

ENGLISH



Nouns

We have already learnt that nouns are names given to people, places, ideas or things. Let us now learn about the types of nouns.

Types of Nouns



Common Noun

- A **common noun** is a common name which is given to people, places, things or ideas of the same kind.
- In other words, it is a name shared by all the members of a given category.

Rachel is my **sister**.

The woods are lovely dark and deep.

The children are playing in **the park**.

The car was towed away by **the authorities**.

- In the above examples, the underlined words **sister**, **the woods**, **the children**, **the park**, **the car** and **the authorities** are not special names.
- They are common names given to all the members who belong to that category.

Proper Noun

- A **proper noun** is a specific name given to people, places or things.
- Proper nouns have capital letters in the beginning.

Robin Hood and his merry men stole from the rich.
Emperor Krishnadevaraya was the ruler of Vijayanagara.
The Kohinoor is one of the most valuable diamonds in the world.

- In the above examples, the underlined words Robin Hood, Emperor Krishnadevaraya, Vijayanagara and The Kohinoor are specific names.
- Sometimes, proper nouns can be used as common nouns.

The Abdul I had in mind was a different one.

The world will see the births of many more Guevaras.



- In the first case, the word Abdul is used with a definite article.
- In the second case, Guevara is used in the plural form.
- Both these usages signify that others with the same name or the same kind exist.

Abstract Noun

- An **abstract noun** is a name given to qualities, feelings, actions, ideas, beliefs, areas of study and state.

Quality:	Bravery, Chivalry, Honesty, Politeness, Width, Darkness
Feelings:	Happiness, Hatred, Depression, Love, Jealousy
Ideas:	Marxism, Fascism, Socialism, Capitalism
Belief:	Atheism, Hinduism, Islam, Christianity
Areas of Study:	Economics, Literature, Physics, Mathematics

- An abstract noun represents things which exist as notions.
- It represents things which do not have a physical form.

Truth always triumphs.

Science will help us find answers to these mysterious questions.

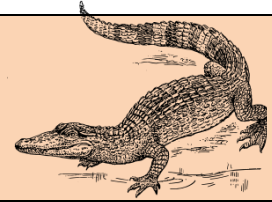
- In the above examples, the underlined words Truth, Science and Questions are names given to notions which do not have physical forms.

Collective Noun

- A **collective noun** is a name given to a group or a collection.
- The things which constitute a collection are taken as a whole.

A **float of crocodiles** preyed on the antelopes who grazed by the river.

The **glaring of cats** inhabited the empty apartment.



Some interesting collective nouns:

Cows	Drove	Tourists	Flock
Dogs	Pack	Monks	Abomination
Writers	Worship	Tigers	Ambush
Smokers	Hack	Bacteria	Culture
Umbrellas	Phalanx	Actress	Entrance
Camels	Caravan	Soldiers	Regiment
Elephants	Herd	Experts	Panel
Ravens	Unkindness	Listeners	Audience

Material Noun

- A **material noun** is a name given to a material or a substance.
- It is a name given to things with which other things could be made.

The cabin was made of **wood**.

The miners rushed to California for **gold**.



- In the first sentence, the word **wood** is the material with which a **house** is made.
- In the second sentence, **gold** is the name of a material.

The following is a list of material nouns:

Fibre	Cotton	Crystal
Plastic	Rubber	Cement
Tar	Bronze	Soap
Lead	Cadmium	Silk
Silver	Glass	Steel

Compound Noun

- A **compound noun** is a noun made of two or more words.
- The first part names the object or person which modifies the second part.

Fish tank, Toothpaste, Haircut, Software, Check-in, Full Moon, Water bottle

- The words in a compound noun may be joined. (Milkshake)
- They may be two separate words. (Fairy tales)
- They may also be connected with the help of a hyphen. (Cross-road)

