NOUNS
In grammatical terms, a noun is a fundamental part of speech that functions as a naming word. It is used to identify any of a class of people, places, things (physical entities), or ideas (abstract concepts).
In essence, any entity, whether tangible or intangible, that can be assigned a name is classified as a noun.

Nouns can be broadly divided into two categories based on whether they can be perceived by the five physical senses.

Visible (Concrete) Nouns: These are nouns that represent physical, tangible entities. They can be seen, touched, heard, smelled, or tasted.

Invisible (Abstract) Nouns: These are nouns that represent non-physical, intangible concepts. They include ideas, qualities, states, emotions, and actions.
They cannot be perceived by the physical senses but are understood intellectually or emotionally.

Examples:
1. They shared their **knowledge** with the students.
2. **Goodness** is a virtue that should be cultivated.
3. The fight for **freedom** requires immense **courage**. (An idea)

These refer to entities perceived as distinct, individual units that can be separated and counted.

Countable Noun: (also known as a count noun) refers to an entity that can be perceived as a distinct, individual unit. These nouns can be counted, and they have both singular and plural forms.

An Uncountable Noun: (also known as a mass noun or non-count noun) refers to a substance, concept, or quality that is viewed as a whole or mass, without a distinct boundary.
These nouns cannot be counted individual units and typically do not have a plural form.

Quantifiers for countable nouns – a/an, one, two, many, several, a few, few
Quantifiers for uncountable nouns – much, a little, little, a great deal, an amount of,

Examples:
1. There are **many books** on the shelf.
2. We need **a little information** before we proceed. (Not a few information)
3. The recipe requires **a large amount** of **sugar**.
4. She has **a few good ideas**. (Not a little ideas)
5. We need to buy **two chairs**. (Can be counted)
6. I met **several students** for inquiries.

Singular and Plural Forms
This is the most definitive grammatical test for countability. **Countable Nouns** have **both a singular and a plural form.**
Note: Uncountable Nouns do not have a plural form. They are treated as grammatically **singular**.

Error: Incorrectly Pluralizing Uncountable Nouns. Students often add an "-s" to common uncountable nouns.
1. The teacher gave us many useful informations.(X)
The teacher gave us much useful information. (Or "some pieces of information")

Error: Using Singular Countable Nouns Without a Determiner. A singular countable noun (like book, apple, car) **almost always requires a determiner** (a, an, the, my, this) before it.

1. I am reading book.(X) -> reading a book.

Countless vs. Uncountable: These terms are often confused. Countless refers to something that is countable but exists in such a large number that it is difficult or impossible to count in practice. The noun itself is grammatically countable.

1. Star → Stars (You can have one star or millions of stars. The noun is countable.)
2. There are countless stars in the galaxy.

Uncountable refers to something that is grammatically non-count. It cannot be separated into individual units.

Types of Nouns
This classification system categorizes nouns based on the nature of the entity they name. While modern grammar sometimes integrates these into broader categories (like countable/uncountable), understanding these five types is crucial for a complete grammatical foundation.

1. **Proper Noun:**
   A Proper Noun is the specific, unique name given to a particular person, place, organization, or thing. It designates an individual entity rather than a general class.

a. **Capitalization:** Proper nouns are always capitalized, regardless of their position in a sentence. This is their most distinct feature.
b. **No Articles (Generally):** Proper nouns are typically not preceded by an article (a/an/the). The uniqueness implied by the name makes an article redundant.
c. **Uncountable Nature:** In their primary sense, proper nouns are treated as uncountable. You cannot have "two Ramas" or "three Londons" in a standard context.

2. Common Noun
A Common Noun is a generic name for a class of people, places, things, or ideas. It does not refer to a specific individual but to any member of that group.

a. **Rule 1: Lowercase Letters:** Common nouns are not capitalized unless they begin a sentence.
b. **Rule 2: Countable/Uncountable:** Common nouns can be either countable (e.g., boy, city) or uncountable (e.g., water, music).
c. **Rule 3: Relationship with Proper Nouns:** A proper noun is a specific instance of a common noun.

Comparision Between Comman and Proper Noun
A common noun is a general name for a class, while a proper noun refers to a specific member of that class.

1. **Teacher** is a common noun, while Ms. Rani, Mr. Prashant are proper nouns.
2. **Student** is a common noun, whereas Naveen, Deepti, Preeti are proper nouns.

3. Collective Noun
A Collective Noun is a word that refers to a group of people, animals, or things as a single unit or entity.

Rule 1: Singular or Plural Verb: The key rule for collective nouns is verb agreement.

As a single unit When the group acts in unison, the collective noun takes a singular verb. **As individual members:** When the members of the group act as individuals, the collective noun takes a plural verb.

Rule 2: Pluralization: Some collective nouns can be pluralized when referring to multiple groups (e.g., two teams, three families), while others, especially those for specific groups, are not pluralized (e.g., bevy).

Examples
1. The **team is playing** well tonight.
2. The **committee has made its** decision.
3. The **team are arguing** among themselves.
4. The **audience are requested** to take their seats. (Addressing individual members.)

4. Material Noun
A Material Noun refers to a material, substance, or ingredient from which things are made. These are the raw materials that can be shaped into finished products.

Rules
a. **Uncountable:** Material nouns are almost always uncountable. They are treated as a mass.
b. **No Plural Form** (Generally): Consequently, they do not typically have a plural form. If a plural form exists, it usually signifies a change in meaning.
c. **No Articles** (in general sense): When speaking about the material in general, articles are not used.

