter, theft, Movement, judgement, hatred.

State: Childhood, boyhood, youth, slavery, sleep, sickness, death, poverty

The names of the Arts and Science (e.g. grammar, music, chemistry etc.) are also Abstract Nouns.

[We can speak of a brave soldier, a strong man, beautiful flower. But we can also think of these qualities apart from any particular person or thing and speak of heavy strength, beauty by themselves. So also, we can speak of what persons do or feel apart from the persons themselves, and give it a name. The word abstract means drawn off.] *

Abstract Nouns are formed

- (1) From adjectives; as, Kindness from kind, honesty from honest.

[Most abstract nouns are formed thus]

- (2) From Verbs; as, Obedience from obey; growth from grow.

- (3) From Common Nouns; as, Childhood from child, slavery from slave.

EXERCISE#2

- **Point out Nouns in the following sentences and say whether they are Common, Proper, Collective or Abstract:**

1. The crowd was very big.

Ans: **crowd:** collective noun

2. Always speak the truth.

Ans: **truth:** abstract noun

3. We all love honesty.

Ans: **honesty:** abstract noun

4. Our class consists of twenty pupils.

Ans: **class:** collective noun; **pupils:** common noun

5. The elephant has great strength.

Ans: **elephant:** common noun; **strength:** abstract noun

Ans: **elephant**: common noun; **strength**: abstract noun

6. Solomon was famous for his wisdom.

Ans: **Solomon**: proper noun; **wisdom**: abstract noun

7. Cleanliness is next to godliness.

Ans: **cleanliness**: abstract noun; **godliness**: abstract noun

Ans: **fleet**: collective noun, **ships**: common noun; **harbor**: common noun

9. The class is studying grammar.

Ans: **class**: collective noun; **grammar**: abstract noun

10. The Nile overflows its-banks every year.

Ans: **Nile**: proper noun; **bank**: common noun; **year**: common noun

11. A committee of five was appointed.

Ans: **committee**: collective noun

12. Nelson is famous for his victory at Trafalgar.

Ans: **Nelson**: proper noun; **victory**: abstract noun; **Trafalgar**: proper noun

13. The soldiers were rewarded for their bravery.

Ans: **soldiers**: common noun; **bravery**: abstract noun

14. Without health there is no happiness.

Ans: **health**: abstract noun; **happiness**: abstract noun

15. He gave me a bunch of grapes.

Ans: **bunch**: collective noun; **grapes**: common noun

16. I recognized your voice at once.

Ans: **voice**: common noun

17. Our team is better than theirs.

Ans: **team**: collective noun

18. Never tell a lie.

Ans: **lie**: abstract noun

19. Wisdom is better than strength

Ans: **wisdom**: abstract noun; **strength**: abstract noun

20. He sets a high value on his time.

Ans: **value**: abstract noun; **time**: abstract noun

21. I believe in his innocence.

Ans: **innocence**: abstract noun

22. This room is thirty feet in length.

Ans: **room**: common noun; **feet**: common noun; **length**: abstract noun

23. I often think of the happy days of childhood.

Ans: **days**: common noun; **childhood**: abstract noun

24. The streets of some of our cities are noted for their crookedness.

Ans: **streets**: common noun; **cities**: common noun; **crookedness**: abstract noun

25. What is your verdict, gentlemen of the jury?

Ans: **verdict**: abstract noun; **gentleman**: common noun; **Jury**: collective noun

Objects without life are often personified that is spoken of as if they were living beings. We then regard them as males or females.

The Masculine Gender is often applied to objects remarkable for strength and violence; as,

- The Sun, Summer, Winter, Time, Death,
- The Sun sheds his beams on rich and poor alike.

The Feminine Gender is often applied to objects remarkable for beauty, gentleness, and gracefulness; as,

The Moon, the Earth, Spring, Autumn, Nature, Liberty, Justice, Mercy, Peace, Hope, Charity

- The Moon has hidden her face behind a cloud.
- Spring has spread her mantle of green over the Earth.
- Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war.

This use is most common in poetry but certain nouns are personified in prose too. A ship is always spoken of as she; as,

- The ship lost all her boats in the storm.

