# NOUNS

# NOUNS

- A word that refers to what somebody or something is called

- A word that typically refers to people, things, animals, places, abstractions

- A word that can be subject, object, or complement

- A noun can be **modified** by **adjectives**

- A noun can be used with **determiners**

# NOUNS

- **DETERMINER** + **NOUN** = **NOUN PHRASE**

*a computer, this book, my house, some balls, one man*

- **Determiner**: a word which is used with a noun and which can **limit** the meaning of the noun in some way
  - Articles
  - Demonstrative adjectives
  - Possessive adjectives
  - Quantifiers
  - Numerals

# Types of Nouns

- Proper nouns

- Common nouns
  - Countable nouns (Count nouns)
  - Uncountable nouns (Non-Count nouns)
  - Concrete nouns
  - Abstract nouns
  - Partitive nouns
  - Collective nouns

# Types of Nouns

- A proper noun is
  - a noun which is the name of a particular person, place, or thing
  - spelt with a capital letter

  *Mary, London,* etc.

- A common noun is a noun which is NOT the name of a particular person, place, or thing.

  *book*, *driver*, etc.

# Types of Nouns

## Countable

- Nouns that have both singular and plural forms

- Used to talk about countable individual things

- Used with either singular or plural verbs

*word – words, machine – machines*

## Uncountable

- Nouns that do not usually occur in plural forms

- Used to talk about things of a mass

- Used with singular verbs

*education, homework, harm*

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# Types of Nouns

**Countable**

- lentils

- suggestions

- a wig

**Uncountable**

- rice

- advice

- hair

Some nouns can be either countable or uncountable depending on the context.

- *He's a danger to **society**.*

- *Britain is a multi-racial **society**.*

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# Types of Nouns

- **Concrete** nouns: nouns that refer to a physical thing, rather than a quality, state, or action

  *book*, *house*, *machine*

- **Abstract** nouns: nouns that refer to a quality, state, or action

  *happiness*, *idea*, *punishment*

# Types of Nouns

**Partitive nouns**

- phrases used to express **quantity** and used with an uncountable noun
  - Measure partitives: *a <u>yard</u> of cloth, an <u>acre</u> of land*
  - Typical partitives: *a <u>slice</u> of cake, a <u>stick</u> of chalk*
  - General partitives: *a <u>piece</u> of paper/cake, a <u>bit</u> of cheese/ cloth*

- are **<u>always countable</u>**

- can be used with both countable and uncountable nouns

    *a <u>loaf</u> of bread        a <u>packet</u> of biscuits*

# Types of Nouns

- **Collective nouns**: nouns that refer to a collection of people, things, or animals as a group

**school, family, company**

- can be used with both singular and plural verbs

*The government <u>is</u> going to look into the matter.*

*The government <u>are</u> going to look into the matter.*

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# Plurality

- Suffix –**s**/–**es** added to the noun

rose + –s ➔ rose**s**, fly + –es ➔ fl<u>i</u>**es**

- Vowel change

mouse ➔ mice, tooth ➔ teeth

- Same forms

aircraft, sheep, headquarters

- Irregular plural endings
  - –en: ox ➔ ox**en**
  - –is ➔ –es: crisis ➔ cris**es**
  - –us ➔ –i: nucleus ➔ nucle**i**
  - –a ➔ –ae: antenna ➔ antenn**ae**
  - –um ➔ –a: millennium ➔ millenni**a**
  - –on ➔ –a: phenomenon ➔ phenomen**a**

# Plurality

- Nouns with two plural forms, each with a different meaning
    - brother ➔   brothers / brethren
    - index ➔   indexes / indices
    - penny ➔   pennies / pence

- Nouns with a different meaning for the plural form
    - damage vs. damages
    - saving vs. savings
    - experience vs. experiences

# Possessive Case

- Possessive case: **'s**

- Ways to express possession in English
  - possessive adjective + noun
  - possessive pronoun
  - noun + of + noun
  - possessive case **'s**

# Possessive Case

- Possessive case is used
  - to express possession: **Julia's coat**
  - to express relations between people: **the man's father**
  - to express purpose: **children's playground**
  - to express time when: **yesterday's newspaper**
  - in fixed expressions: **for pity's sake**
  - as adjectival use: **a man's voice** (= *a male voice*)
  - equivalent to a sentence: **the residents' protests** = *the residents protested*

- The possessive is not used with **non**-**living** things.

# Compound Nouns

- Single-word compound nouns: **headache**

- adjective + noun: **blackbird**

- gerund + noun: **answering machine**

- noun + gerund: **sightseeing**

- verb + adverb particle: **make-up**

- noun + noun: **air conditioner**

- Plurality of compound nouns:
  - **horsemen**
  - **fathers-in-law**
  - **menservants**

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# Noun Phrases

## The basic structure of a noun phrase

| Pre-modifiers | | | | Head Noun | Post-modifiers |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pre-Determiner | Determiner | Adjective (Modifier) | Noun (Modifier) | Noun | Other modifiers |
| | | | | *people* | |
| | *a* | *hot* | | *meal* | *for two* |
| *all* | *these* | | | *bottles* | *here* |
| | *a lot of* | *empty* | | *bottles* | |
| *a lot of* | *her* | | | *friends* | |
| *enough* | | | | *exits* | |
| | *some* | *nice* | *soup* | *dishes* | *that I have bought* |
| *each of* | *the* | *heavy* | *glass* | *doors* | *of the building* |

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