Rule 2: Individual action → plural verb and pronoun (they/their)

1. **The team** are changing into **their** uniforms.
2. **Committee** has submitted **its** report / have different views
3. **Jury has** delivered a verdict / **were** unable to agree
4. **Audience was** enthralled / **are** from all over
5. **Police** department **is** efficient / **are** patrolling
6. **Family is** a strong unit / **are** pursuing different careers

Common errors
Inconsistency within a sentence.
1. The team is arguing over their plan.[X]

   The team is arguing over **its** plan.
   The team are arguing over **their** plan.

   Overusing singular when plural sense is clear.
   Awkward: The audience is taking its seats.
   Better: The audience are taking their seats.

Nuances and exceptions
1. Police: commonly plural for officers (The police are investigating). For one officer, say a police officer / Policeman.
2. American vs British English: AmE prefers singular; BrE flexibly uses plural for individual-focused actions. Consistency is key for exams.
3. Fixed plurals like people and cattle are always plural: The people are waiting; The cattle are in the field.

5. Abstract Noun
An Abstract Noun names an idea, quality, state, action, or concept that is intangible. It cannot be perceived by the five physical senses.

Rules
Uncountable: The vast majority of abstract nouns are uncountable and take a singular verb.

Formation: They are often formed from adjectives, verbs, or common nouns by adding suffixes like -ness, -ity, -ion, -ment, -hood, etc.

Examples
1. Quality: honesty, kindness, beauty, bravery
2. State: freedom, poverty, childhood, peace
3. Feeling/Emotion: love, anger, hatred, sympathy
4. Concept/Idea: knowledge, justice, democracy, information

Noun Number (Singular & Plural)

Noun number marks whether a noun refers to one entity (singular) or more than one (plural). Changing a noun from singular to plural is called pluralization and applies only to countable nouns.

Grammar rules and concepts

English plurals follow several patterns—from regular to highly irregular.

Rule 1: The standard rule (-s)

Add -s to the singular noun.

Rule 2: Words ending in hissing sounds (-es)

If a noun ends in -s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -x, or -z, add -es for ease of pronunciation. Like buses, classes, brushes, taxes,

Rule 3: Nouns ending in -y

Like - Donkeys, Boys,

Rule 4: Consonant + y: change -y to -i and add -es. Like - Babies, cities, stories,

Rule 5: Nouns ending in -f/-fe

Change -f/-fe to -ves in many cases.
Like wives, wolfs, leaves, theives,

These rules apply only to countable nouns; uncountables (information, water, advice) do not pluralize.

The -es rule after hissing sounds is driven by pronunciation to add a clear extra syllable.

The Four Grammatical Genders

In English, gender is a noun-class system that is primarily natural rather than grammatical. This means gender usually follows the biological sex of living beings, and inanimate objects are generally treated as genderless.

1. Masculine Gender

Definition: Refers to male living beings (humans and animals).
Pronouns: He, Him, His.

- **Examples:** Boy, Father, Uncle, King, Hero, Bull, Horse.
- **Sentence:** The **king** raised **his** sword.

2. Feminine Gender

Definition: Refers to female living beings.
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers.

- **Examples:** Girl, Mother, Aunt, Queen, Heroine, Cow, Mare.
- **Sentence:** The **queen** greeted **her** subjects.

3. Common Gender

Definition: Refers to living beings whose sex is not defined by the word itself. They can be either male or female.

- **List:** Student, Teacher, Doctor, Candidate, Musician, Servant, Enemy, Neighbor, Thief, Orphan, Cousin, Person.

Important Exam Rule (Pronouns):
In traditional grammar (and many exams like SSC/RPSC), if the gender is not specified in the sentence, we give priority to the **Masculine** pronoun (**He/His**).

- Correct: Every **student** must do **his** homework. (Formal/Exam standard)
- Modern Usage: Every student must do **their** homework. (Acceptable in speaking/writing, but be careful in strict grammar tests).

4. Neuter Gender

Definition: Refers to non-living things, objects, and abstract ideas. They have no life and no sex.

Pronouns: It, Its.

- **List:** Book, Pen, Room, Tree, Chair, Honesty, Crowds, Class.

  Crucial Note for Exams:
  Collective Nouns (Army, Jury, Committee, Class) are always **Neuter Gender** even though they are made of people.

- Correct: The **jury** gave **its** verdict.

- Incorrect: The jury gave **their** verdict.

Personification and suffixes
Personification in literature: Neuter nouns can be assigned gender for stylistic effect.

Masculine (strength, power, force) -> Sun, Time, Death, War.

1. The Sun beat down with **his** fierce rays.

   Feminine (beauty, grace, gentleness, vessels): Moon, Earth, Nature, Peace, Ship, Country.

2. The ship held **her** course through the storm.
   India is proud of **her** heritage.

Gendered suffixes:
Like actress, princess, heiress, lioness,

Note: Many -ess forms (actress, poetess) are declining in favor of gender-neutral terms (actor, poet) used for all.

Expert tips and key notes
Prefer gender-neutral language in contemporary formal writing. Instead of defaulting to he:

1) **He or she (his or her)** when appropriate
   Use when referring to a specific, known individual whose gender matters in context.

1. If any candidate arrives late, **he or she** must report to the invigilator; **his or her** admit card will be verified.

   Note: Rephrase in the plural for smooth agreement

   Make the subject plural so that **their** works naturally and avoids gendered pairs.

2. All candidates must bring their original ID to the hall.

2) **Singular they** (widely accepted outside the most formal)
   Use when gender is unknown, irrelevant, or nonbinary; suitable for neutral, modern usage.

3. A student should focus on their studies ....

4. If anyone needs extra time, they should inform the proctor in advance.

3) **Animals: he/she vs. it**
   Use he or she when the sex is known or for pets/individual animals with personal connection.

