
ENGLISH CHEAT SHEET

FROM A1 TO C2

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Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Nouns	3
2.1	Plural form	3
2.2	Common nouns	3
2.3	Proper nouns	3
2.4	Material Nouns	4
2.5	Compund nouns	4
2.6	Countable vs Uncountable Nouns	5
2.7	Collective Nouns	5
2.8	Concrete and Abstract Nouns	6
2.8.1	Concrete nouns	6
2.8.2	Abstract Nouns	6
2.9	Possessive Nouns	7
3	Pronouns	8
3.1	Subject Pronouns	8
3.2	Object Pronouns	8
3.3	Possessive Pronouns	9
4	Articles	9
4.1	Indefinite Article	9
4.2	Definite Article	10
5	Demonstratives	10
6	Distributives	11
6.1	All	11
6.2	Half	11
6.3	Each and Every	12
6.3.1	Each	12
6.3.2	Every	12
6.4	Both	12
6.5	Either	13
6.6	Neither	13
7	Quantifiers	13

1 Introduction

This document was written to understand the English grammar from A1 to C2 levels. In order to let you to study on your own schedule this document is divided in the main topics of English grammar, so that you can go directly to the topic that you want to learn.

Remember that is important to practice on your own to master the English language, another advice for you is to speak with a friend of you who wants to learn English or already knows it, or even to yourself, about any topic you like and if you are stuck to explain something then you can search on internet or ask to your friend to get feedback.

2 Nouns

A **noun** is a word used to identify people, places, or things (**common nouns**) or to name a particular one of these (**proper noun**).

Common noun Proper noun
*You can buy **coffee** eat **Starbucks** .*

2.1 Plural form

- Noun + S \Rightarrow Plural form
e.g. *flower-flowers, dog-dogs*
- Noun ending in *s, ss, sh, ch, x, z, o* + *es* \Rightarrow Plural form
e.g. *bus-buses, watch-watches, box-boxes*
- Noun ending in *f, fe* \Rightarrow Change *f* into *ve* + *s*
e.g. *life-lives, wolf-wolves* (but: *belief-beliefs, chef-chefs*)

Remember that some nouns are **irregular**

Singular	Plural
man	men
woman	women
person	people
child	children
tooth	teeth
foot	feet
mouse	mice

Table 1: Some irregular nouns

2.2 Common nouns

A **common noun** is a noun showing a class of objects or a concept as opposed to a particular individual.

*There was a **sofa**, two **chairs**, and a **wardrobe** in the **room***

Note that **common nouns** are general names. **They are not capitalized unless they begin a sentence or are part of a title.**

***Capitals** of the countries are usually very large cities
London is the **capital** of Great Britain*

2.3 Proper nouns

A **proper noun** is a noun that refers to a unique thing, such as *names, names of cities, planets, corporations, etc.* but a common noun usually refers to a class of things.

***London** is the capital of **Great Britain**.*

Note that proper nouns are unique names. **They are capitalized**

***Olivia** wants to travel around **Europe** next year.*

We should also capitalize:

- a) Festivals
e.g. ***Christmas** and **Thanksgiving** are my two favourite holidays!*

- b) People's titles
e.g. *Everything depends on **President** Trump and his decisions.*
- c) The names of books, films, plays, paintings. We use capital letters for the nouns, adjectives, and verbs in the title.
e.g. *I've just finished reading '**The Old Man and the Sea**'*

Sometimes we use a person's name to refer to something they have created.

*We were listening to **Mozart** the other day.
I'm reading **an Iris Murdoch** now.*

When you use a word about a family member (e.g. *mom*, *dad*, *uncle*), capitalize it only if the word is being used exactly as you would use a name, i.e. if you were addressing the person directly. If the word is not being used as a name, it is not capitalized.

*Please ask **Dad** if he can buy wine on his way home.
Is your **dad** coming over for dinner?*

Whenever you see a capitalized word, question whether or not it is a proper noun. Make sure that the capitalized word is in fact a noun as there are also proper adjectives.

***Asia** is one of the continents of the world. (proper noun)
I don't like **Asian** food. (proper adjective).*

2.4 Material Nouns

Material nouns denote a material or substance from which things are made of.

*a **plastic** bottle, a **diamond** ring, etc.*

Material nouns are uncountable, thus they do not have a plural form. Generally, articles are not used with material nouns as they are uncountable.

