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What is a Noun?

A noun is the name of a person, place, animal, thing, idea, etc.

Examples of Nouns

- **Name of a Person** – Zuker, Max, Xavier, Joseph, etc
- **Name of an Animal** – Kangaroo, Dolphin, Jackal, etc.
- **Name of a Place** – Bostan, Australia, India, etc.
- **Name of a Thing** – Table, Computer, Chair, etc.
- **Name of an Idea** – Happiness, Superstitions, Excitement, etc.

What are the different types of Nouns?

Nouns in English are broadly classified into 8 types –

1. **Common Noun** – the name given in common to every place, thing or person belonging to the same class or kind, like a boy, girl, teacher, doctor, country, etc.
2. **Proper Noun** – the name given to a particular person or a place, such as Rita, Ria, Russia, Rome, etc.
3. **Collective Nouns** – a name used for a group of people, animals, or things. Example, cattle, family, herd, team, etc.
4. **Concrete Nouns** – are the names used for the things that have physical existence and we can see, such as a table, chair, mobile phones, etc.
5. **Abstract Nouns** – are the exact opposite of concrete nouns. These are the names given to an idea, conditions, or quality. Basically, the name is used to refer to something that cannot be seen but is there, it does not exist physically. For example, truth, patriotism, sorrow, friendship, etc.
6. **Material Nouns** – these are the names used to refer to substances, materials or things that are made up of an alloy. Examples, silver, gold, metal, cotton, etc.

7. **Countable Nouns** – that can be counted like one pen, two ladies, one chair, etc. These nouns take articles (a, an, the) with them.
8. **Uncountable Nouns** – the nouns that cannot be counted. For example, water, soil, sugar, salt, etc. Abstract nouns and Proper Noun are always uncountable while Common and Concrete nouns can be both countable and well as uncountable nouns.

Nouns in English can further be classified on the basis of Number, Gender, Cases and Apposition. Read ahead to understand better-

Number Nouns

- **Singular Nouns** – when one person or a thing is denoted then it is a Singular noun, such as pen, cow, boy, chairs, etc
- **Plural Nouns** – when a noun denotes more than one person or a thing it is a plural noun, for example – pens, cows, boys, chairs, etc.

Noun Genders

- **Masculine** – nouns that refer to the male classification of a person, animal or thing example, man, lion, moon, etc
- **Feminine** – nouns denoting a female class of a person, animal or thing like nature, tigress, woman, etc.
- **Neuter** – nouns that denote a thing without life, either female or male, example, pen, room, book, etc.

Noun Cases

Nouns classified on the basis of cases tells us the position of the noun in a sentence. There are five cases of nouns in English.

1. **Possessive Case** – when a noun denotes ownership or possession, example – That is my dress. 'My' is in the possessive case.
2. **Vocative case** – A noun is in the vocative case when it is used to call (to get attention). Example, Ms Ria, teachers are waiting for you in the staffroom. (Ms Ria is in a vocative case).
3. **Dative Case** – when a noun is in the indirect object of a verb it is in the Dative case, like, Rohan brought me chocolates, ('Me' is in the dative case)
4. **Nominative Case** – if a noun is the subject of a verb it is said to be in Nominative case. Example – Radha is an intelligent girl.
5. **Objective Case** – when the noun is the direct object of the verb or the preposition, they are in the objective case. Example – Please give the fruits.



Rules of Nouns

Rule 1. Some Nouns are Singular in their meaning but are used as Plural nouns and also take plural verbs always, such as people, cattle, police.

Examples –

The **cattle are** grazing the field.

People are indifferent to you in new cities.

Rule 2. Some nouns are always used in Plural Form and always take Plural Verb. Like, Scissors, Premises, Thanks, Spectacles, etc.

Examples-

'I cannot find my **Trousers**, where **are** they?'

She ordered a pair **Spectacles** online, they **are** classy.

Rule 3. There are some nouns that always take Singular Verb such as news, ethics, machinery, advice, stationery, physics, mathematics, etc.

Examples –

Mathematics is my favourite subject.

The **news** of his suicide **is** not true.

Rule 4 – Some nouns indicate the number, measure, money, length, weight, etc. They remain unchanged when any definite numeral precedes these nouns.

Example –

She bought 2 dozen eggs from the shop. (not dozens)

My office is 5 kilometres from my house. (not kilometre)

Rule 5 – Collective nouns are used both in singular and plural form.