5. My dog sprained his paw, so he won't run today.

6. The mare completed **her** training this season.

   Use it when sex is unknown, irrelevant, or for generic/lower animals in scientific or impersonal contexts.

7. A butterfly beats **its** wings rapidly during flight.

8. If a stray cat approaches, do not feed **it** near the lab.

   Pragmatic tip: In narratives or news, once an animal is identified as a pet or named individual, switch to he/she for warmth and clarity.

Nuances in Gendered Language

Distinguish carefully among man/woman, male/female, and masculine/feminine, because each pair serves a different purpose.

Rule 1: for their profession and role use
Man & Woman

1. A woman doctor was recently appointed as the head of the department.
2. A man teacher is less common in primary schools.

Rule 2: for biological sex and species use
Male & Female
especially in scientific, medical, or technical contexts.

Structure: male/female[adjective] + [person/animal]

Examples:
1. The study included twenty male participants and twenty female participants.
2. A female fox is called a vixen.

Rule 3: for qualities and characterstics use
Masculine & Femine

Structure: masculine/feminine + [abstract or common noun]

Examples:
1. He has a deep, masculine voice.
2. The decor of the room had a masculine feel, with dark wood and leather.

Rule 4: Using possessives
(**men's/women's/ladies'**) for products and facilities
Use the possessive form to indicate that a product, facility, or space is designed for a specific gender; this construction means "for."
Do not use **male** and **female**,

Examples:
1. He bought a pair of **men's** shoes.
2. The **women's** restroom is on the left.
3. She browsed the **ladies'** watch collection.

Common errors and corrections

Error 1: Using male/female for products.
1. I need to buy a female purse.(X)
2. I need to buy a women's purse (or a lady's purse).
3. He is wearing a male watch.(X)
4. He is wearing a men's watch.

Error 2: Confusing feminine with female.
1. The application is for feminine candidates only. (That implies candidates with feminine qualities.)(X)
The application is for female candidates only. (Biological sex is intended.)

Expert tips and key notes
1. **The "for" test**: If the meaning can be rephrased as "for men/women," a possessive is generally correct (men's shoes = shoes for men).
2. **Lady vs woman**: lady may imply politeness, respect, or social status; woman is neutral and standard. In set phrases like ladies' room, the polite conventional form persists.
3. **Modern trend**: Use gender-neutral professional titles by default unless gender is specifically relevant to meaning or context.

Noun Case

Case is the grammatical property that shows how a noun (or pronoun) functions in a sentence, indicating its relationship to the verb and prepositions.
English nouns don't change form for nominative vs. accusative; their role is understood from position and function.

The four grammatical cases

A. Nominative case (subjective)

Definition: A noun is nominative when it is the subject or is used as a subject complement with a linking verb.

Function: Subject (or predicate noun).

B. Accusative case (objective)

Definition: A noun is objective when it functions as the object of a verb or of a preposition. It includes direct objects, indirect objects, and objects of prepositions.

C. Possessive case (genitive)

Definition: A noun is possessive when it shows ownership, origin, or close relationship. Usually marked with ′s or an apostrophe after a plural -s; sometimes expressed with of.

Identification: Look for ′s, ′, or an of phrase.

Examples:

1. This is Ram's book.
2. The dog's collar is new.
3. The collar of the dog. (of-phrase alternative where appropriate.)

D. Vocative case

Definition: A noun used for direct address; set off by commas.

Identification: The name/title being addressed directly; typically separated by commas.

Examples:

1. Priya, please do this work.
2. Come here, Ram.

Formation with Apostrophe

Rule 1: Singular nouns take ′s

Apply to any singular noun, regardless of final letter.

1. The boy's bicycle.
2. Keats's poetry. (See "singular ending in -s" nuance below.)

Rule 2: Plural nouns ending in -s take only an apostrophe

The apostrophe follows the existing -s.

1. The boys' bicycles.
2. The students' lounge.

Rule 3: Plural nouns not ending in -s take ′s

Applies to irregular plurals like men, children, people.

Examples:

1. The men's restroom.
2. The children's toys.

Rule 4: Singular nouns ending in -s (hissing sound) — style choice

1. Modern, preferred style: Add ′s consistently (James's, boss's, Keats's).
2. Rationale: Consistency and clarity; most modern guides favor ′s for singulars, even if they end with -s.
3. Pronunciation and readability support adding ′s to singular names ending in -s (James's book; the boss's decision).
4. Of-phrase vs. ′s: Both are acceptable; choose for clarity and style. ′s is often more concise (the city's destruction) while of can be more formal or emphatic (the destruction of the city).

Apostrophe with Non-Living Nouns: The Exceptions

While inanimate objects typically show possession using the "of" construction, there are widely accepted exceptions where the possessive apostrophe ('s) is standard or idiomatic.

Default Rule for Inanimates

Prefer the "of" construction for non-living nouns:

1. The leg **of the table** (not "the table's leg")
2. The roof **of the house** (not "the house's roof")

Exceptions: When 's is Preferred or Standard

1. **Measures of Time, Distance, Weight, or Value:**
a. **Time:** a day's rest, today's newspaper
b. **Distance:** a stone's throw, at an arm's length
c. **Weight/Value:** a pound's worth, a dollar's worth

2. **Unique or Celestial Bodies:**
a. The Earth's gravity
b. The sun's rays

3. **Personified Nouns:**
When an inanimate object is treated as if it were a person, 's is natural:
a. Nature's laws
b. Fortune's favorite

4. **Idiomatic Fixed Expressions:**
Phrases where 's is part of a common idiom:
a. at one's wit's end
b. for goodness' sake
c. at an arm's length
d. within a stone's throw

5. **Organizations and Collective Bodies:** Groups of people or entities commonly take 's:
a. The company's policy
b. The government's decision

Stylistic Choice: The 's possessive is often shorter and more natural. The "of" construction can be more formal or emphatic. Both "the sun's heat" and "the heat of the sun" are widely accepted; choose based on clarity, rhythm, and desired emphasis.

