

## Grammar: What are Nouns?

Words are used to name the people, places and things around us. We also have names for ideas, beliefs and feelings (things we cannot see). Words that are used to name are called NOUNS.

**\*\* A noun is a word used to name a person, place, thing or idea\*\***

Person: landlord, Greg, Peter Taylor, baby,

Places: kitchen, Brandon Hotel, Alberta

Things: blanket, mirror, thunder, Challenger

Ideas: freedom, joy, sincerity, democracy, love

### Proper Nouns and Common Nouns

The driver, Donovan Bradly, won the car race.

The word Driver us a general term that may refer to many people. This type of noun is referred to as a **common noun**. The noun Dovovan Bradly refers to only one person. This type of noun is known as a **proper noun**. A proper noun is a specific name.

**\*\*A common noun is the name of a whole group of persons, places, things or ideas.\*\***

**\*\*\* A proper noun is the name of a particular person, place, thing or idea.\*\*\***

Common Nouns

magazine

mountains

game

city

religion

author

Proper Nouns

MacLeans

Mount Everest

Stanley Cup

Saint John

Islam

S.E. Hinton

**Practice Exercises - Divide the following nouns into two categories, common and proper nouns.**

1. holiday inn, coastal inn, hotel
2. diner, restaurant, grannan's
3. singer, album, zztop
4. village, town, musquash
5. bank, banker, royal bank
6. team, ottawa rough riders, players

### **How are nouns used?**

Nouns can perform many different functions in a sentence. A noun may act as a subject, direct object, indirect object or predicate word.

Examples: *Scientists* can predict earthquakes. (subject)

The magician amazed the *audience*. ( direct object)

The coach showed the *quarterback* a new play. (indirect object)

Gary became a carpenter's *assistant*. ( predicate noun)

### **Practice Exercises - Tell whether the italicized noun in each sentence is functioning as a subject, direct object, indirect object or predicate word.**

1. A chemical *factory* dumps water into this river.
2. The shilling is a British *coin*.
3. The Prime Minister solemnly addressed *Parliament*.
4. That *legend* has been told for centuries.
5. Were Laurel and Hardy *actors* in silent films too?
6. The bored waiter handed each *diner* a menu.
7. Dad and I made *pickles* from cucumbers.
8. Our catcher flashed the *pitcher* a secret signal.

## The Plurals of Nouns - The Rules!!!

1. To find the plural of most nouns, just add "s".

Examples - Prizes dreams circles stations

2. When the singular noun ends in s, sh, ch, x or z add "es".

Examples - waitresses brushes ditches hoaxes buzzes

3. When the singular noun ends in o, add "s".

Examples - solos halos studios photos pianos

**\*\*Exceptions to this rule \*\*** - heroes tomatoes potatoes echoes cargoes - it is vbest to just memorize the exceptions!!!

4. When a singular noun ends in y with a consonant before it, change the y to i and add "es".  
Examples - army = armies candy = candies baby = babies

When a vowel (a,e,i,o,u) comes before the y, DO NOT change the y to i , just add "s".

Examples - boy = boys way = ways jockey = jockeys

5. For some nouns ending in f, add "s" to make the plural.

Examples- roofs chiefs reefs beliefs

For many nouns ending in f or fe, change the f to v and add "s" or "es". There are no rules to follow, you will have to memorize these words!!

Life = lives calf = calves knife = knives thief = thieves shelf = shelves

6. Some nouns have the same form for both singular and plural forms of the word. They **MUST** be memorized. **deer sheep moose salmon trout**

7. Some nouns form their plurals in special ways. They too **MUST** be memorized.

man = men tooth = teeth ox = oxen woman = women mouse = mice foot = feet

goose = geese child = children louse = lice

**Practice Exercises - write the plural form of the following nouns.**

1. leaf

6. spy

11. radio

- |          |            |          |
|----------|------------|----------|
| 2. year  | 7. copy    | 12. wish |
| 3. sky   | 8. window  | 13. hoof |
| 4. knife | 9. bunch   | 14. deer |
| 5. fox   | 10. tomato | 15. echo |

### **The Possessives of Nouns**

Nouns can indicate possession or ownership.

Mr. Lowe's car a farmer's land the lion's roar

Nouns can show that something is part of a person.

Meg's sense of humour Harold's concern

Ownership is indicated by adding 's to a noun. Words like farmer's, Meg's and Harold's are called possessive nouns.

### **Rules for Forming the Possessive of Nouns**

1. If a noun is singular, add 's. Ex. Amanda = Amanda's arm
2. If a noun is plural and ends in s, just add the apostrophe. Artists = Artists' studios
3. If a noun is plural but does not end in s, add an 's. women = Women's discussion

**Practice Exercises - write the possessive form of each of the following singular nouns.**

- |            |            |                 |
|------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1. mayor   | 6. Penny   | 11. salesperson |
| 2. country | 7. host    | 12. boss        |
| 3. today   | 8. Charles | 13. Linda       |
| 4. ranch   | 9. admiral | 14. runner      |
| 5. player  | 10. car    | 15. secretary   |

**Write the possessive form of each of these plural nouns.**

1. people

6. friends

11. doctors

2. fans

7. mice

12. teachers

3. hours

8. wives

13. men

4. experts

9. sheep

14. clerks

5. guests

10. Jacksons

15. bodies