~~*I really want to buy these cottons pants.*~~
*I really want to buy these **cotton** pants.*

Material nouns fall into several categories:

- a) Related to nature
e.g. air, salt, coal, silver, gold, etc.
- b) Related to animals
e.g. meat, milk, egg, wool, etc.
- c) Related to plants
e.g. cotton, coffee, tea, wood, etc.
- d) Artificial or man-made materials
e.g. alcohol, cheese, brick, steel, etc.

2.5 Compound nouns

A **compound noun** contains two or more words which are joined together and form a single noun. Compound nouns can be words written together, words that are hyphenated, or separate words. The first word usually describes or modifies the second word, denoting its type or purpose. Consequently, the second word identifies the item itself.

*I need to buy a new **toothbrush**. (a brush used for cleaning one's teeth)*

There is no exact rule as to when we should write compound nouns together, hyphenated, or as separate words. If you are not sure how to write a compound noun, **consult a dictionary**.

*Could you go with me to the **bus stop**?
My **in-laws** are incredible people.
I love your new **haircut**! You look fantastic!*

Note that the stress usually falls on the first syllable in compound nouns. As a result, the word stress helps to differentiate between a compound noun and an adjective + noun.

*A **greenhouse** is a glass building used for growing plants that need warmth, light, and protection.*
(compound noun)

*A **green house** is a building that someone lives in. This building is painted green.* (adjective + noun)

2.6 Countable vs Uncountable Nouns

Countable Nouns (e.g. apple, song, house, etc.)	Uncountable Nouns (e.g, tea, money, love, etc.)
Things that can be counted , even if the number might be extremely high (<i>e.g. all the people in the world</i>).	Things that we cannot count with numbers. They may be the names for abstract ideas or qualities or for physical objects that are too small to count or shapeless (<i>e.g. liquids, gases, etc.</i>).
Can be singular or plural. <i>I have an apple and you have three apples.</i>	No plural form. <i>We're goint to have rice for lunch.</i>
You can use <i>a/an</i> with singular countable nouns. <i>There is a girl outside. She is wearing a beautiful dress.</i>	You can't use <i>a/an</i> with uncountable nouns. But you can often use the phrase <i>a (bag, cup, etc.) of</i> . <i>There is a bowl of rice and a bottle of juice on the table.</i>
If you want to ask about the quantity of a countable noun, you ask ' <i>How many?</i> ' combined with the plural countable noun. <i>How many dogs are there? - There are five dogs.</i>	If you want to ask about the quantity of an uncountable noun, you ask ' <i>How much?</i> ' combined with the uncountable noun. <i>How much coffee do we have left? - We don't have much coffee left.</i>
You can use <i>many, a few, few</i> with plural countable nouns. <i>Sorry, but I didn't take many pictures.</i> <i>I've got a few relatives leaving here.</i>	You can use <i>much, a little, little</i> with uncountable nouns. <i>We didn't do much shopping there.</i> <i>We have a little sugar left.</i>
You can use <i>some, any, a lot of, both</i> with plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns.	
<i>We like singing some crazy songs at karaoke.</i>	<i>We listened to some music there.</i>
<i>Did you buy any oranges?</i>	<i>I didn't buy any orange juice.</i>
<i>She showed a lot of signs of affection.</i>	<i>There is a lot of love in the air.</i>

Table 2: Countable vs Uncountable Nouns

2.7 Collective Nouns

A collective noun is used to refer to an entire group of people, animals, or things. Therefore it includes more than one member.

*My **family** is very big.*

Collective nouns can refer to:

- a) People
e.g. *family, class, committee, staff, etc.*
- b) Animals
e.g. *a pack of dogs, a swarm of flies, a herd of horses, a litter of puppies, etc.*
- c) Things
e.g. *pack, set, bunch, stack, etc.*

When the members within one group behave in the same manner, they are part of a collective noun, thus this noun becomes singular and requires a singular verb.

*Every day **the football team** follows its coach out to the field for practice.*

When the members are acting as individuals, the collective noun is plural and requires a plural verb. In many cases, it may sound more natural to make the subject plural in form by adding words like *members, mates, etc.*

*After the practice **the team(mates)** shower, change into their casual clothes, and head to their homes.*

2.8 Concrete and Abstract Nouns

Nouns can be concrete or abstract.

Concrete nouns are tangible and you can experience them with your five senses.

Abstract nouns refer to intangible things, like *actions, feelings, ideals, concepts, and qualities*.

***Food** is great. But **love** is even greater.*

2.8.1 Concrete nouns

A **concrete noun** is a noun that can be identified through one of the five senses: *touch, sight, hearing, smell, or taste*.