Noun as Modifier (Attributive Noun)

An attributive noun, also known as a noun modifier or noun adjunct, is a noun that functions like an adjective, placed before another noun to specify its type, purpose, source, or material. In this noun-noun compound structure, the first noun modifies the second.

Rule 1: The modifier noun is typically singular. Logic: The modifying noun behaves like an adjective, and English adjectives do not take plural forms.

Examples:

1. a bookshop (a shop for books; not a books shop)
2. a toothbrush (a brush for teeth; not a teeth brush)
3. a five-year-old boy (the unit year functions adjectivally and remains singular)

Common Errors
- **Error 1: Confusing a noun modifier with a possessive noun.**
o **the boy's room:** possessive, meaning it belongs to one boy.
o **the boys' room:** possessive, meaning it belongs to multiple boys.
o **the boy room / the boys room:** noun modifier sense (a "boy-themed room"), indicating type or purpose, not ownership; this usage is uncommon and often awkward.

A. To Avoid Ambiguity or Change of Meaning:

1. **customs officer:** an officer of the customs department (not a "custom officer," which would imply a custom-made officer).
2. **savings account:** an account for one's savings; "saving account" is nonstandard.
3. **clothes shop:** a shop selling garments. Note the distinction: "cloth shop" sells fabric (material), while "clothes shop" sells finished apparel.

B. Plural Nouns Naming a Field or Concept:

4. **sports car**: a car designed for sports; "sports" is often treated as a lexicalized name for the field or activity.

C. Fixed Expressions:

5. **the Ashes series** (a specific cricket series)
6. **a greetings card**

- **"Type of / for" Test:** If you can rephrase the compound as "a type of X" or "X for Y," it's likely a noun modifier, and the modifier noun should be singular (e.g., shoe shop = a shop for shoes).

Singular is the Default: Most noun modifiers are singular. Plural exceptions are specific and generally fixed expressions.
Hyphenation: Use hyphens for multi-word or number compounds that precede another noun to form a single modifying unit (e.g., a five-year-old boy, a two-hour lecture). Hyphenation helps prevent ambiguity and clarifies that the entire phrase functions as a single adjective.

Advanced Noun Structures (Compound Nouns)
A compound noun combines two or more words to name a single thing. These compounds can appear as one word (e.g., bedroom), hyphenated (e.g., mother-in-law), or as separate words (e.g., book fair). The correct pluralization of a compound noun depends on identifying its principal or head noun.

Note: This is the general principle: add the plural ending to the most significant word in the compound, which carries the core meaning.

A. Hyphenated or Open Compounds with a Clear Head Noun:
Logic: Identify the main noun and make it plural; other parts typically function as modifiers or prepositions.

Examples:

1. mother-in-law → mothers-in-law (the head is mother)
2. passer-by → passers-by (the head is passer)
3. maidservant → maidservants (the head is servant)

B. Single-Word Compounds or Compounds Where the Last Word is the Head:
Logic: If the compound is written as a single unit or if the last element clearly serves as the head noun, add the plural ending to the final word.

Examples:

4. bedroom → bedrooms
5. bookshelf → bookshelves (note the spelling change from shelf to shelves)
6. girlfriend → girlfriends (the head is friend)

Rule 2: Compounds Ending in -ful
When -ful signifies "the amount that something can hold," pluralize the compound by adding -s to the very end.

Examples:

1. spoonful → spoonfuls
2. cupful → cupfuls

Rule 3: Compounds with "Man" or "Woman" (When Both Parts Denote Identity)
If a compound noun refers to a person and both "man" or "woman" and the other part of the compound represent aspects of that person's identity, both parts are pluralized.
Logic: Both elements contribute to defining the person.

Examples:

1. man-servant → men-servants
2. woman-doctor → women-doctors

Exception: If "man" or "woman" merely describes the target of the noun rather than forming part of the person's identity, only the head noun is pluralized.

3. man-hater → man-haters (the person is fundamentally a hater)
4. woman-lover → woman-lovers

Compounds Without a Clear Noun Head: For compounds based on verbs or those without an obvious noun as the head, the plural -s is typically added to the very end.

1. go-between → go-betweens
2. breakdown → breakdowns
3. takeoff → takeoffs

Reference bank: Irregular plurals

1. louse → lice
2. person → people
3. crisis → crises
4. diagnosis → diagnoses
5. index → indices
6. appendix → appendices
7. matrix → matrices
8. vertex → vertices
9. bacterium → bacteria
10. basis → bases
11. parenthesis → parentheses
12. die → dice
13. shelf → shelves
14. bureau → bureaux
15. quiz → quizzes
16. brother → brethren
17. penny → pence
18. means → means
19. moose → moose
20. shrimp → shrimp
21. elk → elk
22. bison → bison
23. reindeer → reindeer
24. corps → corps
25. dice → dice
26. cod → cod
27. squid → squid
28. euro → euro
29. yen → yen
30. franc → franc
31. pathos → pathoi
32. ethos → ethe
33. mythos → mythoi

Collective Nouns Not Usually Pluralized
(these mostly remain as fixed group-phrases, poetic names, or are uncommon in plural form)