1. The **Government is** a great achievement of Civilization.
2. The **Jury were** divided in their opinions.

Rule 6 – There are nouns that give different meanings when used as a singular and other meaning when used as a plural noun. Such as –

- Good means wise and goods mean property
- Authority is command while authorities mean people in power
- Force means strength while forces is an army
- Wages in singular form is punishment while wages are daily labour charges when used in the plural form
- Content means satisfaction and contents is things contained
- Iron is metal while irons mean chains or fetters

Rule 7 – Material Nouns generally do not take any article (a, an or the) before them.

Example

Incorrect – My mother likes a gold and not a silver.

Correct – My Mother likes gold and not silver.

Rule 8 – To personify a Neuter Gender Noun, we use –

Masculine gender to personify the strength or power, and

Feminine Gender to personify beauty and grace.

- It is our duty to protect Mother Earth.

Rule 9 – the work of art, the title of books, etc. even if they sound plural are always considered singular.

'The Palace of Illusions' **is** an incredible narration of the Mahabharata.

'The Game of Thrones' **is** my favourite drama series

Rule 10 – (a) for small creatures, insects or very young children neuter gender is used.

Examples-

- The baby wants food every hour or it starts crying.
- I could see the butterfly moving its wings.

(b) Collective nouns are used as neuter gender even if they are used to refer to living beings.

Examples-

- The team gave its best performance.
- The army is at its best to protect the country.

~~Examples-~~
a army the

ARTICLES

What is an Article?

An article is a word that combines with a noun/s and helps to determine whether a noun in any sentence or phrase is specific or general.

Example: After **the** long tiring day, **the** cup of tea refreshed **the** mind and body.

In this sentence, the use of the article 'the' specifies the day that was tiring and that one particular cup of tea that refreshed the body and mind.

What are the Types of Articles in English Grammar?

There are two types of articles in English, Definite article (The) and Indefinite article (A, An).

Definite Article examples:

1. He threw **the** ball in the well.
2. I saw **the** thieves stealing jewels.
3. Where are **the** notes I shared with you yesterday?

Indefinite Article Example:

1. She wore **a** pretty pink dress.
2. I saw tigers in **a** zoo.
3. He is not as good as **an** actor.
4. **An** apple a day builds immunity.

Let's go ahead with the important rules of articles to use them correctly in the English language section of the exams or even while speaking in daily lives.

Rules of Articles With Examples

The rules of articles (a, an, the) given below are divided based on the types of articles.

Article Rules for the definite article 'The'

Rule 1 – The very basic rule of the article says that the article 'the' is used before a singular or plural noun, which is specific. It indicates a particular thing/s or person/s in case of a common noun.

Example:

The teacher she spoke to at the exhibition was very rude.

He lost all **the money** borrowed from the lender.

Rule 2 – Article 'The' is used when the listener knows what the speaker is talking about.

Example:

The mangoes you kept in **the refrigerator** last night do not taste good.

Did you complete all **the homework**?

Rule 3 – 'The' is used to generalize the whole class or group.

Example:

The honest are respected.

The beggars are not always needy.

Rule 4 – 'The' is used for geographical points on the globe.

Example: **The north pole** and **the south pole** can never meet.

Rule 5 – 'The' is used for the nouns that cannot be counted.

Example:

The water in the Pacific ocean is freezing.

Two robbers stole all **the money** from the bank.

Rule 6 – 'The' is used with geographical nouns, depending on the size and plurality of the noun. 'The' must precede the names of oceans, rivers, group of islands, lakes, mountains, countries with united states or islands, etc.

Example:

The Ganga is a holy river.

The English Channel is the longest river channel.

However, **'the' must not precede the following**–

- Names of continents, like Asia, South America, etc
- Names of countries, states or streets like Alaska, Bolivia, New town street, etc.
- Names of **Single** lakes, mountains, islands or bays, like Chilika Lake, Hudson Bay, etc.
- Names of languages like Spanish, French, etc.
- Names of Sports such as basketball, cricket, football, etc.
- Names of subjects like Economics, Mathematics, History, etc.

Rule 7 – ‘The’ is mandatorily used for things that are only one of a kind in the universe.

Example:

The Sun and **the Moon** shine bright in **the sky**.

The planet earth looks beautiful from space.

Rule 8 – ‘The’ does not mean all.

Example:

The books are my favourite (not all the books, just the books talked about)

Books are my favourite (all the books, in general, are favourites)

Article Rule for Indefinite Article ‘A’ and ‘An’

Rule 1 – The article ‘a’ is used before a consonant word or any vowel with a consonant sound.

Indefinite article examples:

A man is sitting on the chair.

She goes to **a university** in Delhi.

Similarly, the article ‘an’ is used before the words beginning with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u) or the letter of a consonant word with a vowel sound.

