

Basic issues about Nouns & Numbers

The name of anything (person, place, object, idea, situation etc. is a noun). Nouns can be singular or plural. The following are some basic guidelines for understanding singular and plural forms of nouns:

1. When we generalized, we pluralize.

Example: Dogs are cute animals. (Dogs= to indicate all dogs; no definite dog)

If we refer to a definite dog here, we have to use singular term.

Example: The dog is cute. (One definite dog = Definite article + singular term)

2. There are even some nouns (especially uncountable nouns) that sit in the same way in singular and plural form. Example: Sheep, Deer etc.

3. To understand if a noun is singular or plural, look at the verb for a clue.

Singular verbs is with an s (+s) at the end. Example: She makes pies. (Exception: I/You make pie); **Plural verbs have no s at the end.** Example: They make pie.

2. Common singular -> plural conversion rules are given here:

Usually, nouns are changed to plural from by adding “s” at their end.

| Singular | Plural | Singular | Plural |
|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Apple | Apples | Car | cars |
| Ant | ants | Clock | clocks |

Noun that end in “s” “ss”, “ch”, “x”, “sh”, “o” or “z” from their plurals by adding “es” to them.

| Singular | Plural | Singular | Plural |
|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| Bench | benches | Watch | watches |
| Class | classes | Bus | buses |

Nouns that end in “y” with a consonant before it, from their plurals by replacing “y” with “ies” to them.

| Singular | Plural | Singular | Plural |
|----------|--------|----------|----------|
| Army | armies | Family | families |
| City | cities | Baby | babies |

Only “s” is added to end, if the noun has “y” at the end with a vowel before it.

| Singular | Plural | Singular | Plural |
|----------|---------|----------|--------|
| Boy | boys | Toy | toys |
| Donkey | donkeys | Day | days |

3. There are some nouns that do not follow these rules. They're called irregular nouns.

Some of the common nouns are given here:

<https://7esl.com/irregular-plural-nouns/>

<https://www.grammarly.com/blog/irregular-plural-nouns/>

4. There are even some nouns (especially uncountable nouns) whose singular and plural forms are the same:

“Water” –

Singular sense: Give me a glass of water.

Plural sense: The water in all the oceans of earth are salty.

*Uncountable nouns usually include:

Ingredients/ Component material:

The ***meat*** was used to make some pies.

The ***wood*** from all those trees will be used to make tables.

Ideas/ concepts:

She is a girl of remarkable ***intelligence***.

5. We treat collective nouns (nouns that indicate groups or sets) the same way we treat singular nouns.

Family-

Singular form: I love my family. (One family = singular).

Plural form: Not all families are the same. (Families = plural).

Some common collective nouns: staff, group, company, set, pack, bunch, team etc.

Sometimes, collective nouns are used in ***group*** of ***noun*** sentence structures.

Example:

A team of **great players** sat at the large table eating pizza. (There is only one team, so the verb is singular, counting all of them as one)

More examples:

<https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/nouns/collective-nouns.html>

<https://www.adda247.com/school/collective-nouns/>

Use of Pronouns

The pronoun must agree/ match the antecedent or main noun. To find the main noun, study the sentence(s) surrounding the problem indicated in the question. Check the person (perspective) and the number (singular or plural) as indicated by the antecedent.

Subject Pronouns

Pronouns that replace the doer (noun) of the action:
My brother Javier is a great cook. **He** can cook anything.

Object Pronouns

Pronouns that replace the object (influenced by the) of the action:
My brother Javier is a great cook. My mother appreciates **him** for it.

Possessive Pronouns + nouns

Pronouns that indicate when one nouns owns the other; the noun needs to be mentioned: **My** book was on the table.

“Standalone” Possessive Pronouns

Pronouns that indicate when one nouns owns the other; the noun does NOT need to be mentioned: The book that was on the table was **mine**.

Reflexive/ -self Pronouns

Pronouns used when subject=object in a sentence:
I can take care of **myself**. (**subject/object**)
These are also used for emphasis without altering the grammar of the sentence at all: She **herself** built this house.

Personal Pronouns

www.schoollead.in

| Person | Number | Subjective Pronoun | Objective Pronoun | Possessive Adjective | Possessive Pronoun | Reflexive Pronoun |
|------------------------|----------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 st Person | Singular | I | Me | My | Mine | Myself |
| | Plural | We | Us | Our | Ours | Ourselves |
| 2 nd Person | Singular | You | You | Your | Yours | Yourself |
| | Plural | You | You | Your | Yours | Yourselves |
| 3 rd Person | Singular | He | Him | His | His | Himself |
| | | She | Her | Her | Hers | Herself |
| | | It | It | Its | Its | Itself |
| | Plural | They | Them | Their | Theirs | Themselves |

Special points:

***when finding the source of the pronoun, be careful of the words in the “interrupters” or in the compound nouns.**

I, along with my brother, am going to the zoo. **We** (not I) are going to have a wonderful time.
My brother and I are going to the zoo. **We** (not I) are going to have a wonderful time.

***when a sentence contains two or more antecedents but the pronoun is unclear, revert to using the antecedent noun/ name.**

Jeremy and Jerome are brothers. **He** is a great artist.

But, which brother is “he”? In this case, the pronoun should not be used.

Jeremy and Jerome are brothers. **Jerome** is a great artist.

***Object pronouns always exist near *preposition* words like above, at, before, between, from, near, of, to, with etc.**

She took *me with* her to school.

Advanced use of Pronouns

Some pronouns sit with singular verbs, some with plural verbs.

1. Singular nouns/verbs should always be used with certain indefinite pronouns (check table) like nobody, nothing, each, every etc.

Nobody is perfect.

Anyone can do this work.

Each student is special.

Every person should be given their basic rights.

Whoever lost his/her book, please talk to me after class.

Whomever this book belongs to should come talk to me after class.

2. Plural nouns/verbs should be used with pronouns like several, many, few, others, both and “any number bigger than +”.

Both of my students are great.

Several of my students are studious.

There are 5 apples on the table.

3. There are certain pronouns where the singular or plural sense needs to be understood.

Generally, we use singular verbs when uncountable nouns sit with these pronouns.

Indefinite pronoun + uncountable noun -> singular verbs

All the cake on the counter was eaten.

None of the water from the lake was left.

Generally, we use plural verbs when countable nouns sit with these pronouns.

Indefinite pronoun + countable noun -> plural verbs

All the pieces of cake on the counter were eaten.

None of the students came to class today.

Indefinite Pronouns

| Singular | Plural | Sig & Plu |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • each • another • anybody • anyone • anything • enough • everybody • everyone • everything • little • much • neither • nobody • no-one • nothing • somebody • someone • something | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few • Both • Many • Others • Several <div data-bbox="1268 1092 1651 1256"> <p>A number/ 5 apples are....</p> </div> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All • Any • More • Most • None • Some • Such <div data-bbox="2160 472 2466 768"> <p>Plural for countable; Singular for uncountable</p> </div> |
| <p>Whomever (object) and whoever (subject) + singular verb</p> | | |