1. A **bevy** of girls or ladies.
2. A **flock** of birds (especially when flying or herding), sheep, or goats.
3. A **herd** of cattle, elephants, deer, or donkeys goats.
4. A **litter** of puppies, kittens, or other young animals born at one time.
5. A **gaggle** of geese (especially when on the ground or water), or sometimes of people talking noisily.
6. A **pride** of lions.
7. A **school** of fish or whales.
8. A **mob** of kangaroos or sometimes rioters.
9. A **pack** of wolves, dogs, or hounds.
10. A **clutch** of eggs.
11. A **colony** of ants, penguins, bats, or gulls.
12. A **flight** of birds, stairs, or sometimes insects.
13. A **parliament** of owls.
14. A **swarm** of insects (especially bees or flies).
15. A **nest** of mice, birds, or snakes.
16. A **rafter** of turkeys.
17. A **sounder** of pigs or wild boars.
18. A **sleuth** of bears.
19. A **drove** of cattle, sheep, or goats (often when being driven).
20. A **muster** of peacocks.
21. A **bale** of turtles.
22. A **skulk** of foxes.

23. A **crash** of rhinoceroses.
24. A **murder** of crows.
25. A **pod** of dolphins, whales, or seals.
26. A **troop** of monkeys, baboons, or sometimes scouts.
27. An **army** of ants or caterpillars.
28. A **mischief** of rats or sometimes nomads.
29. A **kindle** of kittens.
30. A **knot** of toads.
31. A **labor** of moles.
32. A **leap** of leopards.
33. A **pace** of donkeys.
34. A **parade** of elephants.
35. A **streak** of tigers.
36. A **team** of horses or oxen.
37. A **tower** of giraffes.
38. A **tribe** of goats or sometimes natives.
39. A **yoke** of oxen.

    A **zeal** of zebras.

Collective Nouns That Can Be Pluralized
(used for multiple groups, organizations, or sets of people/animals; plural forms are common in English)

1. **Family** – a basic social unit of related individuals
2. **Class** – a group of students or a categorization of items
3. **Committee** – a group of people appointed for a specific function
4. **Audience** – a gathering of spectators or listeners
5. **Crowd** – a large number of people gathered together
6. **Jury** – a body of people sworn to give a verdict in a legal case
7. **Staff** – the entire body of employees or workers in an organization
8. **Faculty** – the teaching staff of a university or college
9. **Squad** – a small group of people having a common task or purpose, often military or athletic
10. **Orchestra** – a large ensemble of musicians
11. **Company** – a commercial business or a group of performers
12. **Band** – a group of musicians or a cohesive group of people
13. **Crew** – a group of people working together, especially on a ship, aircraft, or film set
14. **Troop** – a group of soldiers, scouts, or animals like monkeys
15. **Choir** – an organized group of singers
16. **Panel** – a small group of people gathered for a discussion or to make a judgment
17. **Gang** – an organized group of criminals, or informally, a group of friends
18. **Force** – a body of people organized for a specific purpose, such as a police force
19. **Cast** – the set of actors in a play or film
20. **Union** – an organized association of workers formed to protect their rights
21. **Delegation** – a body of delegates or representatives
22. **Generation** – all of the people born and living at about the same time
23. **League** – a collection of sports teams or a formal association of people
24. **Department** – a distinct division of a larger organization
25. **Council** – an advisory, deliberative, or administrative body
26. **Club** – an association of people with a common interest
27. **Division** – a large unit of an organization or military
28. **Section** – a distinct part or portion of something larger
29. **Organization** – an organized body of people with a particular purpose

Material Noun

If a plural form of a material noun exists, it signifies **a change in meaning**.

1. **Glass** – a transparent material
   Glasses – drinking vessels or spectacles
2. **Chicken** – the meat of the bird
   Chickens – the birds themselves
3. **Light** – illumination
   Lights – lamps, bulbs, or traffic signals
4. **Color/Colour** – the property of visual appearance
   Colors/Colours – paints, flags, or emblems
5. **Steel** – the metal
   Steels – types or varieties of steel
6. **Copper** – the metal
   Coppers – copper items, coins, or (informally) police officers
7. **Tin** – a metal
   Tins – containers made of tin
8. **Stone** – the material or substance
   Stones – individual rocks, gems, or units of weight
9. **Ice** – frozen water
   Ices – frozen desserts
10. **Salt** – the substance
    Salts – chemical compounds of acid and base
11. **Spirit** – essence or alcohol in general
    Spirits – liquors, supernatural beings, or mood
12. **Silence** – a state of quietness
    Silences – specific periods or kinds of silence
13. **Damage** – harm or injury
    Damages – compensation awarded in law
14. **Content** – the substance or idea of something
    Contents – the items inside something, or table of contents
15. **Custom** – a tradition or habitual practice
    Customs – import duties or border control

16. **Manner** – a way or style of doing something
    Manners – social behavior or etiquette
17. **Letter** – a character or written message
    Letters – literature, learning, or written documents
18. **Quarter** – one-fourth of something
    Quarters – living accommodations or city districts
19. **Blue** – a color
    Blues – a sad mental state or a musical genre
20. **Sand** – fine grains of rock or the material
    Sands – beaches, deserts, or geological formations
21. **Iron** – the metal
    Irons – tools like golf clubs, fetters, or clothes irons
22. **Green** – the color
    Greens – leafy vegetables or putting areas in golf
23. **Cloth** – fabric or material
    Clothes – garments worn on the body
    Cloths – pieces of fabric used for cleaning or covering

