**Nouns**

A **noun** is a word used to name a person, an animal, a place, thing, and even an abstract idea. Nouns are usually the first words which small children learn.

**Examples :**

* person: man, woman, teacher, John, Mary
* place: home, office, town, countryside, America
* thing: table, car, banana, money, music
* animal : dog, monkey
* idea : courage, love,

## A-Common Nouns

A **common noun** is a noun referring to a person, place, or thing in a general sense -- usually, you should write it with a capital letter only when it begins a sentence. A common noun is the opposite of a proper noun.

In each of the following sentences, the common nouns are **highlighted**:

According to the **sign**, the nearest **town** is 60 **miles** away.

All the **gardens** in the **neighbourhood** were invaded by **beetles** this **summer**.

I don't understand why some **people** insist on having six different **kinds** of **mustard** in their **cupboards**.

# B-Countable and Uncountable Nouns

English nouns are often described as "countable" or "uncountable"

 1**-Countable Nouns**

Countable nouns are easy to recognize. They are things that we can count. For example: "pen". We can count pens. We can have one, two, three or more pens. Here are some more countable nouns:

* dog, cat, animal, man, person
* bottle, box, litre
* coin, note, dollar
* cup, plate, fork
* table, chair, suitcase, bag

Countable nouns can be singular or plural:

* My dog is playing.
* My dogs are hungry.

We can use the indefinite article a/an with countable nouns:

* A dog is an animal.

When a countable noun is singular, we must use a word like a/the/my/this with it:

* I want an orange. (*not* I want orange.)
* Where is my bottle? (*not* Where is bottle?)

When a countable noun is plural, we can use it alone:

* I like oranges.
* Bottles can break.

 We can use some and any with countable nouns:

* I've got some dollars.
* Have you got any pens?

We can use a few and many with countable nouns:

* How many people are going to the party?
* I've got a few dollars.
* I haven't got many pens.

"People" is countable. "People" is the plural of "person". We can count people

 There is one person here., // There are three people here.

**2-Uncountable Nouns**

Non-count nouns are usually things which cannot be counted, such as rice or water. Non-count nouns have a singular form, but when they are indefinite, we either use the word "some" or nothing at all instead of an article. For example: "Could I have some water please?"

* Some uncountable nouns in English are countable in other languages. Here is a list of some of the most common: accommodation , advice, applause , assistance, baggage, bread camping, cash ,chess, clothing, cutlery, chaos, dancing,, employment, equipment ,furniture, garbage , information , knowledge, luggage , money , news ,pasta, progress , research , travel , work , scenery
* Use "How much" for non count nouns:

 How much milk can you drink?

**Nouns that can be Countable and Uncountable**

Sometimes, the same noun can be countable *and* uncountable, often with a change of meaning.

## C -Concrete Nouns

A **concrete noun** is a noun which names anything (or anyone) that you can perceive through your physical senses: touch, sight, taste, hearing, or smell. A concrete noun is the opposite of a abstract noun.

The **highlighted** words in the following sentences are all concrete nouns:

Whenever they take the **dog** to the **beach**, it spends hours chasing **waves**.

## D -Abstract Nouns

An **abstract noun** is a noun which names anything which you can not perceive through your five physical senses, and is the opposite of a concrete noun. The **highlighted** words in the following sentences are all abstract nouns:

He is amused by people who are nostalgic about **childhood**.

**Justice** often seems to slip out of our grasp.

Some scientists believe that **schizophrenia** is transmitted genetically.

## E -Collective Nouns Some nouns with a singular form can be treated either as singular (with a singular verb )or as plural (with a plural verb).They are called collective nouns. These nouns include: association,audience,class,club,college,committee,community,company,crowd,department,electorate,enemy,family,firm,generation,government,group, jury, orchestra, population, press, public, school, team, university, and the names of specific organizations such as the Bank of England, the BBC, IBM, Sony. We use a singular verb if we see the institution or organizations a whole unit, and a plural verb if we see it as a group of individuals. Often you can use either with very little difference in meaning, but in formal writing it is more common to use a singular verb. Example: The council has (or have) postponed a decision on the new road.