*Who turned off the **TV**?* (The noun *TV* is a concrete noun)

*What is that **noise**?* (Even though *nose* can't be touched, you can hear it, so it's a concrete noun)

Concrete nouns fall into several categories:

- a) People
e.g. *mother, friend, teacher, stranger, etc.*
- b) Places
e.g. *school, McDonald's, Las Vegas, India, etc.*
- c) Things you can touch and see
e.g. *plane, cup, lamp, book, etc.*
- d) Things you can hear
e.g. *music, noise, someone's voice, song, etc.*
- e) Things you can smell and taste
e.g. *herbs, cookies, bread, wine, etc.*

2.8.2 Abstract Nouns

Remember that **abstract nouns** refer to intangible things, like *actions, feelings, ideals, concepts, and qualities*.

Abstract nouns fall into several categories:

- a) Emotions and feelings
e.g. *anger, sadness, love, grief, etc.*
- b) Human qualities and characteristics
e.g. *beauty, maturity, humour, patience, etc.*

c) Ideas and concepts
e.g. *knowledge, freedom, luxury, comfort, etc.*

d) Events
e.g. *marriage, birthday, career, adventure, etc.*

Many abstract nouns are formed from adjectives, verbs, or nouns. Sometimes you can add a suffix to the concrete noun or alter the word root to form abstract nouns.

(Concrete noun)	(abstract noun)
<i>child</i>	<i>childhood</i>

Nouns with the following suffixes are often abstract:

-tion e.g. <i>devotion</i>	-ism e.g. <i>pessimism</i>	-ity e.g. <i>hospitality</i>
-ment e.g. <i>movement</i>	-ness e.g. <i>restlessness</i>	-age e.g. <i>marriage</i>
-ance e.g. <i>brilliance</i>	-ence e.g. <i>indifference</i>	-ship e.g. <i>relationship</i>
-ability e.g. <i>availability</i>	-acy e.g. <i>bureaucracy</i>	

Table 3: Common suffixes for abstract nouns

2.9 Possessive Nouns

The **Possessive** form is used with **nouns** referring to people, groups of people, countries, and animals. It shows a relationship of belonging between one thing and another.

Lelie's aunt is a doctor.

To form the possessive, add an **apostrophe** + **-s** to the noun.

My brother's computer was stolen a week ago.
Children's toys were on the ground.

If the noun already **ends in -s**, just add an **apostrophe**.

Student's homework will be assessed later.

For names **ending in -s**, you can either add an **apostrophe** + **-s**, or just an **apostrophe**. The first option is more common.

They want to sell Jame's car.

Study some of the fixed expressions where the possessive form is used.

a day's work, a month's pay, in a year's time, for God's sake

Note that the possessive is also used to refer to *shops, restaurants, churches, universities, etc.*, using the name or job title of the owner.

I want to go to Luigi's for dinner.
Peter has an appointment at the dentist's at 10 a.m.

3 Pronouns

A **pronoun** is a word that replaces a noun in a sentence, making the subject a person or a thing

3.1 Subject Pronouns

A **subject** is the person or thing that performs the action in the clause or sentence.

A **subject pronoun** is a pronoun that takes the place of a noun as the subject of a sentence

***She** told me about her worries.*

Subject pronouns replace nouns that are the subject of their clause.

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	I	we
2 nd person	you	you
3 rd person	he/she/it	they

Table 4: Singular and plural forms for subject pronouns

We should replace the subject with a subject pronoun to avoid repetition.

~~Mary is a student and Mary is very hard working.~~
*Mary is a student and **she** is very hard working.*

We use the subject pronoun *it* when we refer to objects, things, animals, or ideas.

*Love is eternal. **It** will last forever.*

Sometimes when we don't know the sex of a baby, we can use *it*'.

*Their baby is so small. **It** only weights 2 kilos.*

We use *it* when we talk about *time, weather, or temperature*.

*What time is **it**? - **It**'s 7 o'clock.*
***It**'s quite cold today.*

3.2 Object Pronouns

An **object** is the person or thing that receives the action in the clause or sentence.

An **object pronoun** is a pronoun that takes the place of a noun as the object of a sentence.

*She told **me** about her worries.*

Object pronouns are used to replace nouns that are the direct or indirect object of a clause.

Subject	Object
I	me
you	you
he	him
she	her
it	it
we	us
they	them

Table 5: Subject and Object Pronouns

Object pronouns come either after a verb or a preposition.

