**NOUNS**

A word that is the name of a person, animal, place, thing, quality, idea, and is typically used in a sentence as subject or object of a verb or as object of a preposition, is called a Noun.

‘Thing’ includes all objects that we can see , hear, taste, smell or something we can think of bt cannot perceive by the senses.  
Nouns are also called ‘naming words’

Under that umbrella term, there are several types of nouns, so, let's clear things up and take a look at each type separately. Below, you'll find the major classifications of the different types of nouns in English, along with examples so you can see these types of nouns in action.

Common Nouns

[Common nouns](http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/nouns/common-noun.html) refer to general, unspecific categories. So, while ‘Punjab’ is a proper noun because it names a specific state, **state** is a common noun because it can refer to any state. While "Amity" refers to a particular place of higher learning, the common noun **university** can refer to any institution of that type.

So, common noun is a name given in common to every person or thing of the same class or thing. Eg- girl, boy, city

Proper Nouns

[Proper nouns](http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/nouns/proper-noun.html) are nouns that refer to specific people, places or things. Proper nouns like Chandigarh, **Sonia** begin with capital letter

Concrete Nouns

[Concrete nouns](http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/nouns/concrete-noun.html) are nouns that refer to things that exist physically and can be touched, seen, smelled, felt, or tasted. Here are some examples:

* Can I pet your **dog**?
* Please pass the **salt**.
* Your sweater is made of such soft **wool**.

Concrete nouns can be perceived by at least one of our five senses.

Abstract Nouns

More [ethereal](http://www.yourdictionary.com/ethereal), theoretical concepts use [abstract nouns](http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/nouns/Abstract-Nouns.html) to refer to them. Ideas, qualities or conditions like love, hate, power, and time are all examples of abstract nouns.

* All you need is **love**.
* There's so much **hate** for the new *Star Wars* trilogy.
* We must use this **time** wisely.

In these sentences, the abstract nouns refer to concepts or feelings that cannot be understood concretely or touched physically.

Collective Nouns

[Collective nouns](http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/nouns/Collective-Nouns.html) are nouns that refer to a group of something in particular, a number of persons or things taken together and spoken of as one whole. Eg- crowd, army, family etc.Often, collective nouns are used to refer to [groups of animals](http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/word-lists/list-of-names-for-groups-of-animals.html). Consider the following sentences.

* Look at that **gaggle of geese**.
* There used to be **herds** of wild buffalo on the prairie.
* A **crowd** of kids is in the pool today.
* The **team** did a great job in the competition.

Compound Nouns

A [compound noun](http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/nouns/compound-noun.html) contains two or more words that join together to make a single noun. Compound nouns can be two words written as one (closed form), such as **softball** and **toothpaste**; words that are hyphenated (hyphenated form), such as **six-pack** and**son-in-law**; or separate words (open form), such as **post office** and **upper class** that go together by meaning.

Countable Nouns

[Countable nouns](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/grammar/nouns/countable-and-non-countable-nouns.html) are names of people or things etc.that can be counted. They can occur in both singular and plural forms, can be modified by numbers, and can co-occur with [quantifying determiners](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/nouns/what/what-is-a-determiner.html), such as many, most, more, several, etc.

For example, the noun "bike" is a countable noun.

* There is a **bike** in that garage.

In this example, the word bike is singular because it refers to one bike that is sitting in a particular garage.

However, "bike" can also occur in the plural form.

* There are **six bikes** in that garage.

In this example, the plural noun bike refers to more than one bike because it is being modified by the number six.

In addition, countable nouns can be used with determiners like "several," rather than a number.

* In that garage, there are **several bikes**.

Uncountable Nouns

On the other hand, some nouns are not countable, They are referred to as uncountable nouns. For example, the word "clutter" is an uncountable noun.

* The garage is full of **clutter**.

This sentence makes grammatical sense. However, the following example does not.

* That garage is full of **clutters**.

Uncountable nouns usually cannot take plural forms. Therefore, **clutters** isn't grammatical.

Liquids and powders are among the items that are considered uncountable nouns, such as **milk**, **rice**, **wood**, **sand**, **water**, and **flour**. Other more abstract examples that cannot be counted would be **air**, **freedom**, or **intelligence**.

Material Nouns

[Material nouns](http://www.yourdictionary.com/material-noun) refer to materials or substances from which things are made. Let's take the word "cotton." Cotton is an adjective when used in "*cotton* dress." However, cotton is a material noun when used to describe the crop. For example:

* We use **cotton** from a local farm in our t-shirts.

Possessive Nouns

[Possessive nouns](https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/parts-of-speech/nouns/Possessive-Nouns.html) demonstrate ownership over something else. The best way to spot them is to look for an apostrophe. Here are some examples:

* **Melissa's** imagination ran wild as she daydreamed about her trip to Ireland.
* **Ireland's** landscape is truly breathtaking.
* The **puppy's** favorite toy is the squeaky newspaper.