Irregular plurals

A. Vowel mutation (internal change):
These are nouns we have to memorize like men, women, feet, teeth, geese, mice,

-f / -fe Words with Standard Plurals and Variants

1. **Chief** → chiefs
2. **Roof** → roofs
3. **Belief** → beliefs
4. **Proof** → proofs
5. **Cliff** → cliffs
6. **Safe** → safes
7. **Gulf** → gulfs
8. **Handkerchief** → handkerchiefs (handkerchieves – rarer/older)

9. **Dwarf** → **dwarfs** (dwarves – recognized alternative)
10. **Puff** → puffs
11. **Reproof** → reproofs
12. **Cuff** → cuffs
13. **Brief** → briefs
14. **Sniff** → sniffs
15. **Grief** → griefs (distinct instances)
16. **Hoof** → hoofs / hooves
17. **Scarf** → scarfs / scarves
18. **Spoof** → spoofs
19. **Tariff** → tariffs
20. **Sheriff** → sheriffs
21. **Fife** → fifes
22. **Wharf** → wharfs (wharves – less common)

Nouns Ending in -o
Add -es:
23. **Potato** → potatoes
24. **Tomato** → tomatoes
25. **Hero** → heroes
26. **Echo** → echoes
27. **Veto** → vetoes
28. **Torpedo** → torpedoes
29. **Negro** → Negroes
30. **Mosquito** → mosquitoes
31. **Domino** → dominoes
32. **Grotto** → grottoes
33. **Tornado** → tornadoes

Add -es or -s (both valid):
34. **Volcano** → volcanoes / volcanos
35. **Buffalo** → buffaloes / buffalos
36. **Mango** → mangoes / mangos
37. **Cargo** → cargoes / cargos

Plurals of foreign nouns
English borrows many nouns from Latin and Greek, and many keep their original plural forms. Some now accept both the foreign plural and a regular English plural, leading to dual forms.
Grammar rules and concepts by ending

-us → -i
1. **Alumnus** → alumni
2. **Cactus** → cacti (also cactuses)
3. **Fungus** → fungi
4. **Focus** → foci (also focuses)
5. **Radius** → radii
6. **Syllabus** → syllabi (or syllabuses)
7. **Nucleus** → nuclei
8. **Stimulus** → stimuli
9. **Terminus** → termini

-a → -ae
1. **Alumna** → alumnae
2. **Formula** → formulae (or formulas)
3. **Larva** → larvae
4. **Vertebra** → vertebrae
5. **Antenna** → antennae (biology) / antennas (electronics)
6. **Nebula** → nebulae
7. **Persona** → personae (literary)
8. **Papilla** → papillae

-um → -a
1. **Bacterium** → bacteria
2. **Curriculum** → curricula (or curriculums)
3. **Datum** → data
4. **Medium** → media (or mediums)
5. **Stratum** → strata
6. **Stadium** → stadia (or stadiums)
7. **Aquarium** → aquaria
8. **Consortium** → consortia

-on → -a
1. **Criterion** → criteria
2. **Phenomenon** → phenomena
3. **Automaton** → automata
4. **Polyhedron** → polyhedra
5. **Protozoon** → protozoa
6. **Neuron** → neurons (exception — regular plural)
7. **Phylon** → phyla

-is → -es

1. **Analysis** → analyses
2. **Basis** → bases
3. **Crisis** → crises
4. **Thesis** → theses
5. **Axis** → axes (note: plural of axe = axes by regular rule)
6. **Diagnosis** → diagnoses
7. **Hypothesis** → hypotheses
8. **Paralysis** → paralyses
9. **Synopsis** → synopses
10. **Oasis** → oases

Errors
Treating foreign plurals as singular:

1. The media is responsible.(X)
   The media are responsible. (Or: The medium of television is powerful.)
2. What is the criteria?(X)
   What are the criteria? (Or: What is the criterion?)

Foreign plurals tend to be preferred in formal/scientific contexts; regular -s/-es plurals are common in general usage.

1. **focus** → foci/focuses
2. **fungus** → fungi/funguses
3. **curriculum** → curricula/curriculums
4. **stadium** → stadia/stadiums
5. **formula** → formulae/formulas
6. **antenna** → antennae (biology)/antennas (devices)

Key nuance: **data**
Historically plural of **datum**. In formal writing, treat as plural (The data are...). In everyday use, often treated as an uncountable mass (This data is...). For exams and formal contexts, **prefer plural agreement.**

Some Other uncountable nouns

A. Information

1. The detective received a **piece of / some information** regarding the suspect's whereabouts.
2. My teacher gave me a **useful piece of advice** before the exam.
3. That **piece of news** was really shocking.
   Note: You say "The news **is** good," not "The news **are** good."
4. Switzerland offers many **types of scenery**—mountains, lakes, and valleys.
   Note: Do not confuse "scenery" with "view." You can have "three beautiful views" (countable), but only "beautiful scenery" (uncountable).
5. He showed **great courage** during the fire.
6. Each culture has its own **form of love** and expression.
   Note: These nouns usually don't take "a" or "an" unless followed by a specific description (e.g., "A love that lasts forever").
7. Please give me **two cups of water**.
8. The carpenter used **five pieces of wood** to make the bench.
   Note: To count substances, you must use a container (bottle, grain, bowl) or a measurement (liter, kilo).
9. **Mathematics** is the foundation of all sciences.
10. **Politics** is often influenced by economics.
11. **Weather** patterns are changing globally.
12. The **weather** is pleasant today.
13. The artist captured **various forms of sunshine** in her painting.
    Note: We never say "a sunshine." We say "The sun is shining" or "There is a lot of sunlight."
14. He has a **strong feeling of anger** about the unfair decision.
15. The letter was **full of expressions of love**.

Note: While you can have "a feeling" (countable), the emotion itself ("anger," "happiness") is uncountable.