Ways of Farming the Feminine of Nouns:

Ways of forming the Feminine of Nouns			
(1) By using an entirely different word; as,			
Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Bachelor	maid	Hart	roe
Boy	girl	Horse	mare
Brother	sister	Husband	wife
Buck	doe	King	queen
Bull (or ox)	cow	Lord	lady
Bullock	heifer	Man	woman
Cock	hen	Monk (or friar)	nun
Colt	filly	Nephew	niece
Dog	bitch	Papa	mama
Drake	duck	Ram	ewe
Drone	bee	Sir	madam
Earl	countess	Son	daughter
Father	mother	Stag	hind
Gander	goose	Uncle	aunt
Gentleman	lady	Wizard	witch

- (2) By adding a syllable (-ess, ine, -trix, -a, etc.) as,

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Author	authoress	Mayor	mayoress
Baron	baroness	Patron	patroness
Count	countess	Peer	peeress
Giant	giantess	Poet	poetess
Heir	heiress	Priest	priestess
Host	hostess	Prophet	prophetess
Jew	jewess	Steward	stewardess
Lion	lioness	Shepherd	Shepherdess
Manager	manageress		

Life

[Note that in the following –ess is added after dropping the vowel of the masculine ending]

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Actor	actress	Preceptor	preceptress
Benefactor	benefactress	Prince	princess
Conductor	conductress	Songster	songstress
Enhancer	enchantress	Tempter	temptress
Founder	foundress	Seamster	seamstress
Hunter	huntress	Tiger	tigress
Instructor	instructress	Traitor	traitress
Negro	negress	Waitor	waitress
Abbot	abbess	Master	mistress
Duke	duchess	Murderer	murderess
Emperor	empress	Sorcerer	sorceress
Marquis	marchioness		

Note: The suffix –ess is the commonest suffix used to form feminine nouns, from the masculine, and is the only one which we now use in forming a new feminine noun.

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Hero	heroine	Czar	czarina
Executor	executrix	Sultan	sultana
Testator	testatrix	Signor	signora
		Fox	vixen

(3) By placing a word before or after; as,

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Bull-calf	cow-calf	Grandfather	grandmother
Cock-sparrow	hen-sparrow	Great uncle	great aunt
He-goat	she-goat	Landlord	landlady
He-bear	she-bear	Milkman	milkmaid
Jack-ass	jenny-ass	Peacock	peahen
Man-servant	maid-servant	Washerman	washerwoman

The Noun: Number

Notice the change of form in the second word of each pair:

Tree	Box	Ox	Man
Trees	Boxes	Oxen	Men

The first word of each pair denotes one thing, the second word of each pair denotes more than one.
A Noun that denotes one person or thing is said to be in the Singular Number; as,
Boys, girls, cows, birds, trees, books, pens.
Thus there are two Numbers in English – Singular and the Plural.

How Plurals are Formed

- (i) The Plural of nouns is generally formed by adding -s to the singular; as,
- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Boy, boys | girl, girls | Book, books |
| Pen, pens | desk, desks | cow, cows |
- (ii) But Nouns ending in -s, -sh, -ch (soft), or -x form the plural by adding -es to the singular; as,
- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Class, classes | dish, dishes | brush, brushes |
| Match, matches | watch, watches | branch, branches |
| Tax, taxes | box, boxes | |
- (iii) Most Nouns ending in -o also form the plural by adding -es to the singular; as,
- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Bullfalo, bullfaloes | mango, mangoes | hero, heroes |
| Potato, potatoes | cargo, cargoes | echo, echoes |
| Negro, negroes | volcano, volcanoes | |
- (iv) A few nouns ending in -o, generally those which are in less common used as abbreviations, merely add -s; as,
- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Dynamo, dynamos | solo, solos | ratio, ratios |
| Canto, cantos | memento, menentos | quarto, quartos |
| Piano, pianos | photo, photos | |
- (v) Nouns ending in -y, preceded by a consonant, form their plural by changing -y into -i and adding -es; as,
- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Baby, babies | lady, ladies | city, cities |
| Army, armies | story, stories | pony, ponies |

(v) Several nouns ending in -f or -fe form their plural by changing -f or -fe into v and adding -es; as,

Thief, thieves

Life, lives

Loaf, loaves

wife, wives

calf, calves

knife, knives

wolf, wolves

leaf, leaves

shelf, shelves

Exceptions:

Chief, chiefs

Roof, roofs

Gulf, gulfs

Grief, griefs

dwarf, dwarfs

safe, safes

serf, serfs

brief, briefs

hoof, hoofs

proof, proofs

strife, strifes

belief, beliefs.