

NOUN

A noun is a word used as a name of a person, place or thing.

Kinds of Noun

Proper Noun

- A proper noun is the name of some particular person or place. Examples: Ram, Shyam, Delhi.
- Mango, potato may seem like proper nouns but they are not unless a specific type is mentioned like Alphonso mango, Russian potato etc.

Common Noun

- A Common noun is a name given in common to every person or thing of the same kind or class.
- Examples: boy, teacher, dog, shoe, etc.

Collective Noun

- A collective noun is the name of a group of persons or things.
- Examples: army, committee, crowd etc.

Abstract Noun

- A noun denoting an idea, quality, or state rather than a concrete object.
- Examples: strength, innocence, fear, judgment. etc.

Material Noun

- Material noun is the name given to the material, substance, or things made up of the alloy.
- Examples: cotton, gold, silver, protein etc.

Types of Noun

Countable Nouns

- Countable nouns are the names of objects, people, units etc. that we can count.
- They have a singular and a plural form.
- If you want to ask about the quantity of a countable noun, you ask "How many?" combined with the plural countable noun.
- Example: book, apple, doctor, horse, kilogram etc.

Uncountable Nouns

- Uncountable nouns are the names of things which we can't count.
- They mainly denote substance and abstract things.
- Example: milk, oil, sugar, gold, honesty etc.

Rules for Singular and Plural Nouns

Rule #1

Some nouns always take a singular form.

• scenery	• advice	• information
• machinery	• stationery	• furniture
• abuse	• fuel	• rice
• gram	• issue	• bedding
• repair	• news	• mischief
• poetry	• business	• economics
• physics	• mathematics	• classics
• ethics	• athletics	• innings
• gallows		

Examples:

1	Mathematics is a difficult subject for many students.
2	My ethics tells me that it is wrong to run a business without any morals.
3	The innings played by Rohit Sharma was spectacular.

Common Errors:

Incorrect	• The scenery of Kashmir are enchanting
Correct	• The scenery of Kashmir is enchanting

Incorrect	• Advices are given to those who ask
Correct	• Advice is given to those who ask

Incorrect	• The mischiefs committed by him are unpardonable
Correct	• The mischief committed by him is unpardonable

Rule #2

Some nouns are singular in form, but they are used as plural nouns and always take a plural verb.

• Catt le	• peasantry	• clergy
• gent ry	• artillery	• company
• ver min	• people	• police

Common Errors

Incorrect	• The cattle is grazing in the ground.
Correct	• The cattle are grazing in the ground.

Incorrect	• The police has the situation under control.
Correct	• The police have the situation under control.

Rule #3

Some nouns are always used in a plural form and always take a plural verb.

• trousers	• stockings	• goods
• scissors	• shorts	• alms

• spectacles	• measles	• premises
• thanks	• tidings	• annals

Common Errors

Incorrect	• Where is my trousers?
Correct	• Where are my trousers?

Incorrect	• Spectacles is a costly item.
Correct	• Spectacles are costly items.

Rule #4

There are some nouns that indicate length, measure, money, weight or number. When they are preceded by a numeral, and followed by a noun, they remain unchanged in form.

• feet	• score	• year
• meter	• dozen	• hundred
• pair	• head	• rupee
• million	• litre	• tola

Example:

1	A dozen people were killed in the tsunami.
2	I have only two hundred rupee notes in my pocket.
3	The two kilometre stretch of road between the outskirts and village was very bad.

Special Case

Based on their usage, some collective nouns are used both in its Singular and Plural form.

Special Case #1

- The jury was divided in their opinion.
- **Correct use:** The jury were divided in their opinion

Explanation:

- 'Were' is used because individual members of the jury all have a different opinion which is why they are divided in their opinions.
- Since everyone in the group is being considered as an individual, we can't take the group as a single unit.
- So, the noun will take the plural form of the verb with it.

Special Case #2

- The team have not arrived yet.
- **Correct use:** The team has not arrived yet.

Explanation:

- Here the team is all arriving together as a single unit. There is no individual being considered here.
- So, it will take the singular form of the verb with it.

Other Examples:

1	Our team is the best.
2	Our team are trying their new uniform.
3	The party was ready to move to the next bar.
4	The party were quarrelling amongst themselves by the end of the night.

Rule #5

Some nouns have one meaning in the singular and another in the plural. Do not confuse the two.

	Word	Meaning
1	Air	atmosphere
2.a	Authority	command
2.b	Authorities	persons in power
3.a	Good	wise
3.b	Goods	property
4.a	Iron	metal

4.b	Irons	fetters, chains
5.a	Force	strength
5.b	Forces	army
6.a	Content	satisfaction,
6.b	Contents	things contained
7.a	Respect	regards
7.b	Respects	compliments
8.a	Work	job
8.b	Works	compositions, factories.

Important Point to Remember

Noun + Preposition + Noun- Will be followed by Singular verb.

- Town after town was devastated.
- Row upon row of marble looks beautiful.
- He enquired from door to door.
- Ship after ship is arriving.

Frequently Asked Collective Nouns

1	A band of musicians.
2	A board of directors, etc.
3	A bevy of girls, women, officers etc.
4	A bunch of grapes, keys, etc.
5	A bundle of sticks and hay.
6	A caravan of Merchants, pilgrims, travellers.
7	A chain/range of mountains or hills.
8	A choir of singers.

9	A class of students.
10	A retinue of servants/ attendants.
11	A fleet of ships or motorcars.
12	A flock of geese, sheep and birds.
13	A gang of robbers, labourers.
14	A garland/bunch/bouquet of flowers.
15	A heap of ruins, sand, stones.
16	A herd of cattle.
17	A litter of puppies.
18	A pack of hounds, cards.
19	A pair of shoes, scissors, compasses, trousers.
20	A series of events.
21	A sheaf of corn, arrows.
22	A swarm of ants, bees or flies.
23	A train of carriages, followers etc.
24	A troop of horses (cavalry) scouts; etc.
25	A volley of shots, bullets
26	A forum of people (discussing issues)
27	A congregation of people (discussing religious issues)

Noun Phrases

- A noun and any words in the sentence that modify it.
- Words that can modify nouns include articles (a, an, the); adjectives; participles; and possessive pronouns

Example as a subject	The yellow house is for sale.
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Example as direct object	I want Nike's new skateboard
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Noun Clause

- A noun clause is a dependent clause that acts as a noun.
- Noun clauses can act as subjects, direct objects, indirect objects, predicate nominatives, or objects of a preposition.
- Noun clauses begin with words such as:

• how	• that	• what	• whatever
• when	• where	• whether	• whichever
• which	• who	• whoever	
• whom	• why	• whomever	

Examples:

1	The focus of our work is how we can satisfy customers most effectively.
2	Choose a gift for whomever you want