These nouns are demonstrating ownership, but they're also still persons, places, or things.

### *NOUNS – EXERCISE*

*Identify the noun and it’s type in the following sentences. The correct answers follow -*

1. The Chinese army adopted cleverness to win the war and occupy India’s territory.

2. Teacher took the students to visit the historical and political buildings of New Delhi like Red fort, Rashtrapati Bhawan, India gate, etc.

*Answers*

1. The Chinese army adopted cleverness to win the war and occupy India’s territory.

*Chinese – Proper noun*

*Army – Collective noun*

*Cleverness – Abstract noun*

*War – common noun*

*India – Proper noun*

*Territory – common noun*

2. Teacher took the students to visit the historical and political buildings of New Delhi like Red fort, Rashtrapati bhawan, India gate, etc.

*Teacher – Common noun*

*Students – common noun*

*Historical – abstract noun*

*Political – abstract noun*

*Buildings – common noun*

*New Delhi – Proper noun*

*Red Fort - Proper noun*

*Rashtrapati Bhawan - Proper noun*

*India Gate - Proper noun*

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Point out the nouns in the following sentences and say whether they are common, proper, collective, material or abstract.

1.    Always speak the truth.  
2.    We all love honesty.  
3.    I have two children.  
4.    The lion is the king of the beasts.  
5.    Solomon was the wisest of all kings.  
6.    Cleanliness is next to godliness.  
7.    Birds of a feather flock together.  
8.    Who teaches you grammar?  
9.    The Nile is the longest of all rivers.  
10.    A committee of six was appointed to assess the situation.  
11.    Jawaharlal Nehru was the first Prime Minister of India.  
12.    The boy was rewarded for his honesty.  
13.    He gave me an apple.  
14.    I recognized his voice at once.  
15.    You should never tell a lie.  
16.    Wisdom is better than riches.  
17.    He is on the jury.  
18.    Silver and gold are precious metals.  
19.    Still waters run deep.  
20.    The cackling of geese saved Rome.  
21.    Tubal Cain was a man of might.  
22.    Old habits die hard.  
23.    The early bird catches the worm.  
24.    It was Edison who invented the phonograph.  
25.    You can’t pump the ocean dry.

**Answers**

1.    Truth – abstract noun  
2.    Honesty – abstract noun  
3.    Children – common noun  
4.    Lion – common; king – common; beasts – common  
5.    Solomon – proper noun; kings – common noun  
6.    Cleanliness – abstract noun; godliness – abstract noun  
7.    Birds – common noun; feather – common noun  
8.    Grammar – abstract noun  
9.    Nile – proper noun; rivers – common noun  
10.    Committee – collective noun; situation – abstract noun  
11.    Jawaharlal Nehru – proper noun; Prime Minister – common noun; India – proper noun  
12.    Boy – common noun; honesty – abstract noun  
13.    Apple – common noun  
14.    Voice – abstract noun  
15.    Lie – abstract noun  
16.    Wisdom – abstract; riches – abstract  
17.    Jury – collective noun  
18.    Silver – material; gold – material; metal – common  
19.    Waters – common noun/material noun  
20.    Cackling – abstract; geese – common; Rome – proper  
21.    Tubal Cain – proper; man – common  
22.    Habits – abstract noun  
23.    Bird – common noun; worm – common noun  
24.    Edison – proper noun; phonograph – common noun  
25.    Ocean – common noun

**Nouns and Articles**

* Countable nouns can be singular or plural. We use a/an when referring to singular countable nouns.

Eg- a car, An orange,

* Uncountable nouns are used with singular verbs but they are not used with a/an.

E.g. – camping, paint, anger, education, advice, ink, salt

* Some nouns can be countable or uncountable depending on whether we are using the noun to refer to a single thing or a general idea.

I saw a chicken.(countable)

I prefer chicken to fish. ( uncountable as it refers to general idea of meat)

I bought furniture for my house ( uncountable as it refers to a mass)

* Pair nouns refer to things made of two matching parts.eg-scissors, trousers

They are used with plural verbs and do not take a/an even when referring to a single piece.

But when using the phrase ‘ pair of’, we use ‘a’.- a pair of scissors still means one scissors

* Group or collective nouns are used with singular verbs when referring to a single unit. But when we are concerned about each individual part of the group, we use the plural verb.

Eg- The band is ready to perform. (We are referring to a single unit)-

The jury are debating (we are referring to each member)

* There are singular nouns that end in-s but take a singular verb as they refer to a single unit or thing. Eg- Physics is an interesting subject, diabetes
* There are nouns like ‘cattle, police’ that do not end with –s but are plurals and do not take a/an.

Dear students,

Study this material as well as the one uploaded earlier on ‘Articles’ and do the exercises in chapter 6 of your grammar text. If you face any difficulty, let me know. We shall hold an online class. All the best

Ajinder