

## Noun Types

Nouns can be understood as operating in a number of different ways:

1. Proper nouns
2. Common nouns
3. Verbal nouns
4. Pronouns

### 1. **Proper nouns**

- Proper nouns are used to refer to unique entities.
- Some proper nouns occur in plural form (optionally or exclusively), and then they refer to *groups* of entities considered as unique.
- These are different categories of proper names:

**Names of People & Pets:** Maria Santos, Mr. Michael Jones, Lassie

**Geographical Locations:** Chicago, Asia, Ireland, Mount Everest, Mississippi River

**Months, Days of the Week, Holidays:** Monday, January, Christmas (**Note:** We do not capitalize the names of seasons: summer, winter, fall, etc.)

**Astronomical Names:** Mars, Jupiter, Saturn (**Note:** earth, sun, moon are generally not capitalized in sentences unless they are a part of a list of other astronomical names)

**Newspapers, Magazines, Journals, Books:** Chicago-Sun Times, Vogue, Journal of Family Psychology

**Organizations/Companies:** Microsoft, Oxford University, Amnesty International

**Religious Terms:** Catholic, Islam, Hindu, God, Zeus, Wotan

**Buildings/Monuments/Place Names:** Grand Canyon, Central Park, Hyatt Hotel

**People's Titles:** President Obama, King Henry V, Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Judge Thomas (note: when titles are discussed generally, we do not capitalize them. Example: The president of China will be in Japan next week).

**Course Names:** Economics 101, Child Psychology in America, Shakespeare's Comedies (**Note:** Do not capitalize courses in general, for example: I am studying chemistry.)

**Historical Periods & Events:** World War I, the Renaissance, D-Day

**Languages/Nationalities:** French, English, German, American

**Brand Names:** Nike, Coca-Cola, Levi's

### 2. **Common nouns**

- Common nouns describe a class of entities.
- They can be divided in **count nouns** and **non-count** nouns.

#### a. **Count nouns**

- They are nouns that we can count.
- They can be expressed in plural form, usually adding an "s" at the end (but not always).

## Regular plurals

If the noun ends in...

<i>s, x, ch, sh</i>	=> <i>add -es</i>	<i>boss =&gt; bosses</i>
<i>consonant + y</i>	=> <i>eliminate y, add -ies:</i>	<i>baby =&gt; babies</i>
<i>Most nouns</i>	=> <i>add -s:</i>	<i>dog =&gt; dogs</i>

## Irregular plurals

If the noun ends in...

<i>-fe =&gt; eliminate -fe, add -ves:</i>	<i>knife =&gt; knives</i>
<i>-f =&gt; eliminate -f, add -ves:</i>	<i>wolf =&gt; wolves</i>
<i>-o =&gt; add -es:</i>	<i>tomato =&gt; tomatoes</i>
<i>-us =&gt; eliminate -us, add -i:</i>	<i>cactus =&gt; cacti</i>
<i>-is =&gt; eliminate -is, add -es:</i>	<i>analysis =&gt; analyses</i>
<i>-on =&gt; eliminate -on, add -a:</i>	<i>phenomenon =&gt; phenomena</i>

## Other irregular plurals

<i>Man =&gt; Men</i>
<i>Woman =&gt; Women</i>
<i>Child =&gt; Children</i>
<i>Foot =&gt; Feet</i>
<i>Tooth =&gt; Teeth</i>
<i>Person =&gt; People</i>

### b. Noncount nouns

- They are nouns that cannot be counted.
- In order to count them, we use **measurement words**.
- These are some categories of noncount nouns.

**Abstractions:** advice, courage, enjoyment, fun, help, honesty, information, intelligence, knowledge, patience, etc.

**Activities:** chess, homework, housework, music, reading, singing, sleeping, soccer, tennis, work, etc.

**Food:** beef, bread, butter, fish, macaroni, meat, popcorn, pork, poultry, toast, etc.

**Gases:** air, exhaust, helium, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, pollution, smog, smoke, steam, etc.

**Groups of Similar Items:** baggage, clothing, furniture, hardware, luggage, equipment, mail, money, software, vocabulary, etc.

**Liquids:** blood, coffee, gasoline, milk, oil, soup, syrup, tea, water, wine, etc.

**Natural Events:** electricity, gravity, heat, humidity, moonlight, rain, snow, sunshine, thunder, weather, etc.

**Materials:** aluminum, asphalt, chalk, cloth, concrete, cotton, glue, lumber, wood, wool, etc.

**Particles or Grains:** corn, dirt, dust, flour, hair, pepper, rice, salt, sugar, wheat, etc.

## Measurement Words:

### Food

A bowl of rice  
A dish of spaghetti  
A pound of meat/cheese  
A piece of cake/pie  
A can of soup  
A box of cereal  
A bag of flour  
A carton of ice cream  
A jar of peanut butter  
A loaf of bread  
A slice of bread/pizza  
A package of pasta  
A dash of salt  
A cube of ice  
A pack of gum  
A head of lettuce/  
cabbage  
An ear of corn  
A kernel of corn  
A grain of wheat/salt  
A stalk of celery  
A spear of asparagus  
A clove of garlic

### Liquid

A teaspoon of medicine  
A tablespoon of vinegar  
A glass of water  
A cup of coffee  
A pint of blood  
A quart of milk  
A half-gallon of juice  
A gallon of punch  
A tank of gas  
A jug of lemonade  
A bottle of wine  
A keg of beer  
A shot of vodka  
A drop of rain

### Sewing items

A spool of thread  
A skein of yarn  
A yard/meter of ribbon  
A (square) foot/meter of  
fabric/cloth

### Personal items

A bar of soap  
A tube of toothpaste  
A container of shampoo  
A stick of deodorant  
A bottle of  
perfume/cologne  
A roll of toilet paper  
A ball of cotton

### Stationery

A piece of paper  
A pad of paper  
A roll of tape  
A stick/piece of chalk  
A bottle/tube of glue  
A jar of paste  
A pair of scissors

### 3. Verbal nouns (compared with gerunds)

- A verbal noun is a noun formed from a verb.
- Verbal nouns can operate as subjects or objects in a sentence, just like nouns do typically.
- They can have adjectives and determiners (e.g. the) to describe or modify them.
- Do not confuse the verbal noun with the present participle used in the present progressive tense.

#### Verbal noun:

A brilliant **reading** of the poem won the competition.

The public loved the **reading** of the poem

#### Present progressive:

Many students are **learning** a useful lesson.

#### Gerund:

**Swimming** is good for your health.

In soccer, **using** the hands is prohibited.

#### 4. Pronouns

- A pronoun is a proxy for a noun.
- An indefinite pronoun is a pronoun that refers to one or more unspecified beings, objects, or places.
- Verbs need to agree in number with the pronouns.
- Below is a table taken from a grammar publication.

Number	Type	Negative	Universal	Assertive existential	Elective existential	Other
<b>Singular</b>	<b>Person</b>	No one	Everyone, everybody	Someone, somebody	Anyone, anybody	One
	<b>Thing</b>	Nothing	Everything	Something	Anything	
			Each			Another, other, whatever, whichever, whoever, whosoever, whomever
<b>Dual</b>		Neither	Both		Either	
<b>Plural</b>		Each				Others
<b>Singular or plural</b>		None	all	some	any	such