Indefinite article examples:

She is **an innocent** girl.

He is **an honest** man.

Rule 2 – A singular common noun always requires an article ‘a’ or ‘an’, but a plural common noun does not require any article or can have ‘the’ to particularise that noun.

Examples:

I saw **an elephant**. (Refers to a random elephant)

I saw elephants in a zoo. (No article is required)

I have seen **the elephant** again. (Refers to the elephant already seen)

I have seen **the elephants** again before leaving the zoo. (Refers particularly to the elephants of the zoo which were seen earlier.)

Rule 3 – A/An is used to make a Proper noun a common noun. Proper nouns do not take articles but to make them common nouns, a/an is used.

Example.

He thinks he is **an Abraham Lincon**. (not referring to the actual person but someone like him)

She is **an Indian**. (India is a proper noun but 'Indian' is a common noun)

Rule 4 – Indefinite article 'a' or 'an' is used to refer to numbers sometimes.

Examples:

The baby is playing with **a doll** (one doll)

I owe him **a thousand** bucks. (one thousand dollars)

He drove 120 kilometres in **an hour** (one hour)

Rule 5 – The indefinite article (a/an) precedes the descriptive adjective

Examples:

She is **an amazing** dancer.

What **a nice** Villa!

Rule 6 – The indefinite article is used with the determiners (few, lot, most)

Examples:

There is **a little** drink in the glass

I have **a few** guests coming over

When Not to Use an Article

We do not use any article at all in some cases. The articles 'a' and 'the' are not used in the following cases:

1. When **Plural Noun** is talked about:

Correct – Girls like pink (the sentence is talking about girls in general)

Correct – **The** girls in my hostel like to play kabaddi. (the sentence is specifically talking about girls of the hostel)

2. When **Uncountable nouns** are talked about

Correct – Water Scarcity is a problem. (it is uncountable)

Correct – **The** Water scarcity in my locality is a problem. (talking about specific locality)

Incorrect – There is **a** water scarcity in my locality. (here again, scarcity is uncountable)

3. When **Real Nouns** are talked about, i.e. names of people or places

Incorrect – I want to visit the Australia.

Incorrect – She talks to the Sam for articles.

Apostrophe Rules for Possessives

It would be difficult for [possessives](#) to exist without apostrophes. Let's take a look at three different uses of the possessive apostrophe.

1. Use an apostrophe + "s" ('s) to show that one person/thing owns or is a member of something.

- Amy's ballet class
- Lisa's car
- Robert's car

Style guides vary when it comes to a name that ends in an "s." Even if the name ends in "s," it's still correct to add another "'s" to create the possessive form. It's also acceptable to add only an apostrophe to the end of singular nouns that end in "s" to make them possessive.

In this case, you can show possession for Ross in either of two ways:

- Ross' room
- Ross's sports team

2. Use an apostrophe after the "s" (s') at the end of a plural noun to show possession.

- the parents' bedroom
- the Smiths' lives

It is not necessary to add another "s" to the end of a [possessive plural noun](#).

3. If a plural noun doesn't end in "s," add an apostrophe + "s" to create the possessive form.

- the children's rooms
- the tuna's beds

Remember, a possessive noun needs an apostrophe and an "s" at the end. If there's already an "s" there, you can just add the apostrophe. If there's no "s," you have to add both — first the apostrophe, and then the "s."

Apostrophe Rules for Joint Possessives

When you want to show that two people have ownership over something, it can get a little tricky. Whether you make both possessive or just the final one depends on the ownership.

Joint Ownership

If both people own the same item together, you can add the possessive to the final one.

- Dave and Alice's car (Both Dave and Alice own the car.)
- Tim and Jane's trip (Tim and Jane are going together on the trip.)
- Darnell and Dylan's open house (Darnell and Dylan are having one open house.)

Separate Ownership

However, if each individual owns separate versions of the same type of item, then you would make both [owners possessive](#). For example, if Dave and Alice both own a separate car, it would be "Alice's and Dave's cars."

- Darnell's and Dylan's open houses (two different open houses)
- Tim's and Jane's trips (two separate trips)
- Sally's and Steve's cottages (two different cottages)

Notice that when there are separate owners of the items, the items are plural.

Apostrophe Rule for Contractions

There's really only one rule for apostrophes and contractions, aside from careful placement.

1. When you combine two words to make a contraction, you will always take out some letters. In their place, you add an apostrophe.

- they + have = they've (you took out "ha")
- are + not = aren't (you took out "o")
- they + will = they'll (you took out "wi")