16. We have **little time** left before the deadline.

17. She needs **a bit of freedom** to make her own choices.

18. There's **a lot of work** to do today.

    Note: "Work" as in a job/task is uncountable. However, "a work of art" is countable.

19. I heard **several types of music** at the concert.

20. The children had **a bit of fun** in the park.

    Note: "Fun" is never used with "a." You don't say "We had a fun." You say "We had fun" or "It was a fun day" (where fun is an adjective).

21. She invested a **large amount of money** in the stock market.

22. The thief carried **bundles of cash** in his bag.

    Note: "Money" is uncountable, but "Dollars," "Euros," and "Coins" are countable.

23. We use **different types of software** for graphic design.

24. The engineer examined **several pieces of hardware** for defects.

    Note: Never say "softwares." Use "software programs" or "pieces of software."

25. The garage is full of **old junk**.

26. They moved **piles of stuff** out of the attic.

    Note: "Stuff" and "Junk" are very informal. In formal writing, use "belongings" or "items" (which are countable).

27. The teacher noticed **acts of mischief** during class.

28. Her **behavior** at the event was impressive.

    Note: Behavior is a general concept. You can describe it (good behavior), but you cannot have "three behaviors."

These nouns change meaning depending on if they are used as a mass or an item:

29. Uncountable: I need **some paper** to write a letter (the material).

30. Countable: I bought **three newspapers** (the object) / **three sheets of paper**.

31. Uncountable: She has **long, brown hair** (the whole head of hair).

32. Countable: I found **two strands of hair** on the pillow (individual hairs).

29. **Glass:**

29. Uncountable: The window is made of **shattered glass** (the material).

30. Countable: We need **five glasses** for the juice (the containers).

30. **Chicken:**

29. Uncountable: We had **roast chicken** for dinner (the food/meat).

30. Countable: There are **three chickens** in the yard (the living animals).

Final Pro-Tip for Learners:
If you aren't sure if a noun is uncountable, try putting a number in front of it. If "Two advices" or "Three furnitures" sounds strange, it is probably uncountable. Use **"some," "a lot of,"** or **"a piece of"** to be safe!

These nouns are known in grammar as **Pluralia Tantum** (Latin for "plural only"). Because they do not have a singular form,

1. Tools & Instruments (Two parts joined together)
Even if it is one tool, it is treated as plural because it has two "legs" or "blades."

1. **Scissors:** The **scissors** on the desk **are** very sharp; please be careful.

2. **Tongs:** These metal **tongs are** used for picking up hot coals.

3. **Pliers:** The **pliers were** left in the garage after the repair.

4. **Pincers:** A crab's **pincers are** strong enough to crack a shell.

5. **Binoculars:** My **binoculars are** foggy because of the morning dew.

6. **Shears:** The garden **shears are** too blunt to cut these thick branches.

7. **Trousers:** Your new **trousers look** very professional.

8. **Pants:** These **pants are** too long for me; I need to hem them.

9. **Jeans:** My favorite **jeans have** a hole in the knee.

10. **Shorts:** These **shorts are** perfect for a day at the beach.

11. **Pajamas:** Your **pajamas are** clean and folded on the bed.

12. **Tights:** These **tights are** made of very thick wool.

13. **Goods:** The stolen **goods were** recovered by the police last night.

14. **Belongings:** Please make sure all your **belongings are** removed from the plane.

15. **Valuables:** Your **valuables should** be kept in the hotel safe.

16. **Contents:** The **contents** of the letter **were** a complete surprise.

17. **Riches:** They say that great **riches do** not always bring happiness.

18. **Remains:** The **remains** of the ancient city **were** discovered by archaeologists.

19. **Thanks:** My **thanks go** to everyone who supported me during the project.

20. **Congratulations:** Our **congratulations were** sent to the happy couple.

21. **Regards:** Her best **regards were** included at the bottom of the email.

22. **Wages:** His weekly **wages are** paid every Friday afternoon.

23. **Annals:** These events are recorded in the **annals** of history.

24. **Archives:** The national **archives are** located in the city center.

5. Specific Plurals (Places & Conditions)

25. **Arms:** The soldiers laid down their **arms** (weapons) after the treaty.

26. **Embers:** The glowing **embers** of the fire **were** still hot the next morning.

27. **Gallows:** The **gallows were** built in the town square.

28. **Outskirts:** The **outskirts** of the city **are** much quieter than the center.

29. **Premises:** These **premises are** protected by 24-hour security.

30. **Tidings:** I bring glad **tidings** (news) of great joy!

31. **Tropics:** The **tropics are** known for their heavy rainfall and heat.

32. **Spectacles/Glasses:** My **glasses are** broken; I can't see the board.

33. **Surroundings:** The **surroundings were** beautiful and peaceful.

34. **Credentials:** Your **credentials are** impressive; you are hired!

35. **Clothes:** My **clothes are** wet because of the rain. (Note: Never say "a cloth" to mean a shirt; "a cloth" is a rag for cleaning.)

36. **Alms:** Alms (charity) **were** given to the poor outside the temple.

If you want to make these nouns "countable," you **must** use "pair of."

o   I bought **a pair of** jeans.

o   I bought **three pairs of** jeans.
    Verb Agreement with "Pair": If the word "pair" is the subject, the verb becomes **singular.**

o   The **scissors are** sharp. (**Plural**)

o   That **pair** of scissors **is** sharp. (**Singular** — because the subject is now "pair").

o   In the plural, **premises** means a building or land.

o   In the singular, a **premise** is an idea or a theory used in an argument. They have completely different meanings!