*Ethan asked **me** to talk to **them**.*

Note that the subject pronoun *it* and the object pronoun *it* look the same.

Do you know the movie 'Pertty Lady'? it is my favourite! (subject pronoun)

I've seen it many times. (object pronoun)

Remember that object nouns are always the recipients of the action in sentence.

~~*He and me went to the movies.*~~ ***He and I*** went to the movies.

~~*Mrs. Keith called her and I.*~~ Mrs. Keith called ***her and me***.

We should replace the object with an object pronoun to avoid repetition.

I can't stop thinking about Amy. I can't stop imagining my future with Amy. I can't stop imagining my future with ***her***.

3.3 Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns are pronouns that demonstrate ownership.

*This car is **mine**.*

Possessive pronouns are used instead of a possessive adjective and noun. Study the following table:

Subject	Object	Possessive Adjective	Possessive Pronoun
I	me	my	mine
you	you	your	yours
he	him	his	his
she	her	her	hers
it	it	its	its
they	them	their	theirs

Table 6: Possessive Adjectives & Possessive Pronouns

4 Articles

Articles are words that define a noun as specific or unspecific.

English has two types of articles:

- Indefinite: *a/an*
- Definite: *the*

*I'm **a** nurse. **The** hospital I'm working in is huge.*

4.1 Indefinite Article

The **indefinite article** takes two forms: **a/an**. Use the indefinite article **a** when it precedes a word that **begin** with a **consonant**. Use the indefinite article **an** when it precedes a word that **begins** with a **vowel**.

***a** table, **an** umbrella, **a** university, **an** honest person.*

The indefinite article **a/an** indicates that a noun refers to a general idea rather than a particular thing.

*What does **a** fox say?*

We use **a/an** when the listener does not know which person or thing we are talking about.

*Helen's brother works in **a** factory. I don't know which factory exactly.*

If we refer to something for the first time, it will be new information for the listener so we use **a/an**. When referencing to the same thing again use **the** because now the listener knows what we are talking about.

*I bought **a** new computer. It's really great! **The** computer is much better than my previous one.*

4.2 Definite Article

The **definite article** is the word **the**. It limits the meaning of a noun to one particular thing. We use **the** when it is clear which thing or person we are talking about.

***The** cake is in the fridge. I know that Kate made it.*

We use the definite article **the** with:

- a) Nationalities and other groups
e.g. **the** French, **the** Italians, **the** old, **the** poor.
- b) Time
e.g. in **the** past, in **the** future (but: **at** present.)
- c) Superlatives
e.g. You are **the** first one!
- d) Musical instruments
e.g. I played **the** piano as a kid.
- e) Countries which are a group or plural
e.g. **the** U.S., **the** U.K., **the** United Arab Emirates, **the** Netherlands
- f) Names of ship.
e.g. We sailed on **the** Claudia
- g) Oceans
e.g. **the** Pacific, **the** Atlantic
- h) Rivers
e.g. **the** Amazon, **the** Nile

Note that we use **zero article** with **plurals** and **uncountable nouns** when we are generally talking about something.

***Dogs** are not allowed in that shop.* (We are talking about dogs in general.)

***The dogs** next door were barking at night.* (We are talking about the particular dogs.)

5 Demonstratives

Demonstratives are words that show which person or thing is being referred to. Demonstratives show where an object, event, or person is in relation to the speaker. They can refer to a physical or a psychological closeness or distance.

***This** is Hugh, and **that** is Kevin.*

	Near the speaker	Far from the speaker
Adverbs	here	there
Demonstratives with singular and uncountable nouns	this	that
Demonstratives with plural countable nouns	these	those

Table 7: Demonstratives

Demonstratives can be placed before the noun or the adjective that modifies the noun.

***That old man** stole my purse!*
***These oranges** are delicious!*

Demonstratives can also appear before a number by itself when the noun is understood from the context.

*I'll take **this one**, please. = I'll take this watermelon, please.*

Demonstratives can be used by themselves when the noun they modify is understood from the context.

***Those** aren't yours. Put them back. = **Those shoes** aren't yours. Put them back.*

When talking about events, the **near demonstratives** are often used to refer to the **present** while the **far demonstratives** often refer to the **past**.

***This situation** is quite unstable.*
***That event** made me realise how important my family is to me.*

6 Distributives

Distributives determiners or simply **distributives** refer to a group of people or things, and to individual members of the group.

