

Definition:

Nouns refer to a person, place, thing, or idea. They serve as the subjects, direct objects, and indirect objects in a sentence, along with other roles.

Nouns can be living things:

Example: Keanu, Reeves or cat

Nouns can be places:

Beach or Detroit

Nouns can be things:

Ruler or PlayStation 5,

Or ideas

Nihilism or the theory of evolution.

Identify a noun in a sentence

Nouns often have articles (the, a, or an) before them in a sentence, but not always. Sometimes you'll see adjectives like red or some before nouns. Aside from the first word in a sentence, if a word is capitalized, then it's most likely a proper noun, such as a person's name.

The different types of nouns

We have:

1. Compound Nouns:

Some nouns consist of more than one word. These are compound nouns. Compound nouns can be formed in different ways. The most common way

is to put two nouns together (noun + noun); other common types are adjective + noun and verb + noun.

noun + noun

car park Iceland shopkeeper website

adjective + noun

blackberry grandstand greenhouse small talk

verb + noun

breakwater fall-guy go-kart runway

- *List of Compound Nouns in English*

	Raindrops		
A	Raincoat		
A	Rattlesnake		
	Ringworm		
A	Sandbags		
A	Seafood		
A	Seashore		
A	Skateboard		
A	Skyscraper		
A	Sandcastle		
B	Snowboard		
B	Southeast		
B	Starlight		
B	Strawberry		
	Sunlight		
H			
Haircut	Forecast	Pancake	Writing compound nouns Many compound
Headache	Friendship	Partnership	
Heartbeat	Gentleman	Photocopy	
Handmade	Goldfish	Policeman	
Highway	Grandfather	Popcorn	
Homework	Grandmother	Postman	
Horsefly	Grasshopper	Railway	
Houseboat	Greenhouse	Rainbow	
Inside			

nouns are written as one word, but some are written with hyphens or spaces. In modern English, hyphens are less common than they were in the past. A good learner's dictionary will tell you how each compound is usually written. You can search through this link for more details:
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/grammar/british-grammar/compounds>

1. Examples of one word

2. bathroom sheepdog windscreen

3. Examples of hyphens

4. check-in fire-fighter son-in-law

5. Examples of spaces

6. bottle opener, New Year's Day, Prime Minister

Plurals of compound nouns

We form the plural of most compounds by adding a plural ending to the last part of the compound:

We saw some large **greenhouses** with vegetables growing in them.

They're building two new **car parks** in town.

Warning:

The compounds mother-in-law, brother-in-law, etc. form their plurals on the first noun:

I've got one brother-in-law and two **sisters-in-law**.

Not: ~~two sister-in-laws~~

Compound nouns and spoken stress

Compound nouns normally have the spoken stress on the first part:

CAR park, Bathroom, Website, Brother-in-law, Doorbell, Check-in

However, not all compound nouns follow this rule. Some have spoken stress on the second part, especially in proper names and titles:

Countable and uncountable nouns

It's important to distinguish between countable and uncountable nouns in English because their usage is different in regards to both determiners and verbs.

Test your knowledge

Countable nouns

Countable nouns are for things we can count using numbers. They have a singular and a plural form. The singular form can use the determiner "a" or "an". If you want to ask about the quantity of a countable noun, you ask "How many?" combined with the plural countable noun.

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
<i>one dog</i>	<i>two dogs</i>
<i>one horse</i>	<i>two horses</i>
<i>one man</i>	<i>two men</i>
<i>one idea</i>	<i>two ideas</i>
<i>one shop</i>	<i>two shops</i>

Examples

- She has **three dogs**.
- I own **a house**.
- I would like **two books** please.
- How many friends** do you have?

Uncountable nouns

Uncountable nouns are for the 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 or too amorphous to be counted (liquids, powders, gases, etc.). Uncountable nouns are used with a singular verb. They usually do not have a plural form.

Examples

- tea
- sugar
- water
- air
- rice
- knowledge
- beauty
- anger
- fear
- love
- research
- safety
- evidence

We cannot use *a/an* with these nouns. To express a quantity of an uncountable noun, use a word or expression like *some*, *a lot of*, *much*, *a*

bit of, a great deal of, or else use an exact measurement like a cup of, a bag of, 1kg of, 1L of, a handful of, a pinch of, an hour of, a day of. If you want to ask about the quantity of an uncountable noun, you ask "How much?"

Examples

- *There has been **a lot of research** into the causes of this disease.*
- *He gave me **a great deal of advice** before my interview.*
- *Can you give me **some information** about uncountable nouns?*
- *He did not have **much sugar** left.*
- *Measure **1 cup of water, 300g of flour, and 1 teaspoon of salt.***
- *How much rice do you want?*

Countable nouns

Some nouns refer to things which, in English, are treated as separate items which can be counted. These are called countable nouns. Here are some examples:

*a **car**, three **cars***

*my **cousin**, my two **cousins***

*a **book**, a box full of **books***

*a **city**, several big **cities***

Singular and plural

Countable nouns can be singular or plural. They can be used with a/an and with numbers and many other determiners (e.g. these, a few):

*She's got **two sisters** and **a** younger **brother**.*

*Most people buy **things** like **cameras** and **MP3-players** online **these days**.*

***These shoes** look old now.*

*I'll take **a few magazines** with me for **the flight**.*