Watch out for "Acoustics/Ethics/Gymnastics": Words ending in **-ics** (like Mathematics) are usually singular (Physics **is** fun). However, when they refer to specific qualities, they can be plural: "The **acoustics** in this hall **are** excellent."

Animals and Wildlife
These words never change spelling, even if you are talking about a whole herd.

1. **Deer**
a. **Singular:** A **deer is** drinking by the stream.
b. **Plural:** Many **deer are** grazing in the meadow.
2. **Sheep**
a. **Singular:** One **sheep is** missing from the flock.
b. **Plural:** Twenty **sheep were** sheared this morning.
3. **Fish** (Same species or general)
a. **Singular:** I caught a **fish** at dawn.
b. **Plural:** We saw hundreds of **fish** near the reef.
4. **Fishes** (Multiple species - special case)
a. **Plural:** The lake hosts many **fishes**, including carp, trout, and catfish.
5. **Salmon**
a. **Singular:** A **salmon swims** upstream every spring.
b. **Plural:** Several **salmon were** released into the river.
6. **Swine**
a. **Singular:** A **swine was** examined by the vet.
b. **Plural:** The farmer raised fifty **swine** last year.
7. **Offspring**
a. **Singular:** The **offspring is** vulnerable at birth.
b. **Plural:** Most **offspring are** protected by adults.

8. **Trout** (Added)
a. **Singular:** This **trout is** huge!
b. **Plural:** There are plenty of **trout** in this stream.

c. **Transportation & Vehicles**
These technical terms are "fixed" and do not take an 's'.
9. **Aircraft**
a. **Singular:** The **aircraft is** taxiing to the runway.
b. **Plural:** Three **aircraft are** waiting to depart.
10. **Spacecraft**
a. **Singular:** A **spacecraft is** orbiting Mars.
b. **Plural:** Multiple **spacecraft are** tracking the comet.
11. **Hovercraft**
a. **Singular:** A **hovercraft moves** over the marsh.
b. **Plural:** Two **hovercraft were** deployed for rescue.

Numerical Units (Dozen, Hundred, etc.)
12. **Rule:** Use the singular form when there is a specific number (1, 5, 10). Use the plural form ('s') only when talking generally without a number.
13. **Dozen**
a. **With Number:** We bought **five dozen** eggs.
b. **General: Dozens of** roses were delivered to her.
14. **Hundred**
a. **With Number:** The charity raised **two hundred** rupees.
b. **General: Hundreds of** people attended the rally.
15. **Thousand**
a. **With Number:** The stadium can hold **fifty thousand** spectators.
b. **General:** A few **thousands of** books were donated.
16. **Million** (Added)
a. **With Number:** He won **two million** dollars.
b. **General:** There are **millions of** stars in the sky.

c. **Nouns Ending in 'S' (Singular = Plural)**

17. These look plural because they end in -s, but they can be used for one single thing or many things.

18. **Series**

a. **Singular:** This **series is** about climate science.

b. **Plural:** Both **series are** worth watching.

19. **Species**

a. **Singular:** This **species is** native to India.

b. **Plural:** Several **species are** endangered.

20. **Headquarters**

a. **Singular:** The company's **headquarters is** in Jaipur.

b. **Plural:** Several regional **headquarters are** opening this year.

21. **Crossroads**

a. **Singular:** The **crossroads is** jammed at rush hour.

b. **Plural:** Two major **crossroads are** being redesigned.

22. **Innings** (Cricket)

a. **Singular:** His first **innings was** crucial to the chase.

b. **Plural:** Both **innings were** disrupted by rain.

23. **Means** (Added - meaning "method")

a. **Singular:** The internet is **a means** of communication.

b. **Plural:** There are many **means** of solving this problem.

- **Bachelor** (Male Seal) — **Cow** (Female Seal) *(Note: Rare, but distinct)*
- **Boar** (Pig) — **Sow**
- **Buck** (Rabbit/Deer) — **Doe**
- **Bull** — **Cow**
- **Bullock** — **Heifer** (A young cow that hasn't had a calf)
- **Colt** (Young Horse) — **Filly**
- **Dog** — **Bitch**
- **Drake** (Duck) — **Duck**

- **Drone** — **Bee** (The worker bee is female, but the "Queen" is the breeding female)
- **Fox** — **Vixen** (*Most repeated in exams*)
- **Gander** — **Goose**
- **Hart** (Deer) — **Roe**
- **Horse/Stallion** — **Mare**
- **Ram** (Sheep) — **Ewe** (*Pronounced like 'you'*)
- **Stag** — **Hind**
- **Steer** (Ox) — **Heifer**

   B. Human Roles & Titles (Confusing Ones)

- **Bachelor** — **Spinster** (Unmarried woman) or **Maid**
- **Beau** (Boyfriend/Admirer) — **Belle**
- **Bridegroom** — **Bride** (*Note: We add 'groom' to the male, not the female*)
- **Count / Earl** — **Countess**
- **Czar** (Russian King) — **Czarina**
- **Duke** — **Duchess**
- **Emperor** — **Empress**
- **Executor** (Legal term) — **Executrix**
- **Friar / Monk** — **Nun**
- **Gentleman** — **Lady**
- **Lad** — **Lass**
- **Lord** — **Lady**
- **Man-servant** — **Maid-servant**
- **Master** — **Mistress**
- **Nephew** — **Niece**
- **Prosecutor** — **Prosecutrix**
- **Signor** (Italian) — **Signora**
- **Sultan** — **Sultana**
- **Testator** (One who makes a will) — **Testatrix**
- **Widower** — **Widow** (*Note: The male form adds the suffix here*)
- **Wizard** — **Witch**
- .