They show different ways of looking at the individuals within a group, and they express how something is distributed, shared, or divided.

***All people** want to love and to be loved.*
***Each person** is unique. **Every person** is unique.*
***Both of us** like Mexican food.*

6.1 All

The distributive determiner **all** is used to talk about a whole group, with a special emphasis on the fact that nothing has been left out.

All can be used with uncountable nouns and plural countable nouns by itself. In this usage, it refers to the group as a concept rather than as individuals.

***All parents** want the best for their children.*

All can be used with uncountable nouns and plural countable nouns preceded by **the** or a **possessive adjective**. In these uses, the word **of** can be added just after **all** with no change in meaning.

*Have you eaten **all the cookies** in the jar? = Have you eaten **all of the cookies** in the jar?.*

All can be used with **plural pronouns** preceded by **of**.

***All of us** are going to be there tonight.*

All can be used in questions and exclamations with **uncountable nouns** preceded by **this/that** or with **countable nouns** preceded by **these/those**. In these uses, the word **of** can be added just after **all** with no change in meaning.

*Look at **al this snow** out there!*
*What are **all these people** doing in our house?*

6.2 Half

The distributive determiner **half** is used to talk about a whole group divided in **two**. **Half** can be used as a distributive in several different patterns.

Half can refer to measurements if it is followed by an indefinite article **a/an** and a noun.

*I'll be back in **half an hour**.*

Half can be used with plural pronouns preceded by **of**.

Only half of us are going to be there tonight.

Half can be used with nouns preceded by **the**, **a/b**, **a demonstrative**, or **a possessive adjective**. In this case, the meaning refers to a concrete, physical division. The word **of** can be added just after **half** with no change in meaning.

*Half the people have already left the party.
Putting half a kilo of sugar into the topping will ruin the cake.
I want half of that cake!
Sorry, but I used half of your eggs making breakfast today.*

6.3 Each and Every

The distributives **each** and **every** are both related to describing the members of a group. These distributives can only be used with **countable nouns** by being placed before the nouns.

In many cases, they are interchangeable but there is a **subtle difference** between them.

6.3.1 Each

Each is used to describe and highlight an individual member of a group, or multiple individuals. By using **each** you recognise the item is a part of a group, but that it also needs to be pointed out as a singular item too.

Each book on the shelf had a unique cover.

Each can be used with plural nouns and pronouns but **must** be followed by **of**.

Each of the pupils received a Christmas card.

Each can be used after the subject or at the end of a sentence.

*My siblings each have their own room.
My mother gave my sister and I \$20 each. = (gave \$20 to each of us.)*

6.3.2 Every

Every by contrast is a way of referring to the group as a collection of individual members. **Every** cannot be used with plural nouns.

~~*Every boys in my class wanted that computer game.*~~ *Every boy in my class wanted that computer game.*

Every can express different points in a series, especially with time expressions.

*Every morning Phillip goes for a run.
And every time Ann would forgive him.*

6.4 Both

Both refers to the whole pair and is equivalent to 'one and the other'. **Both** can be used with plural nouns on its own, or it can be followed by **of**, with **of** without an article. When followed by a plural pronoun, **both** must be separated from the pronoun by **of**.

*Both (of) my parents approve of me going to college.
I told both of them to give me a call.*

Both cannot be used with singular nouns, because it refers to two things.

~~*Both my sister likes travelling.*~~ *Both my sisters like travelling.*

6.5 Either

Either is positive and when used alone refers to one of the two members of the pair. It is equivalent to 'one or the other'. Because it refers to just one member of a pair, **either** must be used before a singular noun. It can also be used with a plural noun or pronoun if followed by **of**.

***Either day** is fine.
We could stay at **either of the hotels**.*

Either can also be used with **or** in a construction that talks about each member of the pair in turn. The meaning remains the same, but in this case **either** is not functioning as a distributive. It is functioning as a **conjunction**.

*You can have **either** ice cream **or** cake.*

6.6 Neither

Neither is negative and when used alone refers to the whole pair. It is equivalent to 'not one or the other'. Because it refers to just one member of a pair, **neither** must be used before a singular noun. It can also be used with a plural noun or pronoun if followed by **of**.

***Neither date** is convenient for me.
Neither of these dresses suits her.*

Neither can also be used with **nor** in a construction that talks about each member of the pair in turn. The meaning remains the same, but in this case **neither** is not functioning as a distributive. It is functioning as a **conjunction**.

*It is **neither** snowing **nor** raining.*

7 Quantifiers